

UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of October 9, 2008

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:32 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Charles Ansorge, Susan Lawrence, Guillermo Orti, Guy Reynolds, Pamela Starr, Mark Walker, Thomas Zorn, student representatives Benjamin Blackford and Leslie Martinez; and Ex-officio: Ellen Weissinger, Laurie Bellows and Assistant to the Dean Barbara Brennan. Dean of Graduate Studies Ellen Weissinger presided.

New members were introduced.

June 12, 2008 minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Change in admission policy for applicants from schools without regional accreditation.

Previous policy: *Any applicant from an institution which is not regionally accredited is required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) prior to consideration for admission. The subject section of the test may be required of applicants seeking admission to advanced degree programs. Non-degree applicants, or applicants entering programs not covered by a relevant Subject Test, need to submit scores from the General Test of the GRE. All other application requirements are standard. Records from schools without verifiable accreditation cannot be used to satisfy eligibility requirements for admission.*

A motion was made and seconded to accept a change the policy. After discussion, members agreed the new policy clearly stated that a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution was a minimum requirement. The new policy statement passed unanimously. New approved policy: *Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution that is regionally accredited, an institution that is accredited by an organization recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or from an accredited foreign institution that is recognized by Graduate Studies.*

Initial discussion of Professional Science Masters degree proposal. Dean Weissinger presented a draft proposal for a professional science major to be accompanied by specific specializations resulting in a Professional Science Masters (PSM) degree. PSM degree programs have existed since 1997 and provide a career-oriented masters degree option for student who possess a BS in mathematics or basic science. Science related federal agencies have called for more development of this degree option. The PSM degree is intended to enhance state-wide and regional economic competitiveness. Graduate Council members agreed more information should be sought from units housing science majors to further develop the proposal.

Announcement. Dean Weissinger reminded Graduate Council members that, although academic departments were unlikely to be involved at this time, a significant amount of effort was already being expended across campus related to the new student information system project. The amount of required collaboration with other campuses is unknown at this point.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.