

## UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of February 12, 2009

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:33 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Charles Ansoorge, Elizabeth Jones, Susan Lawrence, Pamela Starr, Guy Reynolds, Mark Walker, Thomas Zorn, student representatives Benjamin Blackford and Leslie Martinez; and Ex-officio: Dean Ellen Weissinger, Asst. Dean Laurie Bellows and Assistant to the Dean Barbara Brennan. Dean of Graduate Studies Ellen Weissinger presided.

### Proposal to offer a Dietetics specialization in the M.S. in Nutrition and Health Sciences

Professor Marilyn Schnepf, chair of the Nutrition and Health Sciences Department, was present to answer any questions about the proposal for a Dietetics specialization within the master's degree in Nutrition and Health Sciences. The specialization would be offered in collaboration with other Great Plains IDEA (Interactive Distance Education Alliance) institutions. Prof. Schnepf explained that students seeking this specialization would either be Registered Dietitians or eligible to take the exam to become an RD. A built in market would exist for the approximately 6 interns each year at UNMC. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### December 11, 2008 Minutes

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

Proposal to change policy for "courtesy member" on PhD supervisory committees Discussion resumed (from previous meeting) on role of courtesy members from outside UNL on PhD supervisory committees. A motion was made and seconded to change the policy to allow a courtesy member to vote. The policy passed unanimously; Dean Weissinger will email this new policy to the campus; it will be added to the Graduate Bulletin.

The UNL graduate faculty welcome associations with faculty members from other institutions who might contribute unique expertise to our doctoral programs. These external experts, who must hold a doctoral degree appropriate to the discipline and have academic accomplishments comparable to the criteria for UNL Graduate Faculty, are eligible for appointment as "courtesy" members of doctoral supervisory committees. Courtesy faculty are appointed as voting members of the supervisory committee and must be willing to participate in the student's doctoral program in a manner consistent with this role. The courtesy member may serve as one of the two appointed readers; but may not serve as committee chair, co-chair, or outside representative.

1. A courtesy association is not granted as a blanket status and must be approved separately for each supervisory committee upon which the individual is nominated to serve.
2. Only one courtesy member may serve on each supervisory committee, and the committee must include a minimum of four members of the University of Nebraska Graduate Faculty.
3. Appointment of a courtesy member is accomplished by the submission of the "Courtesy Committee Member" form signed by the supervisory committee chair and graduate committee chair. A current CV from the courtesy member should be submitted with this form (the CV may be e-mailed to [ebachman1@unl.edu](mailto:ebachman1@unl.edu)).

The new form is available on the Doctoral Degree Forms and Deadlines page on the Graduate Studies website: <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees/doctoral.shtml>

### Initial discussion: Proposal for Parental Leave policy for graduate assistants

Effectively no policy covers graduate assistants. In the current economic environment, the initial policy should be low or no cost. Council members directed Dean Weissinger to survey graduate departments for practices currently used in hopes of finding the best practices across UNL.

### Request to Faculty Senate to change deadline for final grade submission for graduating students

Current grading policies ask faculty members submit advanced grades for graduating students and allow a change of grade until 4 p.m. on the business day before commencement (Friday). Because Graduate Commencement now begins on Friday at 3 p.m. a joint memo from the UNL Graduate Council and the Office of Registration and Records should be sent to the Faculty Senate to ask for alternatives.

### Select representative for Graduate Commencement committee

The UNL Graduate Council will have a representative on the Graduate Commencement Committee. It was moved and seconded that Dean Ellen Weissinger should be the designated representative this year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.