

UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of November 10, 2011

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:30 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Andrea Bolland, Elizabeth Jones, Susan Lawrence, Jon Pedersen, Jody Redepenning, David Smith, Mark van Roojen and William Wagner; student representatives Jared Leighton and Sylvia Jons; Ex-officio members: Dean Pat Dussault and Assistant Dean Laurie Bellows; Suzi Tamerius, Office of Graduate Studies. Dean Pat Dussault presided.

Announcements

- Dean Pat Dussault reported he is gathering data sets to present to department chairs as they prepare for program reviews.
- Dean Pat Dussault reported that he has met with the UNL Foundation to begin the process of consideration of Graduate Studies for campus wide grants and funding opportunities. Travel Grants are a major need for graduate students.

September 8, 2011 Minutes

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

Proposal for a PhD Program Merger for Agronomy and Horticulture

A motion was made and seconded to approve the merger of Agronomy and Horticulture into one PhD program. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal for a Certificate in Advanced Horticulture

A motion was made and seconded to approve a new graduate certificate in Advanced Horticulture administered through the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal for a Certificate in Floriculture and Nursery Production Management

A motion was made and seconded to approve a new graduate certificate in Floriculture and Nursery Production Management administered through the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal for a Certificate in Ornamentals, Landscape and Turf

A motion was made and seconded to approve a new graduate certificate in Ornamentals, Landscape and Turf administered through the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal for a Certificate in Digital Humanities

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to ask for clarification from Arts and Sciences on several parts of the proposal: Resources, specifically the role of the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities; the proposal is not clear if the certificate will be available to non degree students as well as degree students in other programs or if it will only be available to those students admitted into one of the programs of the supporting departments and finally, clarification on the Internship requirements of the certificate. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal for a Specialization in Journalism: Integrated Media Communications (Revised)

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve a new specialization Integrated Media Communications within the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. The motion carried with 8 members voting yes and 2 members abstaining.

Best Practices for Supporting Graduate Students Facing Hardship

Dean Pat Dussault reported that he has continued his work on the Best Practice Policy for graduate students to remain in their program when a leave of absence is necessary. More edits will be made to clarify that the academic pause will not require a student to be registered for courses.

Debilitating financial hardship with strong language requiring proof of the situation will also be added to the best practice policy. With support of the Council, Dean Dussault will present the policy to the College Deans, department chairs and graduate chairs for review and comment. A final draft will be sent to the Executive Graduate Council for approval.

GSA Report

Reported by Jared Leighton, GSA Vice President

- Jared reported on the results of the student survey regarding current student government. The survey indicated that a large percentage of students are dissatisfied with the current student government structure. As a result, a task force has been formed. This task force will consider the current fee structure and the consideration of a better allocation of funds by splitting student fees into separate allocations for Graduate Students and Undergraduates. The goal is for graduate student fees to go where it is beneficial to them, specifically travel funds.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.