

UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of November 13, 2014

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:35 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, Ted Hamann, Laurie Thomas Lee, Jody Redepenning, Melanie Simpson, and David Smith; student representatives Greg Degirolamo and Curtis Walker; Ex-officio members: Dean Lance Pérez and Associate Dean Laurie Bellows; Jane Schneider, Office of Graduate Studies; Member absent: Professor Rita Kean. Dean Lance Pérez presided.

Approval of October 9, 2014 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Graduate Assistant ACA Bronze Plan option

Associate Dean Bellows let Grad Council know that a letter was being sent on November 13, 2014 to graduate assistants letting them know details about the ACA Bronze Plan, with a comparison table to the StudentBlue plan, and how to enroll in it. Grad Studies will make that letter and slides used in staff information sessions available to chairs, grad chairs, and department staff and put up information on the web site.

Update on changes to 2015-2016 Edgren Graduate Tuition Fellowship

Associate Dean Bellows provided a handout to Grad Council for discussion about changes to the Edgren Tuition Fellowship beginning Fall 2015. Previously, the award was a partial tuition waiver of the non-resident portion of tuition and students paid 150% of resident tuition. When PeopleSoft became the new student information system, it became difficult to calculate the student bill accurately. There will now be a dollar amount credited to the student account by financial aid making it clear to the student what the actual fellowship is. This will also make it easier for financial aid to create aid packages for students and will reduce the financial liability to the University for overpayment of federal loans to students receiving partial support from the Edgren.

Consent/Information Item related to Name Change of Specialization

Consensus of Grad Council is to accept a name change for the Medical Family Therapy specialization in the department of Child, Youth & Family Studies to Global Family Health & Well-being.

Graduate Student Academic Program Appeals: Grounds & Standard for Review and Timeline for Response

The policy that the UNL Grad Council uses for academic program dismissal appeals is from the Executive Graduate Council. The current policy allows students to appeal termination decisions for any reason even when the student has not demonstrated a high level of achievement or satisfactory progress in their program of studies. There is also no guideline or policy that states how soon the advisor, graduate chair/committee or supervisory committee must respond to a student's appeal. Extensive review of other university graduate college policies shows that students must define grounds for an appeal and that a student would be notified of the final decision regarding the appeal within thirty days after the appeal is received.

Associate Dean Bellows asked the Executive Grad Council representatives from UNL Grad Council to take these two issues to the Executive Grad Council.

GSA Report

- GSA is working with the other University campuses on putting together a career fair;
- GSA is hoping to start a writing circle and Associate Dean Bellows let them know that Eva Bachman has a dissertation writing group and they might work with her;

- Dr. Thomas Lee asked if GSA had any plans to work with distance students in creating communities and mentioned that they might think about using a monthly Skype café, etc.

The next Grad Council meeting is February 12, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.