

UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of December 11, 2008

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:35 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Charles Ansorge, Elizabeth Jones, Susan Lawrence, Pamela Starr, 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 PhD in Music

Professors John Richmond and Glenn Nierman from the School of Music were present to answer any questions about the proposal for a doctor of philosophy degree in Music. Graduate curriculum for this degree currently exists as a doctorate in Educational Studies with a specialization in Teaching, Curriculum and Learning. This has presented difficulty in recruiting students to the program because the official credential is not in Music. Nationally all of the Big 10 and other competitors place this degree within Music rather than Education. Should this proposal be approved, an initial specialization in Music Education will be proposed. Because the program is already being delivered under a different name, there is no new cost involved. After discussion, it was agreed that letters of support from both the college and department graduate committees where the program currently resides would strengthen the proposal. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal contingent upon receipt of letters of support from the College of Education and Human Sciences Graduate Committee and the Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education Graduate Committee. Motion passed unanimously. Once such letters are received, the proposal will be forwarded to the Academic Planning Committee.

October 9, 2008 minutes.

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

Proposal to delete the Anthropology: Indigenous Peoples specialization in the doctoral Geography major.

Graduate committee chairs from both the Anthropology and the Geography majors petitioned to have this specialization deleted. The few students in the specialization will complete it but no new students would be accepted. A motion was made and seconded to grant the request and delete the specialization. Motion passed unanimously.

Initial discussion: Proposal to give voting rights to "courtesy" members of Ph.D. supervisory committees. Dean Weissinger explained that currently graduate faculty from other universities who provide some needed expertise on a student's supervisory committee may be appointed as courtesy nonvoting members upon submission of the curriculum vita of the proposed member and request of the supervisory committee chair and the graduate committee chair. After discussion emerging guidelines were that courtesy members on PhD supervisory committees would be requested by student, supervisory committee chair, graduate committee chair, and approved by Graduate Dean if curriculum vita indicated possession of the Ph.D. and comparable expertise to UNL Graduate Faculty. Such a courtesy member would be in addition to the four Graduate Faculty currently required and would have voting privileges and but could serve as one of the readers; but may not serve as committee chair, co-chair or 'outside representative'. Only one such courtesy member would be allowed on a student's supervisory committee. Dean Weissinger will bring a draft of the policy to the February meeting for further consideration.

Announcement. Dean Weissinger requested a volunteer to help work on a proposal to bring to Graduate Council about a parental leave policy for graduate assistants. Prof. Pamela Starr agreed to serve. Report expected at February meeting.

Reports.

--Name change of masters or doctoral specialization of Genetics and Bioinformatics in Biological Sciences to Genetics, Genomics and Bioinformatics approved via mail ballot.

--Deletion of Nutrition Outreach Education specialization in Nutrition & Health Sciences and Leadership Education

--Proposal to change name of degree and major from Master of Agriculture (major in Agriculture) to Master of Applied Science (major in Applied Science) expected to be on agenda for the January 23, 2009, Board of Regents meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.