

## **UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

Meeting of November 8, 2012

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:00 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Andrea Bolland, Rita Kean, Mark van Roojen, Jody Redepenning, Melanie Simpson and David Smith; student representative Jared Leighton; Ex-officio members: Dean Lance Pérez and Associate Dean Laurie Bellows; Hollie Swanson, Office of Graduate Studies. Dean Lance Pérez presided.

### Approval of September 13, 2012 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes, once amended to read as "Approval of March 8, 2012 Minutes" The motion passed unanimously.

### Updates on email ballot results

The outcome of the October 11, 2012 email ballot vote was presented. Proposals for International and Family Studies specialization in Child, Youth & Family Studies and the Merchandising specialization in Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design were approved via email ballot.

### Policy Regarding Graduate Faculty Associate Status for Adjunct Faculty Appointments

The Council revisited the eligibility requirements for Graduate Faculty Associate status specifically related to Adjunct Faculty and Lecturer appointments. At the September 13, 2012 Council meeting, the Council voted to require adjunct faculty to request "courtesy" appointments for the purpose of Graduate Faculty status. After further discussion of the eligibility requirements, a motion was made and seconded to nullify the September vote. The motion was unanimously approved and the September vote rescinded.

A motion was made and seconded to allow Adjunct Faculty who have achieved Graduate Faculty Associate status to retain their status, and be eligible for renewal, even if they assume another position at the university such as a lecturer, as long as they retain an association with the University. The motion passed unanimously.

### Graduate Commencement

Lance Pérez provided an overview of the proposed commencement plan for the next two years, while Devaney is under construction. For 2013 and 2014, the current plan is to hold the Doctoral Hooding ceremony at Kimball Hall, while graduate and undergraduate commencement will be combined at another venue. A motion was made to support the continuation of a separate doctoral hooding and commencement ceremony. The Council supported the motion.

### Electronic Graduate Program Approval Project

Laurie Bellows discussed a NuGrant project that would allow for electronic approval of graduate programs. The system is currently being developed and will be brought forward to the Council for feedback once complete.

### New Resources on UNL Graduate Studies website

Laurie Bellows presented the Office of Graduate Studies' Media Team efforts to create instructional videos designed to assist prospective, new, and current graduate students as they apply to and progress through graduate school. Two videos were shared with the Council; the first one explained how to upload unofficial transcripts via MyRED and the second one explained how to complete a Memorandum of Courses. Additional videos to be created include Applying to Graduate School at UNL; Completing the Online Application; How to Complete The Program of Studies; and

The Arrival Checklist. All videos are less than five minutes and are available on the Graduate Studies website as well as the UNL Media Hub Channel.

### GSA Report

Reported by Jared Leighton, GSA President

- The GSA will be working with ASUN to ensure the student voice is heard in the University Health Center presentations on November 13 and 14.
- GSA will begin updating the Student Bill of Rights, last revised in 1968.
- An inquiry was brought forth regarding the status of the travel award proposal, which provides graduate students with funding for academic conferences. Dr. Laurie Bellows will discuss with the SVCAA and follow up with Jared Leighton, GSA President.

### Other

Laurie Bellows made mention to the Council about the brown bag Dissertation Writing Groups, a new resource available to graduate students at the dissertation stage.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.