Minutes Approved at the 613th Meeting – February 3, 2014

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
612th Meeting
December 2, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Autry, Bond, Chown, Garver, Hathaway, Holm, L’Allier, Levin, Lukaszuk, Maligireddy, Morris, Osorio, Porter, Qin, Van Laarhoven, Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Balkanoff, Gowen, Schraufnagel, Sido, Sims, Stoddard, Wilkins, Zhou

OTHERS PRESENT: Hughes (Secretary), Smith (Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator)

Bond called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He reminded members that Graduate Commencement is on Saturday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Morris moved approval of the November 4, 2013, minutes; Chown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Colloquium Committee: Bond reported that the committee met on November 6. There were forty-seven proposals for Spring 2014, all of which were funded. In addition, there were two Window of Opportunity proposals that were funded for a total of forty-nine proposals. Fall 2014 proposals will be due March 7, 2014. The committee will meet again on April 4 at 1:30 p.m. Bond thanked Leila Porter for agreeing to chair the committee.

Curriculum Committee: Chown presented the November 11, 2013, minutes for approval. He reported that the committee reviewed and approved a new doctorate degree in Nursing. Members from the College of Health and Human Sciences were present at the meeting to answer questions. The D.N.P. proposal has been forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval and will require final approval from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Chown indicated that there was one issue with course duplication between the Departments of Finance and Economics. The problem has been referred to the two departments for discussion and a resolution. He reported that the committee approved a new specialization in Engineering Management for the M.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering. The committee also approved three new certificates of graduate study: 1) Finance; 2) Distance Education; and 3) Southeast Asian Studies. The Southeast Asian Studies concentration is being discontinued. Bond noted that the certificate program in Distance Education requires approval from the IBHE because it is an 18-hour program, which allows students to become eligible for federal financial aid. Those students have to be tracked for outcomes and reported to the IBHE and Department of Education.
Chown stated that the committee had a substantive discussion about MyNIU and its inability to check undergraduate prerequisites for graduate students coming from other institutions. He indicated that Donna Smith has had to contact departments to make sure they are aware of this. Chown said the committee recommends that departments list undergraduate prerequisites and “or consent of department” to help regulate the problem. He implied that it was an ongoing issue. Bond agreed and added that students who are not able to enroll in courses due to prerequisite and permit issues are the source of a lot of phone calls and email to the Graduate School, particularly from those students who are off-campus. He told members that there is a way in MyNIU for departments to assign seats to individual persons. Bond indicated that Registration and Records would know more about how to do that.

Levin moved approval of the minutes; L’Allier seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Curriculum Committee minutes and catalog changes are available at: http://www.niu.edu/provost/curriculum/committeeminutes.shtml.)

New Business

**Agenda for Graduate Council Meeting with President Baker:** Bond informed members that President Baker is scheduled to attend the February 3, 2014, Graduate Council meeting. Bond indicated that this was simply an opportunity for President Baker and the Graduate Council to meet. He asked members if there was any sense of what they might like to discuss with the President. On behalf of the graduate faculty and the graduate students, the Graduate Council has suggested the following agenda items:

1) More focus on research (not stated often or loudly enough as part of the new agenda)
2) Priority to ensure that students join workforce within 6 months beyond the degree (problem specific to NIU?)
3) More support for graduate assistants (provide results of GA survey to President)
4) Update on budget model (clarification on resource allocation; credit hour production versus enrollment?)

**Capacity of Programs at the Graduate Level:** Bond informed members that there will be some discussions in the coming months about what capacity of programs might be and what programs need to do to get there. He indicated that it was very difficult to talk about capacity at the graduate level because it was so diverse across programs. Bond suggested that counting heads and seats, as well as calculating lab space issues, was much easier to do at the undergraduate level. He stated that funding issues had to be taken into consideration when talking about capacity at the graduate level, particularly in the traditional arts and sciences fields. Bond indicated that capacity was something that the Graduate School had been struggling with for the past couple of years, and that he was hopeful there would soon be discussions about a capacity model for programs. Bond assured members that a model would be used to help programs see where they need to be in terms of enrollment and where they can accommodate, not to dictate to them. L’Allier inquired about dissertation hours and how they would fit in. Bond responded that thesis and dissertation hours, particularly dissertation hours, really throw a curve when dealing with capacity because not every dissertation hour is the same, especially when looking at
part-time students. He stated that the university’s ability to accommodate part-time students in the dissertation stage is somewhat better than at the full-time level. Bond agreed that dissertation hours were part of the struggle, but indicated that he was hopeful for something that would, at least, be suggestive about capacity of programs at the graduate level and to provide some insight to programs.

Announcement

**Provost Search Committee:** Bond informed members that he was pleased to announce that Laura Holm from the Department of Accountancy was selected as the graduate student representative on the search committee. He thanked Laura for agreeing to serve and asked if she had any indication of the timeline. Laura stated that she would know more after the first meeting, which was scheduled for next week during finals.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.