Graduate Council Minutes 2016-03-07

Northern Illinois University
Bond called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He reminded members that Amy Levin retired in December and introduced Courtney Gallaher, who will be serving as Levin’s replacement on the Graduate Council for the remaining two years of the three-year term.

Approval of Minutes

The Graduate Council did not meet in February due to a lack of agenda items. Minutes from the last meeting on December 7, 2015, were approved electronically in January.

Committee Reports

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee: Howell reviewed the minutes of the February 8, 2016, meeting for approval. He stated that the committee approved a proposal for a new Master of Science in Athletic Training. Howell indicated that the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education is transitioning from a B.S. to a M.S. degree program in athletic training and turned the floor over to Dr. Bill Pitney to elaborate and answer any questions. Pitney explained that the movement is the result of a directive by a strategic alliance group of various national accreditation organizations to change the entry-level professional degree to a master’s program. He indicated the change is largely to address issues related to the number of competencies needed to prepare students as certified athlete trainers and to address the number of clinical deficiencies. Van Wienen asked if the master’s degree would replace the bachelor’s degree. Pitney replied that it would and stated that the department plans to admit the last undergraduate cohort in Fall 2018 and the first graduate cohort in Fall 2019. He stated that the accrediting body identified 2022 as the last year programs could admit undergraduate students in order to phase out by the year 2026. Stoddard moved approval of the minutes; Wilkins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Curriculum Committee minutes and catalog changes are available at: http://www.niu.edu/u_council/committees/minutes/gccc/index.shtml.)
Graduate Council Standards Committee: Bond reported that the committee met on February 15, 2016, and discussed two issues that require Graduate Council feedback before making any proposed changes to the catalog. The first issue is how to deal with previously published work within dissertations/theses. Bond stated that there is not much guidance on the topic in the catalog, except to say that it is simply disallowed. He suggested that that language may not be in the right direction since in many disciplines, especially in the natural sciences, students are expected to publish en route to the dissertation. Bond indicated that many institutions allow previously published pieces with revisions and proper copyright provisions to produce a unified whole of a dissertation. Stoddard questioned the meaning of “published previously” in the catalog and suggested that material published prior to a student enrolling in a program at NIU might not be allowable; if published for a master’s degree, why be allowed to use it for a doctoral degree? Bond stated that was a good and reasonable caveat to include language indicating that it requires permission. A few members provided feedback on the issue as it relates to their respective departments. Bond indicated that he would work with the Standards Committee in an attempt to update and revise the catalog language.

Bond stated that the second issue is more of a change in practice than policy. He explained that students enrolled in a master’s or doctoral program who decide they want to pursue another degree level in the same department are currently required to submit a new application. Bond indicated that he would like to change that practice and create a simple form in OnBase for departments to approve or disapprove the transition. It would alleviate duplicating the application process and spare the student of another application fee. Bond stated that it would be at the discretion of the department to require any additional documentation other than what is already available in OnBase. Graduate Council members expressed their support for this new process.

Wilkins inquired about the status of the new graduate application. Bond stated that the Graduate School is in the second phase of development and anticipates entering a third and final testing phase soon. He indicated that he is hopeful the new application will be released before the end of the semester.

University Fellowship Committee: Bond reviewed the report of the February 29, 2016, meeting. The committee met to review thirty-five applications on behalf of twenty departments. Ultimately, six awards were made to students in the following programs: Accountancy, Art, Geography, History, Philosophy, and Psychology. University Fellowships include a stipend of $9,000.

New Business

Tuition Waivers: Bond briefly reviewed the report on McNair, under-represented minority, and recruitment tuition waivers. He explained that in 2012, the University was asked to revise the way tuition waiver programs operated. The Graduate School went through that process and is required to provide an annual report on some of the tuition waivers that it has dominion over. Bond stated that the Graduate School is supposed to try to determine how effective these waiver programs are in accomplishing objectives, which is hard to do based on the data. In looking at the data, one member asked why a
student would attend NIU, but not take the waiver. Bond responded that it is typically because they are offered a graduate assistantship or some other form of support, such as a fellowship or a different kind of waiver. Van Wienen asked if it was possible that it was because they decided to go elsewhere. Bond indicated that students offered a waiver who did not attend NIU are accounted for in a separate data set. For clarification, Bond referred to the report and stated that 84 people were offered a recruitment tuition waiver. Of those, 46 accepted and came to NIU, but only 38 of them actually used the recruitment waiver. The other 38 people who were offered a recruitment waiver declined and did not attend NIU. (See attached report.)

**Graduate School Website:** Bond reminded members that, back in October, there were major revisions made to the Graduate School website, which is now much more externally-focused. He stated that he and some of the Graduate School staff met with people in the Division of Marketing and Communications to look at Google analytics that run behind the Graduate School website. Bond shared copies of some of the slides that he found “fascinating.” The data reflected on the slides are for the period October through February. (See attached.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.
March 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Graduate Council
FROM: Bradley Bond
SUBJECT: Tuition Waivers

In 2012, the President’s Office asked various offices on campus to revisit tuition waivers in order to centralize the application process and to cap the value of awards. Under new waiver program guidelines, a report to the Graduate Council on the waiver application process and awards is required.

Recruitment Waivers Fall 2015-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Supported</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
<th>Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>498</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the recruitment waivers that were offered, 38 individuals declined the waiver and did not attend, and six other individuals declined the waiver but accepted an assistantship.

There were 92 people who were supported by their department to receive a recruitment waiver but who did not receive one. Of those 92, 59 enrolled (23 with some other form of support) and 36 with no support.

Recruitment Waiver Applicants not Supported by Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Ineligible</th>
<th>Enrolled</th>
<th>Other Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>322</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of applicants for Under-Represented waivers and McNair waivers are significantly lower than the number of recruitment waiver applicants.

For example, there were 38 URM applicants; 19 awards were offered and 11 were used. Three of the individuals who had been offered URM waivers found assistantships instead.

The number of applicants for the McNair waiver were even lower. There were six applicants; one waiver was offered, and none used.
On-campus vs. Off-campus Pageviews

On-campus vs. Off-campus Traffic

264802 48,553

PAGE VIEWS
- Off-campus
- On-campus
Top 10 Off-campus Traffic Pageviews

- /GRAD/APPLY/INDEX.SHTML: 34560
- /GRAD/ACADEMICS/INDEX.SHTML: 34530
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/APPLICATION-MATERIALS-MASTERS.SHTML: 19638
- /GRAD/APPLY/INDEX.SHTML: 18011
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/INTERNATIONAL/INDEX.SHTML: 17921
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/DOMESTIC/INDEX.SHTML: 11207
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/APPLICATION-MATERIALS-MASTERS.SHTML: 7163
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/APPLICATION-MATERIALS-MASTERS.SHTML: 5163
- /GRAD/ACADEMICS/INDEX.SHTML: 4700
- /GRAD/APPLY/INDEX.SHTML: 5790
Engagement – Time on Site

Top 10 Off-campus Traffic

- /GRAD/APPLY/INDEX.SHTML: 0:05:16
- /GRAD/ACADEMICS/INDEX.SHTML: 0:01:27
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/APPLICATION MATERIALS/MASTERS.SHTML: 0:04:22
- /GRAD/APPLY/INDEX.SHTML: 0:03:10
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/APPLY/INDEX.SHTML: 0:04:19
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/INTERNATIONAL/INDEX.SHTML: 0:04:16
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/DOMESTIC/INDEX.SHTML: 0:04:42
- /GRAD/ACADEMICS/MASTERS/INDEX.SHTML: 0:04:04
- /GRAD/ADMISSIONS/INDEX.SHTML: 0:04:48
- /GRAD/INDEX.SHTML: 0:04:56

Avg. Session Duration
Geo Traffic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Acquisition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad School</td>
<td>91,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. United States</td>
<td>68,192 (74.42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. India</td>
<td>14,934 (16.30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. China</td>
<td>1,080 (1.18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bangladesh</td>
<td>540 (0.59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Iraq</td>
<td>540 (0.59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Nepal</td>
<td>540 (0.59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Iran</td>
<td>520 (0.57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>480 (0.52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Thailand</td>
<td>380 (0.41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Philippines</td>
<td>320 (0.35%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Traffic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Acquisition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad School</td>
<td>68,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Illinois</td>
<td>47,481 (69.62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Wisconsin</td>
<td>2,559 (3.75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Texas</td>
<td>1,759 (2.58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. California</td>
<td>1,699 (2.49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ohio</td>
<td>1,180 (1.73%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Indiana</td>
<td>1,100 (1.61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Florida</td>
<td>980 (1.44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Michigan</td>
<td>880 (1.29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Minnesota</td>
<td>860 (1.26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. New York</td>
<td>720 (1.06%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Master’s Program Pages

Pageviews

- COMMUNICATION-STUDIES.SHTML: 438
- ART-MFA.SHTML: 451
- SPORT-MANAGEMENT.SHTML: 456
- NUTRITION-DIETETICS.SHTML: 557
- MUSIC.SHTML: 559
- NURSING.SHTML: 581
- INDUSTRIAL-MANAGEMENT.SHTML: 581
- PUBLIC-HEALTH.SHTML: 667
- SPEECH-LANGUAGE-PATHOLOGY.SHTML: 689
- BIOLOGICAL-SCIENCES.SHTML: 729
- PUBLIC-ADMINISTRATION.SHTML: 738
- COUNSELING.SHTML: 755
- PSYCHOLOGY.SHTML: 906
- ACCOUNTING.SHTML: 981
- MECHANICAL-ENGINEERING.SHTML: 1057
- ELECTRICAL-ENGINEERING.SHTML: 1114
- MBA.SHTML: 1324
- INDUSTRIAL-SYSTEMS-ENGINEERING.SHTML: 1521
- MANAGEMENT-INFORMATION-SYSTEMS.SHTML: 1716
- COMPUTER-SCIENCE.SHTML: 2613
Doctoral Program Pages

Pageviews

- GEOGRAPHY.SHTML: 89
- HISTORY.SHTML: 96
- GEOLOGY.SHTML: 118
- ENGLISH.SHTML: 137
- CURRICULUM-TEACHING.SHTML: 161
- INSTRUCTIONAL-TECHNOLOGY.SHTML: 174
- EDUCATIONAL-PSYCHOLOGY.SHTML: 178
- EDUCATIONAL-ADMINISTRATION.SHTML: 195
- AUDIOLOGY.SHTML: 201
- COUNSELOR-EDUCATION-SUPERVISION.SHTML: 213
- ADULT-HIGHER-ED.SHTML: 241
- CHEMISTRY.SHTML: 360
- PHYSICAL-THERAPY.SHTML: 368
- MATHEMATICS.SHTML: 371
- ECONOMICS.SHTML: 439
- POLITICAL-SCIENCE.SHTML: 449
- PHYSICS.SHTML: 464
- HEALTH-SCIENCES.SHTML: 522
- BIOLOGICAL-SCIENCES.SHTML: 614
- PSYCHOLOGY.SHTML: 852