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Graduate Council Minutes 2016-04-04

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Minutes Approved at the 628th Meeting – May 2, 2016

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
627th Meeting
April 4, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bond, Bostwick, Clark Bremer, Gaillard, Gallaher, Gowen, Hathaway, Hoffman, Howell, James, Mantzke, McGuire, Osorio, Smith, Stoddard, Van Wienen, Yang

MEMBERS ABSENT: Arado, Ayres, Bell, Lukaszuk, Majumdar, Menezes, Polala, Porter, Wilkins

GUESTS: Blazey (Interim VP, Research and Innovation Partnerships)

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

Bond called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Gowen moved approval of the March 7, 2016, minutes; Hathaway seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee: Bond reviewed the report of the March 8, 2016, meeting. The committee met to evaluate twenty-three applications for full-time fellowships and one application for a part-time fellowship. Full-time fellows receive a partial tuition waiver and stipend of $14,000; part-time fellows receive a partial tuition waiver. Six full-time fellowships were offered to students in the following programs: Biological Sciences; Chemistry and Biochemistry; English; Geology and Environmental Geosciences; History; and Psychology. A part-time award was offered to a student Political Science. Bond noted that historically approximately 97% of Dissertation Completion Fellowship recipients complete their dissertations during the fellowship period or the summer following.

Graduate Council Standards Committee: Bond reported on the March 28, 2016, meeting. He reviewed proposed revisions to the catalog regarding thesis and dissertation requirements. Specifically, the changes provide clarity on collaborative research and previously published work within dissertations and theses. In addition, there are minor factual changes that reflect current practices. Hathaway moved approval of the revisions; Howell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (See attached document.)
**Graduate Faculty Membership Committee:** Bond presented the following recommendations from the March 29, 2016, meeting for Council approval:

**Art and Design:** Sixteen senior members were renewed and two full members were promoted to senior status. One senior member did not meet the criteria and will have full status beginning this summer. Ten full members were renewed. One full member did not meet the criteria and will have provisional status beginning this summer. Two faculty members will be removed from the school’s graduate faculty list. There were no proposed revisions to the department’s criteria.

**Economics:** Four senior members and two full members were renewed. Two faculty members who retired will be removed from the department’s graduate faculty list. There were no proposed revisions to the department’s criteria.

**History:** Nineteen senior members were renewed. Three senior members did not meet the criteria and will have full status beginning this summer. One senior member who did not meet the criteria will be reviewed again in Fall 2017 after six years of being in the senior membership category. Six full members were renewed. One faculty member who resigned will be removed from the department’s graduate faculty list. There were no proposed revisions to the department’s criteria.

**Music:** Four senior members were renewed. One senior member did not meet the criteria and will have full status beginning this summer. Twenty-seven full members were renewed. Three faculty members will be removed from the school’s graduate faculty list. There were no proposed revisions to the department’s criteria.

Graduate Council approved the recommendations.

**Honorary Degree Committee:** Bond informed members that the committee met on November 10, 2015, and forwarded two honorary degree nominations to the President and Board of Trustees for approval. He announced that the nominations were approved and both nominees have accepted. Dr. Eboo Patel, Founder and President of the nonprofit, Chicago-based Interfaith Youth Core, will be honored at the May graduate commencement ceremony. Mr. James Fruchterman, Founder and CEO of Benetech, a Silicon Valley nonprofit technology company, will be honored at the December graduate commencement ceremony.

**Announcements**

**Great Journeys Assistantship Program:** Bond informed members that the program was established about five years ago. The purpose of the program is to provide support to individual faculty members in the form of a graduate assistantship to help with projects associated with obtaining external funding. Bond stated that an assessment of the program a few years ago indicated that these assistantships were connected to approximately $4 million in external funding with about $5 million still pending at the time. He informed members that there were twenty-five Great Journeys Assistantship proposals submitted for next academic year, of which fifteen were funded from the following departments: Allied Health and Communicative Disorders; Biological
Sciences; Chemistry and Biochemistry; Geology and Environmental Geosciences; History; Mechanical Engineering; Physics; and Psychology.

Hoffman asked if any of the graduate awards were contingent upon the state budget. Bond stated that he had not made any cuts to these types of awards.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.
University Academic Publications

The Graduate School Calendar and Information for International Graduate Students are available from the Graduate School and online at www.niu.edu/grad. The Graduate School Manual for Theses and Dissertations is available for purchase at campus bookstores and is available online at www.niu.edu/grad. The Graduate School Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation at NIU is available online on the Thesis and Dissertation Office page of the Graduate School website. Information for International Graduate Students is online at www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/international/.

Requirements for the Degrees MAS, MA, etc: Thesis

The thesis will be a scholarly contribution to knowledge. Its subject must be in the area of the student's major and be approved by the student's thesis director and, ultimately, by the thesis committee. The thesis presents research that has been conducted under the supervision of a graduate faculty member from the student's major department approved as the thesis director. The document may not have been published previously, and the research must be successfully defended in an oral examination. Previously published manuscripts are not acceptable in fulfilling the thesis requirements for graduate degree programs; however, it is permissible to include some previously published material (for example, a chapter, a section, or data/findings) in the thesis so long as the thesis as a whole is original, unpublished work. (See the Graduate School Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis at NIU for additional requirements.) The thesis must be successfully defended in an oral examination.

In special situations, and only with the approval of the faculty director(s) and committee(s), students may collaborate on some aspects of the work contributing to their theses. However, each thesis submitted to the Graduate School for approval must be a unique product with the degree candidate as the sole author and with due acknowledgment of the contributions of collaborators; and the author must demonstrate to his or her committee satisfactory command of all aspects of the work presented. . .

After the thesis has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School, the approved version will be deposited electronically with UMI Dissertation Publishing ProQuest and must be accessible through their global digital library of dissertations and theses, as well as through NIU’s digital institutional repository, Huskie Commons, a unit of Founders Memorial Library, to be made available through their digital library of dissertations and theses. The student is required to pay the applicable fees.

Requirements for the Degrees Doctor of Education Doctor of Philosophy
Dissertation Requirements

The dissertation will be a substantial contribution to knowledge in which the student exhibits original scholarship and the ability to conduct independent research. Its subject must be in the area of the student's major and be approved by the student's dissertation director and, ultimately, by the dissertation committee. The dissertation presents research that has been conducted by the student under the supervision of a senior member of the graduate faculty from, and nominated by, the major department and approved as the dissertation director by the dean of the Graduate School. The document may not have been published previously, and the research must be successfully defended in an oral examination. The author must demonstrate to his or her committee satisfactory command of all aspects of the work presented.

Previously published manuscripts are not acceptable in fulfilling the dissertation requirements for graduate degree programs; however, it is permissible to include some previously published material (for example, a chapter, a section, or data/findings) in the dissertation so long as the dissertation as a whole is original, unpublished work. (See the Graduate School Guidelines for Preparing a Dissertation at NIU for additional requirements.) The dissertation must be successfully defended in an oral examination. The author must demonstrate to his or her committee satisfactory command of all aspects of the work presented.

Students may collaborate on some aspects of the work contributing to their dissertations. However, each dissertation submitted to the Graduate School for approval must be a unique product with the degree candidate as the sole author and with due acknowledgment of the contributions of collaborators. The author must demonstrate to his or her committee satisfactory command of all aspects of the dissertation.

Credit-hour requirements . . .

After the dissertation has received final Graduate School approval, the approved version will be deposited electronically with UMI Dissertation Publishing to be made available through their digital library of dissertations and theses. After the dissertation has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School, the approved version will be deposited electronically with ProQuest and must be accessible through their global digital library of dissertations and theses, as well as NIU’s digital institutional repository, Huskie Commons, a unit of Founders Memorial Library. The abstract is also published in ProQuest Digital Dissertations, formerly Dissertation Abstracts International. This facilitates wide dissemination of the scholarship to interested parties. The student is required to pay the applicable fees.

Justification: These catalog changes fall into two broad categories: 1). Those that correct factual information (for example, references to the Graduate School Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation at NIU and information about deposit of theses/dissertations in ProQuest and Huskie Commons; 2). Those that provide clarity on collaborative research and previously published material appearing in the thesis or dissertation.