July 21, 2015

Northern Illinois University

The Graduate School

TO: William Pitney, Executive Secretary
University Council

FROM: Bradley G. Bond, Dean of the Graduate School and
Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies


Professor Paul Stoddard of the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences was elected assistant chair of the Council. The Graduate Council met six times during the 2014-2015 academic year. The nine standing committees of the Graduate Council met numerous times between Council meetings and, as is the practice, much of the Council’s business was handled through those committees. Major accomplishments of the academic year are summarized below:

**Criminal Disclosure Review Committee:** The committee continues its operation through the summer, so this is a summary of the activities from July 2014 to date. The committee met four times to review seven cases. Six individuals were granted permission to proceed with the application process and one was denied admission.

**Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee:** The committee met on March 5, 2015 and chose seven proposals for full-time awards and four proposals for part-time awards. Twenty-six proposals from eleven departments were reviewed.

**Graduate Colloquium Committee:** The committee met once each semester and approved approximately ninety-two proposals for funding, involving visits to NIU by a wide range of presenters (scholars, professional practitioners, creative artists, and performers). All of the proposals fell within departmental “planning parameters” and all were funded by the committee.

**Graduate Council Appeals Committee:** This committee continues its operation through the summer, so this is a summary of the committee’s activities from fall 2014 to date. The committee met three times to consider sixty-eight cases. Of the sixty-eight appeals, fifty-nine were approved. The vast majority of petitions involved academic reinstatement.

**Graduate Council Curriculum Committee:** The GCCC met three times during the 2014-15 academic year and recommended Graduate Council approval of graduate-level curricular revisions as indicated below.

**New Certificates of Graduate Study:**
- Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education
  - Sport and Exercise Psychology
  - Sport Management
- Department of Special and Early Education
  - Behavior Analyst
- College of Health and Human Sciences
  - Leadership in Aging Services
- College of Visual and Performing Arts
  - Art History
Changes:

Department of Educational Technology, Research and Assessment
Change in degree status for Instructional Technology from Ed.D. to Ph.D.
Department of Special and Early Education
Change of name for a certificate of graduate study: Behavior Intervention Specialist

Also approved were 59 new graduate courses, 22 graduate course deletions, 93 graduate course revisions (includes revisions in course number, title, credit hours, description, and/or prerequisite/corequisite), and 87 other Graduate Catalog revisions.

Graduate Council Standards Committee: The Standards Committee met three times. The committee presented various changes to the Graduate Catalog and to the APPM. Changes were made to the following sections of the 2014-2015 Catalog:

General Regulations – Course Load (rewritten for clarity; changes to lower barriers for requesting underloads and overloads).

Tuition and Fees – General Student Fees (title changed to “Tuition” and changes to reflect new tuition structure); Special Fees (changes to applications fees).

Admission to Graduate Study – Application for Admission (changes to eligibility requirements for application fee waivers).

Requirements for Graduate Degrees – Masters – Composition of Examination and Thesis Committees and Doctor of Education/Doctor of Philosophy – Composition of Committees (rewritten for clarity; changes to align with the APPM).

APPM Changes – “Policies Pertaining to Graduate Assistantships,” Section IV, Items 1 & 7 (changes to reflect new tuition structure; changes to enrollment requirements/underloads for GAs).

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee: The committee met on April 27, 2015. With recommendations from the respective departments and relevant college deans, the committee engaged in review of the graduate-faculty membership criteria and of the full and senior graduate-faculty memberships for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, and the School of Nursing and Health Studies. All but one recommendation were approved.

Honorary Degree Committee: Last year’s Honorary Degree Committee, with the approval of the President and the Board of Trustees, selected one Honorary Degree recipient: Frances Whitehead, civic practice artist and Professor of Sculpture and Architecture at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Ms. Whitehead was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the December 13, 2014 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony.

This academic year, the committee met on November 10, 2014 to review nominations. With the approval of the President and the Board of Trustees, the Honorary Degree Committee selected one Honorary Degree recipient: Nigel Lockyer, Director of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Dr. Lockyer was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science at the May 8, 2015 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony.

University Fellowship Committee: The committee met once each semester. On October 22, 2014, the committee met to discuss nominations for the thesis and dissertation competitions. The committee selected recipients for the most outstanding thesis and the most outstanding dissertation in AY 2013-14. The committee met again on February 27, 2015 to discuss nominations for the University Fellowship Awards. The committee chose six applicants for full-time awards. There were 26 nominations from 15 departments.

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Other matters:

Application Fees and Process: The Graduate Council approved a $20 increase in the application fee for degree-seeking domestic students and a new $10 application fee for non-degree students. These slightly increased fees will help the Graduate School pay for additional costs associated with a new application for admission process through a third-party vendor. Third-party application systems provide greater self-management, video uploads and speed of development. In addition, a better application is necessary to recruit students in the pipeline, and it provides improved customer service.

Assistantship Stipends for AY 2015-16: The Graduate Council approved a 1.7% increase in the minimum stipend for graduate assistantships: $437 semi-monthly/full-time assistantship; $328 three-quarter time; and $219 part-time.

Graduate and Professional Student Association: The Graduate Council approved a constitution for a Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) that was written and approved by the Graduate Student Advisory Committee. The GPSA will consist of all graduate students, and the association will have an elected Senate. The purpose of the association and senate is to ensure that graduate student interests are accurately and fully reflected before the administration of the university.

RFP for Graduate Assistantships: For the fifth year, Great Journeys Assistantships were made available through the Great Journeys Strategic Planning process. Requests for proposals were distributed on campus and selections were made. There are 12 Great Journeys recipients.

cc: 2014-2015 Graduate Council
    2015-2016 Graduate Council
    Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor