Rathindra N. Bose, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Factor moved approval of the December 1, 2007 minutes. Sims noted that a clarification was needed in the Information Item section. He asked that the last sentence be rephrased to suggest that graduate student qualification for loans may be reduced or eliminated due to tuition waivers being averaged at 12 hours. Barbe seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Information Item

Ms. Kelly Wesener, Executive Director, Housing and Dining, presented the Graduate Council with information on the Northern View Community. She discussed the many benefits of this new community for graduate students. She distributed a flyer and encouraged faculty to take as many as they needed to share with their students and/or potential students. She stated that the facility will open in Fall 2007 and applications are currently being accepted. Northern View Community is located northwest of the Convocation Center. Bose asked if the facility would be available to visiting professors/Fulbright professors who are only at NIU for a few months. Wesener stated that letting professors stay in the apartments had been discussed, but no final decision has been made. Some of the council questioned how family would be defined for the purpose of living in the apartments. Would people with children receive preference? Wesener replied that applications are opened to everyone. There are 120 units available for the Fall semester. She also mentioned that students must be admitted to a program before they are able to submit an application for housing. The council wondered if the Northern View Community was replacing University Apartments. Wesener answered yes, the new complex would replace the University Apartments. Wesener said that anyone who would like more information about the Northern View community should call 752-VIEW.
New Business

Graduate Student Recognition Ceremony: Bond distributed a report from the task force that was developed to determine how to best recognize graduate student achievement at an annual spring banquet. A lengthy discussion followed. The council decided to honor those graduate students who receive Dissertation Completion Fellowship awards and University Fellowship awards, along with those students who are selected as Outstanding Teaching Assistants. In addition to these students, Bose will ask each department to select an additional name to forward for recognition. The council determined that each department will only forward one name regardless of how many different programs and/or disciplines they have. Bose suggested either Altgeld Hall or Barsema Alumni Center as possible locations. Gowen moved approval of the Graduate Student Recognition Ceremony as outlined by the council’s discussion including calling award recipients Dean’s Scholars. Lusk seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tuition Budgeted in Grant Applications: Bose explained that most research universities add tuition in the application budget of the grant. NIU has not practiced this in the past. Bose would like to see tuition budgeted in grants, if possible. Given an application where the budget is limited and/or the agency does not provide tuition, Bose is still willing to provide limited tuition waivers for graduate students. He mentioned that the Office of Sponsored Projects staff has been somewhat under fire due to this change. He brought this issue before the Council of Deans and they were in agreement with him. Sims asked about NIH area grants that have a fixed budget where money needs to be spent on equipment. Bose said that he would make an exception for these types of situations. He is also looking into a flat tuition rate for post candidacy students, which will decrease the amount of funding requested from agencies.

Revised Research Misconduct Policy Draft: Arntz distributed a revised Research Misconduct Policy Draft. She stated that the changes were to keep NIU’s policy current with the new PHS Policies on Research Misconduct, 42 CFR Part 93, which became effective in June 2005. Sims inquired if non-NIU employees can serve on research misconduct committees. Bose said that if the situation demanded a non-NIU employee, than an exception could be made. Lockard moved approval of the draft, Waas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Three-year Degrees: Bond stated that he would like some direction from the council as to how to evaluate three-year degrees. Susan Minas, International Graduate Specialist, is collecting data about other institutions’ policies. This item will be deferred until more information is obtained.

Information

The Research and Artistry Committee met and discussed the 113 proposals received this year. The committee was able to fund 40 proposals which provided summer salary for 41
faculty members. The summer salary increase of $500 that the Graduate Council approved did not decrease the total number of faculty members receiving awards. Bose asked the council to think of a more effective way of selecting awardees. He offered taking the top and bottom score out of the committee rankings in order to ensure fairness. The council agreed that the idea presented was fair. The Research and Artistry committee will meet before the end of the Spring semester to evaluate the process used this year and to make recommendations for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.