MEMBERS PRESENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Arado, Barbe, Bond, Bose, Carrier, Changnon, Factor, Goldenberg, Gowen, Hurych, Karonis, Macdonald, Muñoz, Odoms-Young, Riley, Shaw, Shumow, Sims, Song (for Gupta), Waas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Costello, Harris, Johnson, Lockard, Lusk, Slattery

OTHERS PRESENT: Arntz (Assistant Vice President for Research), Pierce (Executive Director, International Programs), Pugh (Graduate School Specialist), Smith (Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator), Wright (Secretary)

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

Factor moved approval of the February 5, 2007 minutes, Barbe seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Alternative English Exam: Deb Pierce, Executive Director of International Programs, distributed information to the council about English proficiency exams. Sims contacted Pierce through email with a question regarding the equivalency of a 50 on the TSE (test of spoken English) compared to the TOEFL (test of English as a foreign language) iBT (internet based test). In the handout Pierce distributed it clarified that a score of 50 on the TSE is almost equivalent to a score of 23 on the TOEFL iBT. The TSE is being phased out along with the computer based TOEFL. Pierce stated that the IELTS (International English language testing system) exam is an alternative to the TOEFL. At this time, NIU is accepting band 6 on the IELTS for undergraduate admission. Pierce explained that the IELTS is typically available to students four times a month. Also, there are more centers available for testing in other countries. Graduate Schools that allow IELTS are typically seeing more applications being submitted and a larger pool of students to select from. Macdonald said that the IELTS is preferable because the speaking part is given face to face. The individuals giving the speaking test are trained and calibrated every two years. She mentioned that the U of I, UIC, and Eastern all accept this exam. Waas asked how to equalize the TOEFL and IELTS? Pierce responded that they researched what scores other schools were using for both the TOEFL and the IELTS and calculated where NIU would fit into that. Bose asked how many institutions have accepted the IELTS. Pierce stated that overall about 120 institutions were accepting the IELTS. Bose questioned how many graduate schools were accepting it. Pierce said that she did not have that information with her, but would provide it for the council.
Three-year Degrees: Pierce stated that one of the three major credential evaluators, the World Education Services (WES), is now accepting three-year bachelor’s degrees from certain accredited Indian universities as the equivalent of US four-year bachelor’s degrees. A list of accredited universities is available at [http://www.naacindia.org](http://www.naacindia.org). Pierce explained that all the universities listed are not automatically accepted by WES. WES is only accepting universities with a status of “A.” Pierce also commented that even if an international student has a four year degree, it does not normally consist of general education courses anyway.

Bose requested that the Standards Committee discuss these issues and bring a recommendation to the Graduate Council.

Committee Reports

Research and Artistry: Gowen reported that 41 faculty members were supported with summer salaries, 27 tenure-track and 14 tenured. Every year the committee awards proposals based on a 2:1 ratio (for every two tenure-track they support one tenured). Gowen also stated that the Research and Artistry Committee will be meeting this semester to discuss various issues related to the application process. Some things that the committee needs to define are: the rating system (what is a 3, 4 or 5?), what a good faith effort to obtain extramural funding is, how we can help faculty members follow the guidelines for proposal length, and how can we stress the importance of writing proposals for a broad audience. Bose stated that if the electronic system can be used for the proposals, subfields could be created to limit pages to a specified amount. Bose will bring this issue to the Council of Deans to see if the Deans will support electronic submission. Odoms-Young suggested holding Research and Artistry workshops and wondered if they might be helpful for faculty members. Another suggestion was that Research and Artistry Committee members meet with their colleges’ faculty members to give them guidance for submitting proposals.

Curriculum Committee: Changnon presented the February 12, 2007 Curriculum Committee minutes for approval. Carrier briefly explained the proposal in section b of the minutes for the Masters of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education with Initial Certification. Council members questioned the difference between the MAT and the MSED. Carrier explained that the MSED is considered a professional development degree that certified teachers enroll in. The MAT serves those who are provisionally certified or working without certification, but will become certified. A lengthy committee discussion related to curricular issues, need for creation of a new degree, relationship with other colleges, etc. followed. Bose suggested asking College of Education representatives to attend the April Graduate Council meeting to clarify the issues raised by the council. Macdonald moved to table section B of the Curriculum Committee minutes until the April Graduate Council meeting. Barbe seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The following new courses, course deletions, course revisions, and other changes in catalog copy were approved:
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Department of Accountancy
ACCY 433, 480 (course deletions)
Master of Accounting Science - Phase Two - Financial Reporting and Assurance Area of Study - Managerial Accounting Systems Area of Study (revisions)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Other Catalog Change
Retention - Certificates of Graduate Study (addition)

Department of Counseling, Adult, and Higher Education
CAHA 490, 492, 550X, 552X, 553X, 600 (course revisions)
Master of Science in Education in Adult and Higher Education - Requirements - Non-Thesis Option - Comprehensive Examination (revisions)
Master of Science in Education in Counseling Admission (revisions)
Doctor of Education in Adult and Higher Education - Requirements - Examinations (revisions)

Department of Educational Technology, Research and Assessment
ETRA 502 (Course Addition)

Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education
KNPE 574 (Course Addition)
Master of Science in Education in Kinesiology and Physical Education (revisions)
Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education -
Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations

- EPS 504 (Course Addition)
- LEEA 626 (Course Addition)
- EPS 405 (Course Revision)
- Regulations Governing Programs in Educational Administration and School Business Management

Department of Literacy Education

- LTLA 544 (course addition)
- LTIC 550, 551, 552, 553 (course revision)
- LTLA 403X (course revision)

Department of Teaching and Learning

- TLEE 561 (course addition)
- TLSE 660 (course addition)
- TLSE 686 (course revision)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

- Department of Electrical Engineering - ELE 577 (course revision)
- Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering - ISYE 566 (course addition)

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

- Interdisciplinary Courses - IHHS 501, 566, 567 (course additions)

Fellowship Committee: Bond reported that 35 applications were received for Graduate Fellowships from 17 different departments. Ten fellowships were awarded and the recipients have been notified. The committee chose five alternates. Sims noted that there is a lack of consistency between the fellowship applications received.
Standards Committee: Waas reported that the committee discussed setting a limit on the number of student-at-large (SAL) hours that students can take, instead of allowing the departments to set their own limits. The purpose of this would be to track these students and to get them into degree programs as soon as possible. After much committee discussion they decided that the policy should stand. The number of SAL hours allowed will be left up to the individual departments.

Honorary Degree Committee: Bose reported that the committee made a recommendation to the President. After the President reviews the nominees he will forward the recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval.

New Business

Working Group for Online Course Evaluations: Bose requested that the Graduate Council appoint a student to a working group that Virginia Cassidy is creating to evaluate online courses. Muñoz was recommended by the council.

Catalog Description for Nanoscience, Engineering and Technology: Bose distributed copies of the catalog description for the Institute for Nanoscience, Engineering and Technology. Bose stated that this is not a new program, only a track offered through Chemistry or Physics that includes classes from the College of Engineering. Argonne National Laboratory will be paying half the cost for the students enrolled in this track. Abdel-Motaleb questioned why there are no electrical engineering courses listed in the description. Song responded that in the future more courses will be added. Karonis questioned whether there has been any discussion to add mathematical sciences or computer science courses to the track. Bose replied that the committee, made up of Dr. Simon Song, Dr. Sue Mini, and Dr. Narayan Hosmane, is open to discussion about any courses that will strengthen the track. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee approved the catalog description a couple of weeks ago. Abdel-Motaleb moved approval of the catalog description, Sims seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Internship Tuition Waivers: Odoms-Young presented this on behalf of Lusk, who was unable to attend the meeting. Lusk wanted to draw attention to the fact that when internship tuition waivers are provided, students are allowed to take additional classes on that waiver. Since Bose has stated that we need to be conscious of how many waivers we are providing, Lusk thought this issue should be addressed. Bose stated that he was not changing the current policy for internship and that tuition waivers should be managed very carefully. Whenever possible, grant proposals should include tuition in the budget.

Old Business

Electronic Submission of Theses and Dissertations: Bond asked the committee what the next step in electronic submission would be. The Graduate School has been receiving electronic drafts of dissertations from four departments this year. Bond said that there were two organizations that provide the software, ProQuest located in Ann Arbor, MI and
another is at Virginia Polytech. Bond suggested using ProQuest because they are the official repository for the Library of Congress. Bond will invite a representative from ProQuest to make a presentation to the council during the April or May Graduate Council meeting.

Announcements/Information Items

New Graduation Deadlines: Bond distributed a list of new graduation deadlines. The change requires students to notify the Graduate School the semester before they graduate instead of the semester they are graduating. This change will benefit students by allowing them the opportunity to complete graduation deficiencies without delaying graduation further. Bond also stated that the Graduate School tends to be somewhat flexible in dealing with graduation deadlines and will continue to be flexible as faculty and students adjust to the deadline changes. The council discussed the change. Bose suggested giving departments time to adjust by implementing the deadline changes for Spring 2008 graduation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.