Rathindra N. Bose, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Information Item

Bose introduced Provost Alden who was invited to update the Council on the Strategic Planning process.

Alden reported that the NIU Great Journeys Strategic Plan is moving forward. Faculty members submitted about 300 concept papers, which have now been separated into thematic areas. These thematic areas will generate conversations between faculty members pursuing similar areas of research. The hope is that these conversations will produce a couple dozen big picture goals that support the strategic imperatives developed last year. Alden stated that the strategic plan is an evolutionary plan, so if a particular idea is not pursued the first year, it may be pursued the second, third, or fourth year. Next, as a result of this planning process, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out last week identifying the thematic areas. Some thematic areas are unique to individual colleges, some involve two or three colleges, and others are multidisciplinary. Theme coordinators were identified to focus on specific goals and strategies within each area. Another step forward is the work of two task forces that are looking at issues related to student success and curricular innovation. There is also an RFP for multidisciplinary research clusters that will be forthcoming from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies. This RFP arose from the second imperative last year, under which criteria were
identified for research clusters. A final RFP will be distributed within the next couple of weeks related to a teaching initiative. This RFP will support faculty whose ideas would benefit from one time funding for release time, graduate student funding, travel, or equipment within the range of $5,000 to $20,000. These ideas may be anything that advances the strategic imperatives. After the first year these will focus more on specific goals. One final effort that originated through the NIU Great Journeys Strategic Plan is the Board of Trustees Professorships. This award will be given to as many as three faculty members per year for up to five years with a stipend of $10,000 per year. The individuals who are nominated for this award should have a national and/or international reputation and be engaging students in research.

Approval of Minutes

Macdonald moved approval of the December 3, 2007 minutes, Waas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Research and Artistry Committee: Gowen reported that the Research and Artistry Committee met on January 28, 2008 and evaluated 126 proposals. Of those proposals 75 were untenured faculty (group 1) and 51 were tenured (group 2). Each faculty member may receive up to $4,500 for salary and $2,000 for non-personnel items. This year 28 faculty members from group 1 and 14 from group 2 were selected to receive awards. Two faculty members were chosen as alternates. Bose explained that funding is only provided for 37 ½ awards and normally 5 or 6 alternates are chosen. Due to an additional 4 ½ awards being given, only 2 alternates were chosen this year. Bose thanked the Committee and expressed his appreciation for all their hard work.

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee: Changnon presented three new programs for approval on behalf of the Curriculum Committee. After Graduate Council approval these programs must be approved by the Board of Trustees and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Representatives from the College of Education, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were at the meeting to answer any questions regarding the three programs.

The Curriculum Committee recommended approval of the MST program in the College of Engineering as proposed. Bose mentioned that this program is funded by the IBHE, so he checked whether it will be sustained after the funding period. Dr. Tahernezhadi assured him that it will be sustained. The Council approved this program unanimously.

The Curriculum Committee recommended approval of the MST in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. The Council approved this program unanimously.

The Curriculum Committee recommended approval of the MAT in Elementary Education. The Council approved this program unanimously.
The Curriculum Committee recommended approval of the January 14 & 25, 2008 minutes. The following new courses, course deletions, course revisions, and other catalog changes in the catalog copy were approved:

January 14, 2008 GCCC Minutes

ALL UNIVERSITY SECTION-REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE DEGREES
  Page 31, 2008-08 Graduate Catalog – Comprehensive Examination (revisions)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
  Department of Teaching and Learning
    TLSE 452 (552), 559 (559) (course revisions)
    Page 113, 2006-07 Graduate Catalog – Master of Science in Education in
    Special Education – Specialization in Learning Behavior Specialist I – 1
    Initial Field Experience in Special Education (revisions)
    Page 113, 2006-07 Graduate Catalog – Master of Science in Education in
    Special Education – Specialization in Learning Behavior Specialist I
    (change in requirements)

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
  School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences
    Page 162, 2007-08 Graduate Catalog – Teaching Certification in Family
    and Consumer Sciences – Apparel and Textiles (6) (FCNS 362 revised to
    262)

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
  Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
    CHEM 494 (594) (course revisions)

  Department of Mathematical Sciences
    MATH 509, 526, 527 (course additions)

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
  School of Art
    ARTE 463 (563) (course revisions)

January 25, 2008 GCCC Minutes

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
  Department of Literacy Education
    LTIC 520, 545, 547 (course revisions)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
  UEET 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608 (course additions)

_Honorary Degree Committee:_ Bose reported that no nominations for Honorary Degrees were received.
New Business

Strategic Planning for Research and Graduate Studies: Bose stated that the Division of Research and Graduate Studies was in the process of distributing the Multidisciplinary RFP for developing research clusters that the Council reviewed at the December meeting. The RFP will be posted on the Provost Office website and the Division of Research and Graduate Studies website today. The proposals will be submitted to Bose, but will also be distributed to the appropriate colleges for review. Bose informed the Council that an ad hoc committee will be created by the Council of Deans. Some members will be selected from the Graduate Council with additional members recommended by the deans from their colleges. Bose expects all proposals to be within the scope of planning of the individual colleges. The Council can recommend which members should be selected to serve on the ad hoc committee at the March meeting. The members should have knowledge regarding multidisciplinary research, but no conflict of interest.

Bose stated that he would like to see a sub committee created to look at graduate education and research at the university. The sub committee will be comprised of members of the Graduate Council, appointed by the Dean, to look at the issues in graduate education and research. The question that will be asked is, how can the division help all colleges collectively, not compete, a centralized way? This is now in the planning stage.

Hoffman questioned whether a degree program proposal could be submitted through the Multidisciplinary Research Cluster RFP. Bose responded that a degree program could be submitted as long as the structure is outlined and the connection between research and education is made.

Graduate Admissions: Bond informed the Council that the Graduate School staff are working extremely hard to process all the applications received. He asked departments to be patient with the staff as they are understaffed and working with multiple technologies simultaneously. He said that they are receiving around 200 applications a week and international applications have increased by 80%. Also, he reported that PeopleSoft will be non-functioning beginning today and possibly lasting through February 18th. Any faculty or staff that have concerns should contact Bond.

Replacement for Changnon at the University Council: Changnon asked that someone from the Council represent him at the Spring meetings because he is teaching a course during the meeting time. The Graduate Council recommended Shaw.

Graduate Student Recognition: Bond reported that the Graduate Student recognition will be held on April 17, 2008. Faculty Development director, Murali Krishnamurthi, made a recommendation last year to hold the event as an open reception instead of a dinner. Bose asked the Council if they would like to have a reception or dinner. It was agreed to have a reception this year and to discuss which way works better at the May meeting. Bose mentioned that an ad hoc committee is needed again this year to evaluate the departments’ nominations. The Council recommended allowing each department to

nominate one student from each degree granting program. This recommendation received unanimous support. This year instead of one student per department, each department will forward one student from each degree granting program.

Announcements

Bose introduced Fran Giordano who has replaced Jim Lockard on the Council due to his retirement. He also introduced new member Meri Goehring from the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Bose asked the Council if they would like him to write a resolution to Jim for his service on the Council and forward it to him through email. The Council thought that was a good idea.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.