MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Bauer, Behzad, Bond, Bose, Carrier, Changnon, Factor, Gupta, Hill (for Sims), Hoffman, Johnson, Lim, Lockard, Macdonald, Osorio, Shaw, Sunderlin, Townsend, Waas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbe, Gowen, Hartnett, Lash, Riley

OTHERS PRESENT: 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.

Approval of Minutes
Bauer moved approval of the September 10, 2007 minutes, Macdonald seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Appeals Committee: Bond reported that during the 2006-2007 academic year the Graduate Appeals Committee met four times and evaluated 43 appeals. Forty-two of the cases involved reinstatement and 39 of those resulted in reinstatement. Of these cases related to reinstatement, the vast majority were brought by degree-seeking students, only 13 were brought by Students-at-Large. One degree-seeking applicant appealed the decision of the Graduate School not to accept his degree from a non-accredited school as the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree. The committee, after careful review, permitted his application to go forward.

Bond wished to express his gratitude towards the members of the Appeals Committee. He stated that the members of the committee merit our appreciation for undertaking the task and performing it with the special attention they bestow to balancing the best interest of the institution with the best interest of the students.

Hoffman asked Bond to explain the responsibilities of the committee for the new members of the Council. Bond explained that the committee reviews mostly cases of graduate students appealing probation. The committee reviews any graduate student issues, excluding grade appeals.

Honorary Degree Committee: Bose reminded the Council of last year’s Honorary Degree selection. He stated that the committee forwarded three names, but only two were eligible for the award. Both of those awards will be given in the December
commencement ceremony. Bose will be requesting that each Honorary Degree recipient receive five minutes to speak at the ceremony.

The letters requesting nominations for next year’s award(s) will be going out within a week.

**New Business**

*Strategic Plan Update:* Bose stated that he invited Provost Alden to attend the meeting in order to update the Council on the Strategic Plan as it specifically relates to Research and Graduate Studies, but the Provost was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Most of the strategic planning information was shared by President Peters at the State of the University Address. Changnon stated that he requested this item be added to the agenda after hearing the Provost speak at the University Council meeting regarding potential resources that may be available to the Division of Research and Graduate Studies for interdisciplinary programs.

Bose explained that the campus community will be asked to bring forward ideas for inter/multi-disciplinary research and the Council of Deans will review them. Individuals are encouraged to submit proposals because individual proposals with similar themes will be grouped together for possible inter/multi-disciplinary proposals. A Request for Proposals for an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary cluster initiative will be distributed soon.

*Doctoral Program Review:* Bose distributed a draft of an internal document that will compare NIU’s doctoral programs with those of their peer institutions and within disciplines across campus. Provost Alden asked Bose to prepare a draft. The draft has been sent to both the Provost and Dean McCord, since all Ph.D. programs currently reside in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Hoffman requested a copy of the IBHE requirements in order to compare it to the review draft. Council discussion followed. The Council agreed that a detailed assessment would be valuable for NIU’s Ph.D. programs. Some members were concerned that this document would unnecessarily increase faculty members’ workloads. Bose assured the Council that this document would be prepared in conjunction with the eight year departmental review cycle and hence will not substantially increase departmental workload. He also informed the Council that this document is an internal evaluation that will be used to decide how to better distribute resources and strengthen doctoral programs at NIU. He suggested that the appointment of an ad hoc committee would help the internal evaluation. He stated that appointing an ad hoc Graduate Council Committee would keep the process fair. It would be made up of Graduate Council members in related disciplines who would be involved before and after the review was completed. The Council supported the review draft.

Bond informed the Council that a meeting regarding the MAT proposal will be held at 1:30 p.m. today.

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.