MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Bennardo, Bond, Chown, Eckdahl, Evans, Frank, Freeman, Hathaway, Holt, Johnson, Kim, Macdonald, Menke, Niemi, Osorio, Sagarin, Smith, Sunderlin, Umoren, Von Hagel, Zittel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barnes, Battula, Gowen, Konen, Liu, Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Smith (Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator), Wright (Secretary)

Lisa Freeman, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Zittel moved approval of the September 13, 2010 minutes, Holt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Appeals Committee: Bond reported that the Appeals Committee met three times between August 2009 and August 2010. The Committee heard 54 appeals, a substantive increase over the 34 appeals heard during the previous academic year. All appeals were decided in favor of the students.

Of the 54 appeals, 42 were filed by students seeking reinstatement after being academically dismissed. Six students appealed to take their comprehensive exams a third time, and in each case, faculty in the program to which the student was admitted supported the appeal. Two applicants to the graduate school were allowed to proceed with the application process, despite having received baccalaureate degrees from institutions without regional accreditation. Two appeals were filed by students seeking to transfer graduate classes more than six years old. One student was allowed to apply to a graduate program despite being placed on probation more than a decade previous while at Student-at-Large. Finally, a student dismissed from a program was reinstated.

Bond thanked the members of the Council who actively and conscientiously served on the Graduate Council Appeals Committee: Brad Sagarin, Lauriece Zittel, and Jinsook Kim.
Criminal Disclosure Review Committee: Bond reported that since April 28, 2010, the application for graduate admission has required applicants to disclose whether they have been convicted of a felony or have felony charges pending against them. Prior to the start of the Fall semester, one individual responded in the affirmative.

In accordance with the operating procedures established for the criminal disclosure review process, that individual supplied the required police and court records about the felony charges and convictions, and the review committee determined that the applicant should be allowed to proceed with the application process. However, the committee voted to prohibit him from residing in university housing. The student has been admitted and is currently enrolled.

The committee is composed of representatives from Housing and Dining, the Judicial Office, and the Graduate Council, including Lee Sunderlin, Cecil Smith, Jeff Chown, and Jinsook Kim. Greg Brady from University Counsel serves as an ex-officio member of the committee, as does a member of the NIU Police Department.

New Business

Update on Dean Search: Freeman distributed the proposed search process that was given to the President and Provost, and approved by the Faculty Senate at their September 29, 2010 meeting. This is the process that will be used to search for the Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies. The paperwork is in process to HR and Freeman plans to name a search committee this week. The search committee will be comprised of 14 members and will include 12 members from the Graduate Council, 1 representative from the Council of Deans, and one staff member from the Graduate School. The member from the Council of Deans will be the Associate Provost for International Programs. This choice reflects the importance of international graduate student recruitment, admission and retention to the success of NIU’s academic mission. The Graduate School staff member appointed to the committee will be actively involved in graduate student recruitment and retention, because of the acknowledged importance of enrollment management to the future of NIU.

Freeman stated that over the course of this week she will be inviting 12 Council members to serve on the search committee. She asked that anyone who is unwilling to serve on the search committee, either because their schedule is already overcommitted or they are interested in applying for the position, to let her know by email. Liu asked about the time commitment of the search committee. Freeman responded that will depend on how many applicants are received. There will be at least three meetings and a few days of interviews/interactions with candidates. Holt questioned whether or not the search committee will be asked to rank candidates. Freeman responded that no, the committee will be asked to forward a list of acceptable candidates and encouraged to make comments regarding the degree of acceptability for those candidates.
Freeman and Provost Alden he will consider the committee recommendations in making an offer.

Old Business

Selection of the 2010-2011 Graduate Student Representative to the University’s Libraries Advisory Committee: Barnes forwarded Teri Gobbia (Art Ed) as a graduate student interested in serving on the Committee. Macdonald moved acceptance of the nomination which was unanimously approved.

Selection of the 2010-2011 Graduate Student Representative to the RCS Committee: Freeman noted that the 2010-2011 Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee requires representation by a graduate student. Hearing no nominations, she asked Wright to forward a detailed description of the Committee and solicit email nominations.

Announcements

Research and Artistry: Freeman updated the Council that she is moving forward with the Request for Proposals for Research and Artistry. She is meeting with Gowen this week to get his input on the process. All of the feedback she has received regarding adjusting the timeline has been noted and she will be sure to allow ample time for faculty to submit their proposals. She plans to have the RFP out by the end of next week.

Faculty Senate Update: Bennardo confirmed that the Graduate Dean search process was approved at the last Faculty Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.