



**Northern Illinois
University**

August 4, 2016

TO: Greg Long, Executive Secretary of the University Council and
President of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Bradley G. Bond, Dean of the Graduate School and
Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies *BGB*

RE: Graduate Council Annual Report for 2015-2016

Professor Amy Levin of the Department of English was elected assistant chair of the Council and served in that capacity until her retirement at the end of the Fall term. Professor Beatrix Hoffman of the Department of History served as assistant chair in the Spring semester. The Graduate Council met in person six times during the 2015-2016 academic year. The nine standing committees of the Graduate Council met numerous times between Council meetings and, as is the practice, much of the Council's business was handled through those committees. Major accomplishments of the academic year are summarized below:

Criminal Disclosure Review Committee: The committee continues its operation through the summer, so this is a brief summary of the activities from July 2015 to date. The committee met five times to review three cases. All three individuals were granted permission to proceed with the application process.

Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee: The committee met on March 8, 2016 and chose six proposals for full-time awards and one proposal for a part-time award. Twenty-three proposals from ten departments were reviewed.

Graduate Colloquium Committee: The committee met once each semester and approved approximately ninety-three proposals for funding, involving visits to NIU by a wide range of presenters (scholars, professional practitioners, creative artists, and performers). All of the proposals fell within departmental "planning parameters" and all were funded by the committee.

Graduate Council Appeals Committee: This committee continues its operation through the summer, so this is a summary of the committee's activities from July 2015 to date. The committee met five times in person and one time electronically to consider seventy-nine cases. Of the seventy-nine appeals, seventy-three were approved. The vast majority of petitions involved academic reinstatement.

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee: The GCCC met four times during the 2015-16 academic year and recommended Graduate Council approval of graduate-level curricular revisions as indicated below.

New Certificates of Graduate Study:

Department of Finance
International Business
Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education
Trauma-Informed Counseling
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Simulation, Modeling and Data Analysis
School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences
Family and Child Development
Department of Economics
Financial Engineering

New Degree Program:

Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education

M.S. in Athletic Training

School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders

M.A. in Communicative Disorders with specializations in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology

M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling

New Specialization:

Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education

New specializations in a) Adult Education, and b) Higher Education, for the M.S.Ed. in Adult and Higher Education

Department of Public Administration

Public Service Law and Management

Changes:

Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations

Change of name for a certificate of graduate study: **Foundations of Education and Policy Studies**

Department of Special and Early Education

Name change for specialization: **Blind Vision Rehabilitation Therapy**

College of Health and Human Sciences

Changing School of Nursing and Health Studies to School of Nursing

Adding School of Health Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Change of name for a certificate of graduate study: **Law and Women's and Gender Studies**

Also approved were 58 new graduate courses, 1 graduate course deletion, 100 graduate course revisions (includes revisions in course number, title, credit hours, description, and/or prerequisite/corequisite), and 109 other Graduate Catalog revisions.

Graduate Council Standards Committee: The Standards Committee met four times. The committee presented various changes to the *Graduate Catalog* and the *APPM*. Changes were made to the following sections of the 2015-2016 Catalog:

Northern Illinois University – University Academic Publications (updated to reflect current factual information).

Admission to Graduate Study – Examinations Required for Admission – (GRE and GMAT sections rewritten for clarity; updated to reflect programs exempt from requirement).

Requirements for Graduate Degrees – Masters – Requirements for Degrees/Thesis and *Doctor of Education/Doctor of Philosophy* – Requirements for Degrees/Dissertation (updated to reflect current factual information; changes to provide clarity on collaborative research and previously published material appearing in the thesis or dissertation).

APPM Changes – “Policies Pertaining to Graduate Assistantships,” Section IV, Items 1 & 9 (changes to extra employment policy to ensure that NIU remains compliant with the Affordable Care Act; changes to Summer enrollment requirements for GAs who also had a Spring appointment).

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee: The committee met on March 29, 2016. With recommendations from the respective departments and relevant college deans, the committee engaged in review of the full and senior graduate-faculty memberships for the School of Art and Design, Department of Economics, Department of History, and the School of Music. All but one departmental recommendation were approved.

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Honorary Degree Committee: The committee met on November 10, 2015 to review nominations. With the approval of the President and the Board of Trustees, the Honorary Degree Committee selected two Honorary Degree recipients: Dr. Eboo Patel and Mr. James Fruchterman.

Dr. Eboo Patel is the Founder and President of Chicago-based Interfaith Youth Core, a national nonprofit working to make interfaith cooperation a social norm. Dr. Patel was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the May 13, 2016 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony.

Mr. James Fruchterman is the Founder and CEO of Benetech, a nonprofit technology company based in Silicon Valley that develops software applications to address unmet needs of users in the social sector. Mr. Fruchterman will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the December 10, 2016 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony.

University Fellowship Committee: The committee met once each semester. On October 26, 2015, the committee met to discuss nominations for the thesis and dissertation competitions. The committee selected recipients for the most outstanding thesis and the most outstanding dissertation in AY 2014-15. The committee met again on February 29, 2016 to discuss nominations for the University Fellowship Awards. The committee chose six applicants for full-time awards. There were 35 nominations from 20 departments.

Other matters:

English Requirement for International Students: The Graduate Council approved changing ENGL 451, 452, and 453 from 3 credit hours to 0 credit hours with a minimum grade of C. These undergraduate courses are designed to improve students' writing skills and thus contribute to the professional development of international graduate students. By making the classes 0 credit hours, the Graduate School will pay for all instructional costs, eliminating the need to charge international students for these deficiency courses. By removing the cost barrier to students, we will improve recruitment and change incoming students' attitudes about the courses. Assessment of the courses reveals that students loathe the idea of the requirement, but benefit greatly from it.

Assistantship Stipends for AY 2016-17: The Graduate Council approved a resolution mandating that the minimum stipend amounts be increased by either the federal Consumer Price Index or the amount of increase granted faculty salaries, whichever is higher. Because the CPI for the past year remained constant, the Graduate Council was unable to approve an increase in the minimum stipend for graduate assistantships. Therefore, minimum stipends remain the same for AY 2016-17: \$437 semi-monthly/full-time assistantship; \$328 three-quarter time; and \$219 part-time.

RFP for Graduate Assistantships: For the sixth year, Great Journeys Assistantships were made available through the Great Journeys Strategic Planning process. Requests for proposals were distributed on campus and selections were made. There are 15 Great Journeys recipients from 8 departments in 3 colleges.

cc: 2015-2016 Graduate Council
2016-2017 Graduate Council
Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor