



**Northern Illinois  
University**

*The Graduate School*

July 7, 2017

TO: Linda Saborío, 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 2016-2017

Professor Beatrix Hoffman of the Department of History was elected assistant chair of the Council. The Graduate Council met in person six times during the 2016-2017 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 2016 to date. The committee met four times in person and once via email to review seven cases. All seven individuals were granted permission to proceed with the application process.

**Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee:** The committee met on March 8, 2017 and chose six proposals for full-time awards and five proposals for part-time awards. Twenty-seven proposals from fifteen departments were reviewed.

**Graduate Colloquium Committee:** The committee met once each semester and approved approximately eighty 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 2016 to date. The committee met three times in person and once via email to consider ninety-four cases. Of the ninety-four appeals, seventy-eight were approved. The vast majority of petitions involved academic reinstatement.

**Graduate Council Curriculum Committee:** The GCCC met three times in person and once via email during the 2016-17 academic year and recommended Graduate Council approval of graduate-level curricular revisions as indicated below.

*New Certificates of Graduate Study:*

Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist for People with Visual Impairments  
Department of Special and Early Education

French Language, Literature, and Culture  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

*New Degree Program:*

Master of Accountancy (MAC)  
Department of Accountancy

*New School:*

School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions  
College of Health and Human Sciences

*Deleted Programs:*

M.A.T. and M.S.T. with Specialization in Health Education, 6-12 and Middle School (eff. Fall 2018)  
School of Health Studies  
M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences  
School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences  
M.S.Ed. in Elementary Education  
Department of Literacy and Elementary Education  
M.S.Ed. in Foundations of Education  
Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations

Certificates of Graduate Study:

Advanced Teaching Practices  
Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations  
Curricular and Pedagogical Practices in Social Justice Education  
Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations  
Environmental Education  
Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations  
Environmental Health and Safety  
Department of Technology  
Industrial Workplace Design Systems  
Department of Technology  
Outdoor Education  
Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations  
Systems Management  
Department of Technology  
Technical Logistics  
Department of Technology

*Changes:*

College of Education  
Changing Department of Literacy and Elementary Education to Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
College of Health and Human Sciences  
Changing School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences to School of Family and Consumer Sciences  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Changing Department of Geography to Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences

Also approved were 58 new graduate courses, 44 graduate course deletions, 320 graduate course revisions (includes revisions in course number, title, credit hours, description, and/or prerequisite/corequisite, including a number of revisions due to designator changes in the School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences and the change in hours for studio courses in the School of Art and Design), and 178 other Graduate Catalog revisions.

**Graduate Council Standards Committee:** The Standards Committee met three times in person and once via email. The committee presented various changes to the *Graduate Catalog* and the *APPM*. Changes were made to the following sections of the 2016-2017 Catalog:

*General Regulations* – Undergraduates in Courses for Undergraduate Credit (minor revisions for consistency with new policy on accelerated degree programs); Undergraduates in Courses for Graduate Credit (section deleted as policy is addressed in the *Admission to Graduate Study* section of the catalog).

*Admission to Graduate Study* – Admission to Accelerated Baccalaureate/Master’s Degree Programs (new section to address policy on accelerated degree programs).

*Requirements for Graduate Degrees* – Comprehensive Examination (updated to include computer science as a program that does not require a comp exam for non-thesis students).

*APPM Changes* – “Faculty Credentials Policy,” Section II, Item 33 (reviewed, made suggestions); “Policies Pertaining to Graduate Assistantships,” Section IV, Items 1, 7-8 (revisions to reflect changes implemented by HRS to pay staff assistants an hourly rate as opposed to a stipend).

**Graduate Faculty Membership Committee:** The committee met twice in person. 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 Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Electrical Engineering, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Technology, and the School of Theatre and Dance. All except one departmental recommendation were approved.

**Honorary Degree Committee:** The committee met on November 7, 2016 to review nominations. With the approval of the President and the Board of Trustees, the Honorary Degree Committee selected two Honorary Degree recipients: Dr. Clifford Alexis and Dr. Vullnet Ameti.

Dr. Clifford Alexis is a renowned steelpan musician and a retired member of the NIU School of Music. Dr. Alexis was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the May 12, 2017 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony.

Dr. Vullnet Ameti is the Rector of the University of Tetovo. He is a human rights advocate, humanitarian, and promoter of peace in Macedonia and the Balkan regions. Dr. Ameti will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the December 16, 2017 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony.

**University Fellowship Committee:** The committee met once each semester. On October 19, 2016, 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 2015-16. The committee met again on March 2, 2017 to discuss nominations for the University Fellowship Awards. The committee chose six applicants for full-time awards. There were 36 nominations from 16 departments.

Other Matters:

*Authorship Policy:* The Graduate Council considered an authorship policy and forwarded the policy for approval to the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships for approval by its shared governance body. Once approved, the policy will appear in the *APPM*.

*Assistantship Stipends for AY 2017-18:* The Graduate Council approved a 1.5% increase in the minimum stipend for graduate assistantships: \$444 semi-monthly/full-time assistantship; \$333 three-quarter time; and \$222 part-time.

*RFP for Graduate Assistantships:* For the seventh 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 13 Great Journeys recipients from 8 departments in 2 colleges.

cc: 2016-2017 Graduate Council Members  
2017-2018 Graduate Council Members  
Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor