



**Northern Illinois
University**

The Graduate School

June 1, 2018

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 2017-2018

Professor Carrie Kortegast of the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education was elected assistant chair of the Council. The Graduate Council met five times in person and twice electronically during the 2017-2018 academic year. The twelve 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 2017 to date. The committee met once to review two cases. Both individuals were granted permission to proceed with the application process.

Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee: The committee met on March 7, 2018 and chose six proposals for full-time awards and five proposals for part-time awards. Twenty-one applications from ten departments were reviewed.

Graduate Colloquium Committee: The committee met once each semester and approved over one hundred 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 2017 to date. The committee met twice in person and once via email to consider thirty-eight cases. Of the thirty-eight appeals, thirty-one 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 2017-18 academic year and recommended Graduate Council approval of graduate-level curricular revisions as indicated below.

New Certificates of Graduate Study:

Data Analytics Using SAS Software—SAS Joint Certificate Program
Data Science for Business
Department of Operations Management and Information Systems
Director of Special Education
Department of Special and Early Education

Deleted Certificate of Graduate Studies:

Traffic Safety Education
Department of Technology

New Degree Programs:

M.S. in Digital Marketing
Department of Marketing
M.S. in Data Analytics
Department of Operations Management and Information Systems
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering (pending further approval)
Department of Electrical Engineering
Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering (pending further approval)
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering (pending further approval)
Department of Mechanical Engineering
M.S. in Health Sciences
College of Health and Human Sciences
Ph.D. in Computer Science
Department of Computer Science
M.S. in Financial Engineering
Department of Economics

Department Name Change:

Changing Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to Department of World Languages and Cultures

Also approved were 106 new graduate courses, 61 graduate course deletions, 148 graduate course revisions (includes revisions in course number, title, credit hours, description, and/or prerequisite/corequisite), and 130 other Graduate Catalog revisions.

Graduate Council Standards Committee: The Standards Committee met on October 16, 2017. The committee presented revisions to the *Graduate Catalog*. Changes were made to the following sections of the 2017-2018 Catalog: *Admission to Graduate Study* – Examinations Required for Admission (updated to include public health as a program that does not require the GRE); *Requirements for Graduate Degrees* – Requirements for the Degrees – Doctor of Education/Doctor of Philosophy (revised to reflect the change of the institutional minimum credit hour requirement for the Ed.D. from 90 to 72).

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee: The committee met once in person and once via email. 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 Computer Science, Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences, Geology and Environmental Geosciences, and the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders. All departmental recommendations were approved. The committee also reviewed changes to graduate-faculty membership criteria for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the Department of Psychology, the College of Health and Human Sciences, and the School of Health Studies. The revised criteria for all units were approved.

Graduate School Faculty Awards Committee: The committee met once each semester. In the fall term, the committee met to review fifteen nominations for the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award. Two recipients were selected: Michael Barnes of the School of Art and Design and Victor Ryzhov of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The committee met again in the spring term to review thirty-six faculty proposals for 2018-2019 Great Journeys Assistantships. The committee selected fourteen recipients from nine departments in four colleges.

Graduate School Student Awards Committee: This committee is divided into two subcommittees: 1) Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education; and 2) Health Sciences and STEM. Each subcommittee met once in the fall semester to review nominations and select one recipient each for the outstanding thesis and dissertation awards.

Honorary Degree Committee: The committee met on November 13, 2017 to review nominations. One recommendation for an honorary degree was forwarded to the President and Board of Trustees for consideration.

Tuition Waiver Review Committee: The committee met once in person and three times electronically to review applications for Artistic Talent, McNair, Recruitment, and Underrepresented Minority tuition waivers for newly admitted students in Spring 2018 and Fall 2018. Ninety-two new, incoming graduate students were offered tuition waivers.

University Fellowship Committee: The committee met once on February 27, 2018 to discuss nominations for the University Fellowship Awards. The committee selected six applicants for full-time awards. There were twenty-eight nominations from sixteen departments.

Other Matters:

APPM Change – “Curricular Definitions,” Section III, Item 2, Credit Hour (minor revision removing “approximately” in the definition of a credit hour at the request of the College of Law).

Assistantship Stipends for AY 2018-19: The Graduate Council approved a 3% increase in the minimum stipend for graduate assistantships: \$458 semi-monthly/full-time assistantship; \$343 three-quarter time; and \$229 part-time.

RFP for Graduate Student Travel Grants: The Graduate School continues to offer graduate student travel grant opportunities. This academic year, the Graduate School awarded over \$25,000 in travel funds to graduate students who are advanced in their program. In addition, an electronic application process was implemented this year.

cc: 2017-2018 Graduate Council Members
2018-2019 Graduate Council Members
Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor