

Minutes Approved Electronically – April 2019

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

645th Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beyer, Bond, Camic, Herrmann, Mantzke, Myers, Olson, Osorio, Peccarelli, Porter, Radasanu, Shah, Smith, Vahabzadeh, Wu

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barnes, Gallaher, Gowen, Jones, Kelly, Kortegast, Luque-Placencia, Mukhopadhyay, Perez, Polansky, Sciammarella, Timko

OTHERS PRESENT: Lindell (Substitute Secretary)

Bond called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Porter moved approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2019, meeting; Mantzke seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee: Bond reported that the committee had recently met and made six full-time awards. Seventeen proposals for full-time awards were received and reviewed. They include applications from: CEDU (1), CHHS (1), CLAS (14), and CVPA (1). Full-time awards were made to doctoral students in: Biological Sciences, English, History, Physics, Political Science, and Psychology. Part-time awards were made to: English; Health Sciences (2); and History.

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee: A small number of curricular items were approved by the GCCC. The items included: a new certificate of graduate studies, name changes, and a new UNIV course, UNIV 602. Osorio moved approval of the February 11, 2019, Graduate Council Curriculum Committee minutes; Radasanu seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Graduate Council Standards Committee: Bond reviewed proposed changes to the catalog about the nature of dissertations and theses. In Fall 2018, the Graduate School, led by Carolyn Law, convened a small group of faculty to consider the evolving nature of the dissertation and theses. After examining relevant literature, the group proposed changes to the NIU *Graduate Catalog* to facilitate students being able to take advantage of these changes with the consent of their advisory committees. The group's proposed changes were reviewed by the Standards Committee and embraced. The language proposed opens the dissertation and thesis to formats that might not resemble the traditional monographic style dissertation/thesis. The revised language also better accounts for inclusion of previously published materials in the dissertation/thesis. These are significant changes. Bond will communicate the changes to the Chairs, Directors, and Graduate Directors. Herrmann moved approval of the revisions; Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Graduate School Faculty Awards Committee: Thirty applications were received for Great Journeys Assistantships. Thirteen assistantships (valued at \$222,000) were awarded. Proposals were received from the following colleges: CEDU (1), CEET (10), CHHS (1), CLAS (18). Awards were made to faculty in the following departments: Geology and Environmental

Geosciences; History/Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences; Industrial & Systems Engineering; Kinesiology & Physical Education; Mechanical Engineering (3); Psychology (3); Sociology (2); Statistics.

Honorary Degree Committee: Two individuals have been approved by the Board of Trustees to receive honorary degrees: Dr. Marcia Grant and Dean DuCray. Dr. Grant will be awarded the Doctor of Science at the May 2019 commencement ceremony; Mr. DuCray will be awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters in December 2019.

University Fellowship Committee: The fellowship committee has completed its work. Because of budget restructuring, the University Fellowship will be discontinued effective at the conclusion of the current fiscal year.

New Business

The Graduate Council Standards Committee might not meet again during this academic year. Bond walked in a request made by the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences to remove the GRE requirement for their MA and PhD programs. Research by the department indicates that competitor institutions are increasingly not requiring the GRE; that the GRE does not add value to admission decision-making; and that the GRE is a barrier to many potential applicants. A thoughtful discussion about the pros and cons of requiring the GRE ensued. Olson moved approval of the request; Porter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Announcements

Beyer announced that his program, *Projeto Acromusical*, has completed a second album and will be performing on Thursday, March 7th at 8:00 PM in the Recital Hall of the Music Building.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.