

## UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of February 14, 2008

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:35 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Charles Ansorge, Libby Jones (by proxy), Pamela Starr, Mark Walker, Thomas Zorn (by proxy), student representatives Benjamin Blackford and Marcus Natta; and Ex-officio: Ellen Weissinger, Laurie Bellows and Assistant to the Dean Barbara Brennan. Dean of Graduate Studies Ellen Weissinger presided.

### November 8, 2007 meeting minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of emeritus graduate faculty. Clarification was made that emeritus rank and graduate faculty status are distinct. The recommendation is that each graduate program reviews annually their emeritus graduate faculty and recommends removal of graduate faculty status for those emeriti faculty who are no longer active in the life of the graduate program. If the emeritus faculty member returns to active status in the department, graduate faculty standing will be reinstated.

Consideration of change of HFOR major to HORT. Agronomy and Horticulture, with concurrence of the School of Natural Resources, requested that the major of Horticulture and Forestry be changed to Horticulture and assigned to the jurisdiction of Agronomy and Horticulture since students interested in forestry invariably sought the PhD. within the School of Natural Resources rather than the interdepartmental HFOR degree. The Council approved the request.

Consideration of update to UNL Definition of Areas. An update to new departmental names was presented; Museum Studies was deleted. The update was approved.

Consideration of proposal for two doctoral specializations in Engineering [Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering and Materials Engineering]. The proposals created two specializations from the previous Chemical and Materials Engineering specialization. The Council approved the two specializations noting that students currently admitted would have a defined time to choose which of the new specializations they would enter.

### Graduate Student Association update.

The not-for-profit social venture is Books for the World. The legislative assembly passed a resolution to ask that liability for payment of student fees be deferred for graduate assistants. Graduate Council members unanimously supported that resolution.

### Announcements.

The Devaney Center has become too small to accommodate recipients of undergraduate and graduate degrees and their guests. Plans are underway to hold a separate commencement for graduates. This May and August commencement for recipients of doctorate degrees will be combined with the doctoral hooding ceremony. A plan to include all graduate degree recipients at one graduate commencement will be formulated for May 2009 and thereafter.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.