

## UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of June 12, 2008

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:30 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Charles Ansorge, Nancy Miller, Nick Spencer, Pamela Starr, Mark Walker, Thomas Zorn, student representatives Benjamin Blackford and Marcus Natta; and Ex-officio: Ellen Weissinger, Laurie Bellows and Assistant to the Dean Barbara Brennan. Guests in attendance from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources: Dean Steve Waller and Associate Dean John Markwell. Dean of Graduate Studies Ellen Weissinger presided.

### April 10, 2008 minutes.

Reading of the minutes was dispensed with in the interest of time. Minutes will be sent out to members electronically.

Request for a change of degree name for the Master of Agriculture degree. A motion was made to recall the tabled motion to deny the proposal without new information. Dean Steve Waller and Associate Dean John Markwell were present to discuss the proposal and to present additional information. The structure of the program does not change; students and advisors will continue to create individualized interdisciplinary programs from offerings within CASNR (College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources). Dean Waller stated that majors within CASNR were very diverse and had increased to 28 (from 20) in the last eight years. The majors now include such studies as biochemistry, forensic science, educational education and leadership, landscape architecture and tourism, along with areas more traditionally considered agriculture such as agronomy and animal science, for example. A major entitled Agriculture discourages prospective students from learning about the all the varied career possibilities. Additionally, Toyota USA Foundation had provided a grant to UNL to create a formalized program of online graduate courses to strengthen scientific qualifications of K-12 teachers. The interdisciplinary nature of this degree program is ideal for purposes of the grant. The working group developing online science courses endorses changing the name of the degree to better reflect a professional development opportunity for K-12 teachers of science. Dean Weissinger thanked Dean Waller and Associate Dean Markwell for their presentation and willingness to answer questions from the Graduate Council members. After further discussion, the motion was amended affirmatively to approve the proposal to change the name of the degree to Master of Applied Science with a major of Applied Science. The motion passed with seven members voting for approval and one member voting against approval.

The meeting then moved to Executive Session to consider a student appeal to be allowed to retake doctoral comprehensive exams and thus reinstate the doctoral program. After discussion, the motion to uphold the department's decision that comps may not be retaken and program should be terminated was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.