

## UNL GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of September 12, 2013

The UNL Graduate Council convened at 3:30 p.m. in Room 206 of Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, Rhonda Fuelberth, Rita Kean, Jon Pedersen, Jody Redepenning, David Smith, Melanie Simpson, and Mark van Roojen; student representatives Anh Do and Jacob Friefeld; Ex-officio members: Dean Lance Pérez and Associate Dean Laurie Bellows; Jane Schneider, Office of Graduate Studies. Guest in attendance was Eva Bachman from the Office of Graduate Studies. Dean Lance Pérez presided.

### Introductions and Welcome to New Members

All introduced themselves and new members were welcomed. Dean Pérez asked all to review the charter for UNL Grad Council.

### Approval of April 11, 2013 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

### Academic Leave Policy Update

Dean Pérez reviewed some background regarding parental leave for graduate students.

- A draft for a parental leave policy was created by Dr. Ellen Weissinger in 2009 that had the approval of UNL Graduate Council and faculty.
- Upon further review, it was found that the policy could not be implemented because students were not employed enough hours to accrue Family Medical Leave.
- The Office of Graduate Studies has had three email requests for leave this fall from doctoral candidates because of illness.
- The requests were approved by the Office of Graduate Studies based upon receipt of approval from the graduate chair and supervisory committee chair.
- To formalize the process, a form is being created for use when a doctoral candidate requests a leave from the doctoral program. It would be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies after approval by the graduate chair and chair of the supervisory committee.
- The draft will be made available to UNL Grad Council before the October 10, 2013 meeting for review.

### GSA Report

Jacob Friefeld, GSA President reported on current activities:

- GSA has created a joint committee with ASUN in response to a survey sent to graduate students regarding representation of graduate students on ASUN.
- Working on obtaining an accurate definition for status of students that are employed. Dean Pérez will meet with Jacob to discuss.
- Working on [UNL Open Access Week](#), to be held October 24-26. Laurie said that the Office of Graduate Studies will add the event to the Website.
- Waiting to hear determination of Health Center

### Other

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.