GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, October 8, 2015
FDHL 2147 – 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: John Bauer, Greg Brown, Sharon Campbell, Bruce Elder, Mark Ellis, Chris Exstrom, Janet Lear, Miechelle McKelvey, David Palmer, Jon Ritterbush, Kathy Zuckweiler, Mariah Hergott, Bill Orr, and Marilyn Wright

ABSENT: David Hof, Chris Jochum, Julie Shaffer, Jeanne Stolzer, and Marguerite Tassi

I. Approval of the September 10, 2015 Minutes – approved via email

II. Graduate Dean’s Report

A. New Member and Student Members.
   Dr. Taylor welcomed Jon Ritterbush who is completing Sheryl Heidenreich’s term. She also introduced two new student representatives – Bill Orr and Marilyn Wright.

B. Online Worldwide Update.
   Dr. Taylor announced that Mary Niemiec will be presenting to the Board of Regents on October 9. The presentation will be emailed to the council after the meeting. UNK has the highest distance only credit hours among the campuses. Mary will be proposing a new metric for distance education as part of her presentation.

C. Tuition Differential Update.
   Prior to the fall distribution, $400,000 was taken for other budgetary needs. Dr. Taylor has received those funds back and will distribute them next week. She urged the council not to cancel any spring or summer commitments because she will be working with departments to cover their deficits.

D. Graduate Faculty Form.
   On the Nomination for Graduate Faculty form under section III is a question on how the nominee will be actively involved with graduate student research. Dr. Taylor encouraged the council to make sure that question is answered even if the faculty member does not have a graduate program. The faculty member can serve on graduate committees at UNK or one of the other campuses.

E. New Frontiers Reception – October 15, 4-6 pm at the Frank House.
   Dr. Taylor encouraged everyone to attend the New Frontiers reception. This year’s edition showcases faculty who are early in their careers.

F. Graduate Faculty University-Wide Workshop – October 30.
   Dr. Taylor noted that the workshop is open to all graduate faculty and encouraged attendance. The theme of the conference is transferrable skills. The keynote speakers are Dr. Suzanne Ortega, President of the Council of Graduate Schools, and Dr. Paula Chambers, Founder and CEO of Versatile PhD. There will be a morning session for graduate students and an afternoon session for faculty.

G. Catalog changes approved by Dr. Taylor.
   BIOL 802 – Organic Evolution
   BIOL 815 – Great Plains Heritage
   BIOL 853 – Genome Evolution
III. Committee Reports

A. Policy & Planning Committee – no report.

B. Academic Programs Committee moved to approve the following changes:

For Graduate Council Action

1) Request to Alter the MAEd in School Principalship PK-8 – add EDAD 842P: Administration of Special Education – as an elective option.
2) Comes as a seconded motion to the Graduate Council. Motion Carried.

3) Request to Alter the MAEd in School Principalship 7-12 – add EDAD 842P: Administration of Special Education – as an elective option.
4) Comes as a seconded motion to the Graduate Council. Motion Carried.

5) Request to Alter the EdS in School Superintendent – add EDAD 842P: Administration of Special Education – as an elective option.
   Comes as a seconded motion to the Graduate Council. Motion Carried.

C. Faculty & Student Affairs Committee – the committee is working on reviewing theses for the MAGS award nomination. The deadline is October 27 to get the information to the Graduate Office so the nomination can be submitted.

IV. Other Business

Dr. Taylor informed the committee that the Higher Learning Commission will release new guidelines for faculty qualifications which will go into effect in the fall of 2017. The new guidelines will require a lecturer/adjunct to hold a master’s degree in the field they are teaching or a master’s degree in another field plus 18 hours in the field they are teaching. This will impact us with dual credit and by classes taught by lecturers/adjuncts with master’s degrees. Each department will need to create a minimum requirement list to have on file and to submit with the lecturer/permit requests. Dr. Taylor will take this information to Deans Council to find the best and most consistent way to implement this change. UNK will need to be compliant before our next HLC visit in the fall of 2017.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janna Shanno, Recording Secretary