Graduate Council
November 6, 2014

Present: Professors Ankenmann, Campo, Creekmur, Denry, Cowles, Duff, Krammer (for Kristof-Brown), Moorhead, Murry, Quelle; Graduate Students Gavin-Bigsby, Hamerlinck, Winn; Deans Berkowitz, Gardinier, Keller, Wurster; Staff Arbisi-Keim, Crooks

Absent: Professors Moore, Martin-Estudillo; Graduate Students Lucas; Dean Wurster, Staff Teitle

1. The minutes of the October 2, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and updates:
   • COGS negotiations for the 2-year contract beginning July 1, 2015 have begun.
   • Commencement will be held Friday, December 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Carver Hawkeye Arena. Regent Downer will give the commencement remarks and President Mason will confer degrees. The deadline for faculty to place apparel orders is Friday, November 14, 2014.
   • Dean Keller called attention to a recent Daily Iowan Article highlighting the expansion of the Office of Graduate Student Success. The hiring of an additional staff member allows for office hours to be offered on the west side of the river.
   • GSS steering committees have met. The Jakobsen Conference will take place on March 28, 2015. A call will soon go out for artwork to be used on publicity materials, a January abstract deadline will be announced, and plans are underway to work with the Office of Graduate Success to co-host an Alt-Ac career services panel as part of the conference.
   • The Travel Committee of the Graduate Student Senate has a travel fund application deadline of midnight tonight.

3. Dean Keller presented a proposal for a Ph.D. and M.S. Degrees (thesis and non-thesis) within the Geoinformatics Subprogram of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Informatics. Departmental growth and increased student demand in the existing certificate prompted development of additional degrees equivalent to those in Health and Bioinformatics. This is a true interdisciplinary program which will provide students an interdisciplinary training and help meet the current and projected long-term demand for professionals in geospatial technologies. The Council supported the proposal pending a letter of support from the Department of Biostatistics. A motion was made to approve the proposal was made pending receipt of the Biostatistics letter and passed unanimously. Note-A letter of support from the Department of Biostatistics has been received and is now included in the proposal.

4. Dean Keller led a discussion role of the master’s degree in the future of graduate education. Topics included the increasing interest in professions masters programs & certificates, concerns about completion rates, and model pathways to the doctorate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.