Graduate Council
October 2, 2014

Present: Professors Ankenmann, Cowles, Duff, Kristof-Brown, Moore, Moorhead, Murry, Quelle; Graduate Students Gavin-Bigsby, Hamerlinck, Lucas, Winn; Deans Berkowitz, Gardinier, Keller, Wurster; Staff Arbisi-Kelm, Crooks

Absent: Professors Campo, Creekmur, Denry, Martin-Estudillo, Stanier; Staff Teitle

1. The minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and updates of summer activities:
   - In conjunction with the Graduate Student Senate and the Graduate & Professional Student Government group, the Graduate College has developed and piloted a student success survey. This survey is designed to provide guidance about what students at the mid-point of their academic career need to be successful.
   - Dean Keller called attention to a recent Daily Iowan Article highlighting the impact of declining enrollment on the funding of graduate education at The University of Iowa.
   - In a related announcement, Dean Keller stressed the importance of timely student registration. This importance will again be stressed in a communication campaign to be launched by the Graduate College in the spring.
   - The Travel Committee of the Graduate Student Senate is in the early stages of revising the Travel Funds program. In addition to larger awards, possible changes include tying awards to graduate program participation in the GSS.
   - GSS steering committees will meet in the coming week to plan a number of GSS annual events, including the Jakobsen Conference.

3. John Riehl was present to take the annual Graduate Council photo.

4. Dean Keller presented the Fall 2014 Enrollment Report. The report is a 10-year summary of data from the Office of the Registrar. 2014 student enrollment decreased by 3% from 2013. A closer analysis indicated the number of doctoral students has decreased and the numbers of master's students and new students remained relatively stable. The number of non-degree seeking students has increased slightly.

5. Dean Berkowitz presented the Doctoral Exit Survey of 2013-14. The results represent a 70%+ response rate. The results of the survey provide guidance to the Graduate College on the policies/practices that might be improved in order to offer students a better experience. For instance, approximately 74% of students recalled having an orientation to their graduate program and 81% of those felt it was an effective orientation. As in previous results, the majority of respondents (over 80%) were positive about financial, IT, library and lab/studio support, and graduate student workspace. Respondents felt their advisor was helpful in their research topic selection, advising their research and writing/revising their dissertation. However, they felt less supported when it came to non-academic career advising. This result supports the Graduate College’s recent efforts to expand graduate student support services. Most students (61%) reported another person has served as a mentor with approximately 25% of mentors coming from outside the student’s department. Almost 70% of students had post degree plans in their field.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.