Graduate Council
January 22, 2015

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

Absent: Professors Ankenmann, Cowles, Xiao; Staff: Teitle

1. The minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and updates:
   - There is a travel funds deadline today (1/22) at midnight.
   - The Jakobsen conference is coming up! There is a deadline to submit abstracts for poster and oral presentations is January 26th. More information may be found here: http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/jakobsen-conference
   - The next round of TIER activities have been announced. The Board of Regents (BOR) will conduct academic reviews in the areas of Distance Education, student outcomes & a 4-year graduation rate, and classroom utilization. While the focus will be primarily undergraduate education, it is anticipated the review will touch on graduate education also. Topics of a December meeting with the Education and Student Affairs Committee of the BOR included the interconnectedness of undergraduate, graduate, and professional education and research. An undergraduate tuition freeze has been announced.
   - COGS negotiations have resumed. It is required that they be completed by March 15. It is hoped the goals of meeting the needs of the majority while remaining fiscally responsible may be met without the need for arbitration.
   - Dean Keller recently attended the Council of Graduate Schools meeting in Washington DC. He is currently serving as chair of the Government Relations Advisory Committee. A highly charged 6-8 year political period is anticipated. He shared the national perspective about the importance of articulating the value of graduate education to students and society. Newly elected legislatures at both the state and national level need to hear this message. This value may be made clear by refocusing and reframing the message. Items not presented for discussion by September of 2015 are likely to be on hold until after the 2016 elections.
   - The Governor’s budget request includes a 1.75% funding increase for Regent Institutions. This represents a $4 million allocation to the UI. Additionally he recommends a $4 million buffer to the decreased allocation to the UI as a result of the Performance-based Funding model which has generated state-wide concerns. While neither funding nor the model have been approved, institutional budget reductions are anticipated. Work to draft a new institutional strategic plan has begun.
   - The Board of Regents have indicated the possible need for an interim president while the search to replace President Mason is conducted. The current timeframe is for a new president to be in place by January 2016. The search committee has not yet been appointed.
- Members of the Graduate Council are invited to join Dean Keller as he presents the inaugural State of Graduate Education address on Tuesday, March 3, at 5:30 pm in room 240 of Art Building West. A question & answer session will immediately follow. A concluding reception will be held in the Atrium of Art Building West.
- This month marks the 5-year anniversary of the Graduate Education Task Force report. A number of issues remain. The report will be revisited with a sharpened focus on identifying opportunities.

3. Senior Associate Dean Wurster presented a proposal for a Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. The proposal has been developed by the Foreign Language/ESL Education program in the Department of Teaching and Learning. There is a growing desire for online certificate programs in English language teaching. This TEFL Certificate is intended for overseas English teachers and administrators who are not able to enroll in face-to-face classes at the University of Iowa. The initiative also fits into the College of Education’s strategic plan and commitment to internationalization and distance education. Offered in 8-week blocks, the 12 credit hour certificate will be provided in an asynchronous format. Initial classes of 5 students will be admitted with an eventual capacity of 25. Council members voiced concerns about participants’ ability to demonstrate fluency. It was suggested video clips or Skype interviews be used to demonstrate English fluency. A motion was made to approve the proposal with the provision to recommend additional documentation of fluency be required. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Senior Associate Dean Wurster presented a proposal for two new subprograms in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree and the Advanced Practice Nursing (post-DNP) Certificate. In response to requests from healthcare institutions, the profession, and the healthcare industry, the College of Nursing is proposing two acute care nurse practitioner (ACNP) tracks, one adult/gero and another pediatric, in the already established DNP program. To meet the mission of preparing nurse leaders with a focus on the health needs of Iowans in acute care settings, the CON strategic plan (2014) set forth the goal of adding two ACNP subprograms to the DNP program. The adult/gero track will be first implemented followed by the pediatric track. Program enrollment is expected to be 10 students. A motion was made to approve the proposal and passed with 13 votes in the affirmative and one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.