

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
September 24, 2014

The Graduate Council met at 12:30pm in 129 Himes with the following members present: Armbrust, Byerly (ex officio), Chance, Day, Eades, Euba, Gansle, Kelso, Marks, Matthews, McKillop, Mocan, Nardo, Ortner, and Reeve (ex officio). Absent member was Spivey.

Minutes of May 1, 2014

The minutes from May 1, 2014 were unanimously approved with revisions on motion by Matthews and second by Nardo.

Dean's Report

Byerly introduced Kristin Gansle from Education as the new representative for Human Sciences and Education. He also introduced H. Naci Mocan from Economics as the new Business representative.

Notes from the Dean for September 24, 2014, Graduate Council

1. We are beginning to implement the revisions to Graduate Council membership that were written by Anna Nardo's committee, approved by Council, and approved by Provost Bell last spring. The Colleges of Business and Human Sciences & Education now have two members; Humanities & Social Sciences, Science, and Engineering will have two members by next spring. All other colleges with graduate programs will be represented by a single member.
2. A Graduate Student Enrollment Management Committee has been established that will work on a plan to go to Academic Affairs by the end of semester. Members are Stacy Haynie (Dean, HSS), Matt Lee (Assoc VC, ORED), Rich Kurtz (Assoc Dean, Science), Ed Holton (Director of HRE and Interim Director of LIS), Tommy Smith (VP for Budget and Planning), and Bernie Braun (Director of Institutional Research within Budget and Planning). Three core items are a) a departmental survey on elasticity of their graduate enrollments as well as their perceived limitations on growth; b) collection of institutional data on graduate enrollment trends; and c) examination of policies and procedures that might quickly increase enrollments (for example, allowing applicants to be considered by multiple degree and/or certificate programs).
3. For the next Graduate Council meeting we will have plans for several major changes to how we do business in the Graduate School: a) we will no longer edit theses/dissertations – departmental committees must work with students to have acceptable documents submitted; b) departments will be allowed to provisionally admit students without input from the Graduate School; c) the new application and client management software (RADIUS) will permit multiple departments to consider individuals interested in graduate programs at LSU.
4. Graduate Certificates are moving along, especially since the BOR recently streamlined the process. We expect to have certificates for Fall 2015 in the following: a) Materials Science & Engineering; b) Behavior & Health; c) Community Engagement; d) Econometrics; e) Strategic Communication; f) GIS & Spatial Data Analysis; g) Life Course and Aging; h)

Fisheries Management; i) Music; Wetlands Management; j) Climate & Climate Change; k) K-12 Library Science; and l) Workforce Development. We will soon begin placing these proposals on the Council Moodle page for your examination.

Academic Affairs Report

No report.

Chairs Report

The fall commencement is December 19th and council members are encouraged to notify if available to attend their respective college ceremonies.

Routine Business

Online Degree Programs: Reeve noted that the master's online degree programs have over 200 students enrolled in the summer and 300 enrolled in the fall. These programs have greater enrollment capacity, others are highly sustainable, and other programs may expand. There are three to five online students graduating in the fall.

Programs are analyzed for market appeal to see which programs can have an online degree program. Currently the Social Work program is being reviewed to see if it can be an online degree program. If so, will try to build and will be entirely managed by LSU and not controlled by Academic Partnerships.

The retention rate for online students is measured differently since modules start differently. There is an 80% retention rate since students are not required to enroll in consecutive modules.

Old Business

New Business

- **DMAE Proposal**

The College of Engineering and the College of Art and Design submitted a proposal for the Master in Digital Media Arts and Engineering. There are six lines for new hires to be made within the colleges. Two new faculty and a program director have already been hired for this program. The CCT initiated the hiring plan for new faculty for this program. English is included in the program; however, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences was not included in the proposal. There was concern that the faculty of both colleges were not informed of the proposal and should have input. The faculty should vote at the college level. Council members were encouraged to send comments or concerns to Byerly. He and Reeve will review and reply to CCT. The Graduate Council was in favor of the concept and requested faculty votes in the principal colleges and clarification from the colleges about staffing.

- MALA student's thesis withholding

A master's student in Liberal Arts requested her thesis to be withheld from online publication at the time of her graduation in order for her to publish a manuscript. She has been granted for her thesis to be withheld for two years. The student is requesting for another one-year extension. The student owns the copyrights to her work. The only way for her thesis to be reviewed by a third party is if it is released online. Nardo motioned to approve the student's request, Kelso seconded, and the motion was approved.

A subcommittee will be formed to review the larger problem of students wanting their theses and dissertations withheld for more than one year. The current practice of releasing documents is similar to other universities. Should a student be required to show proof that efforts are being made to publish document requiring their thesis or dissertation to be withheld? What documentation should be required?

- Certificate in Econometrics

Economics submitted a proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Econometrics. The certificate would require four courses (12 hours). Byerly and Reeve will request a management plan from the department, which is the format for certificates per the Board of Regents, and a formal letter stating that the faculty approves this graduate certificate. Nardo motioned to approve, Armbrust seconded, and the motion was carried.

- Economics MS Changes

Economics requested a reduction in the number of hours required for their master's program. The request was to change from 36 to 30 hours with the substitution of the new Applied Econometrics course for the previously required Economics 7630 and 7631. Day moved to approve, Chance seconded, and the motion was passed.

- Economics PhD Changes

Economics proposed a change in the doctoral program to remove ECON 7610 as a required course. The reduction would be from 39 to 36 coursework hours. The requirement of 54 hours is required per SACS regulations and the remaining hours may be dissertation hours. Armbrust moved to approve, Gansle seconded, and the motion was carried.

- Finance Changes

Finance requested changes in the doctoral program requirements. The breadth of study requirement would be left up to the department on a case by case basis instead of three hours required to be taken in Accounting, Management, and Marketing. Kelso motioned for approval, Gansle seconded, once abstention, and the motion was approved.

- SVM Name Change

The School of Veterinary Medicine requested to change the graduate program name from Veterinary Medical Sciences to Biomedical and Veterinary Medical Sciences to reflect what the area of study is for students. Kelso motioned for approval, Chance seconded, and the motion was approved. The request will be submitted to the Board of Regents for final approval.

- Art History Changes

The Art History program requested that a minimum distribution requirement of twelve hours of required courses in four areas (ancient and medieval art, renaissance through 18th century art, 19th-21st century art, and non-western art) be changed to nine hours. The number of hours to earn the degree remains the same. Day motioned for approval, Kelso seconded, and the motion was carried.

- Communication Studies Changes

Communication Studies requested that students entering the doctoral program without a master's degree be awarded the master's degree after successfully passing the general exam. Kelso motioned to approve, Day seconded, and the motion was passed.

- Graduate School Policy on Plus Minus Grading

The policy on changing grading to plus and minus is pending the President's approval. Once he approves, the policy will go in effect. The start date is likely to be the fall of 2015. The course syllabus must show the range for each letter grade. An "A+" will be considered a 4.3. The minimum GPA average is required for students with the plus/minus system. The Graduate School requests the Graduate Council to approve policies on how plus and minus will effect graduate students.

The Graduate School proposes the following policy changes to reflect the change to +/- grades:

- 1) For purposes of probation, continuation/dismissal, and graduation the cumulative GPA will be used with a minimum of 3.00.
- 2) For purposes of transfer of credit, a B- is permitted so long as the cumulative GPA is above a 3.00.
- 3) For use towards graduation there is no limit on the number of courses completed with a B-, though, a 3.00 GPA is required for graduation. There is no change to the limit of six hours with a C (+/-).

Nardo motioned to approve The Graduate School's policy changes, Kelso seconded, and the motion was carried.

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports


Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty: The Graduate Council approved (8 council members voted to approve and 4 voted to discuss) via email ballot eight graduate faculty nominations presented by the Provost's Office. These faculty are on 100% Ag Center funds which under current policy does not grant automatic graduate faculty membership. These nominees have high academic qualifications, teach graduate students, and at one time were full members of the graduate faculty until the policies were changed. SACS accredits the LSU main campus and not the Ag Center. In the future the Ag Center may be part of the main university. The subcommittee noted that these nominees meet the criteria to be full members of the graduate faculty. One nomination was returned to the Provost since the subcommittee felt the nominee did not meet the qualifications to be a full member of the graduate faculty.

Awards Committee: No report.

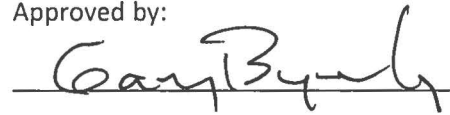
The meeting adjourned at 1:55p.m.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School