

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
April 30, 2012

The Graduate Council met at 12:30pm in 129 Himes Hall with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Day, Dow, Euba, Gaunt, Hirschheim, Holton, Kelso, Lemieux, Liu, Matthews, McKillop, Meng, and Nardo. Absent members were Culross and Spivey.

Minutes of April 2, 2012

Minutes were approved for the April 2, 2012 meeting. Kelso moved for approval, Holton seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dean's Report

The Graduate School will meet with the SACS university committee tomorrow. The academic deans will need to clarify information on departmental websites and the Graduate Bulletin. Each department needs to articulate its entrance requirements, graduation requirements, and the length of the program. The department and college webpages are not consistent with what the Graduate School includes in the Graduate Bulletin. Byerly will ask Academic Affairs to request academic deans to make the necessary revisions on webpages for consistency.

Departments are revising sections of the Graduate Bulletin. At this time there is no definition of a master's degree in the main section of the Graduate Bulletin. There is a greater spectrum for master degrees than doctoral programs.

The Faculty Senate and SACS accreditation committee has suggested an appropriate university policy for the Graduate Council to have the minutes available for public records. The faculty has full participation in policy making per SACS requirements. The older records will be redacted for confidential information. In future meetings, an Executive Session will be called for parts of the meeting that involve specific individuals or appointments of faculty. The Graduate Council needs to discuss this more thoroughly.

Two documents were sent to the Graduate Council last week for review. One was the report of the Council of Graduate Schools. The report suggested that graduate students need additional information on career planning. Byerly will meet with Mary Feduccia in Career Services to see what her office can do to assist graduate students.

Chairs Report

Day sent an email requesting volunteers to serve on the SACS subcommittees. Graduate Council members will meet with SACS representatives when they visit LSU. The SACS principles will be reviewed and Day will ask for assistance. Day will ask council members to assist with the reports.

Routine Business

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee: Gaunt notated that a few more than normal promotion and tenure cases are being reviewed at this time. HRM indicated this was due to more faculty being hired.

Graduate Faculty: The council will vote on pending graduate faculty nominations at the May 7th meeting. The Graduate Faculty Appeals Report is on hold. Matthews indicated that the graduate faculty status goes through the academic colleges. The appeals process will be processed like graduate faculty nominations were typically processed before the change to college deans. The graduate faculty subcommittee will review the appeals process.

Awards Committee: Lemieux stated the awards committee reviewed the EDA awards in the fall semester. This semester the committee has reviewed the Dissertation Fellowship and Diversity Fellowship nominations. The committee proposed the wording for nominations to be changed. In the past, the Dissertation Fellowship nominations have had flexibility for those departments submitting more than one nomination. In previous years some departments have received more than one award in their department. The committee suggested that the departments rank their nominations in priority order.

Current wording: "Departments must evaluate and select the top two nominations for submission to the Graduate School."

Suggested wording: "Departments with up to 80 graduate students may submit two (2) applications, department with 81-120, three (3) applications, 121-160, up to five (5) applications. Departments should rank their nominations in priority order."

The Huel Perkins Award (Diversity Fellowship) wording should remain the same.

The committee requested the deadline to be changed to February 14th for both awards. Currently the Dissertation Fellowship nominations are due February 10th and the Diversity Fellowship nominations are due February 1st.

The council discussed if more nominations from larger departments would enhance them to receive more awards than the smaller departments. Also discussed was the disadvantage by not allowing departments to submit more than two qualified nominations.

The Awards Committee makes recommendations to the Graduate School Dean for his approval. The Dean decides on how to spend the resources based on the committee's recommendations. The departmental ranking would assist the committee in making their recommendations. Quality nominations will be considered priority.

Approximately 10-12 of each fellowship are awarded each year. The total depends on the amount of tuition and how many pay out-of-state tuition.

Byerly, Lemieux, and Katrice Albert will discuss the best way to advertise the Huel Perkins Award.

Nardo moved for approval of the committee's recommendations, Hirschheim seconded, 11 council members approved, 1 opposed, and the motion was passed.

Subcommittee Reports

Multidisciplinary Programs and Minors Committee: Holton stated this has been an issue for several years. The multidisciplinary degrees and minors lack a home department for the programs; therefore, needing more structure to exist across the university. Unlike the undergraduate programs, the Graduate Bulletin lacks a definition for these programs and minors. Undergraduate minors go through the course and curricula committee to have the minor officially recognized by the Registrar's Office. The Graduate Bulletin should include how many hours constitute a graduate minor.

The purpose of the committee was to focus on governance. The committee recommends that every interdisciplinary degree and minor have a committee of all participating units to oversee the program. The Graduate School Dean, Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development, and the Graduate Council would serve as a liaison for any issues that may arise.

The committee would report every year for the first three years and then every three years after. The report would include the progress of the program. The Graduate School Dean and the Graduate Council would review the report to engage in dialogue on program improvement if necessary.

Multidisciplinary programs and minors do not belong to one department or the Graduate School. The council decided that more discussion will be necessary and will review again at the May 7th meeting to move on the committee's recommendations.

Old Business

Master Degree Changes: Kelso reported that David Constant had requested the committee review master's degree programs for consistency. The committee found 75 master's degree programs. They looked at the differences in entry requirements, required number of courses, and specified required courses, electives, and thesis hours. The average number of required hours is 30 for thesis degree students and 36 for non-thesis degree students. The lowest required hours is 24 which included thesis hours and the Department of Theatre in Acting has the highest with 77 required hours.

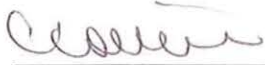
The committee noticed in the Graduate Bulletin that some departments list the required courses and others say see departmental website for requirements. Many departments indicate the approved electives are up to the graduate committee for approval. Most non-thesis programs have a research project instead of a thesis.

The council suggested sending the committee's report to the Director of Graduate Studies in each program to verify for accuracy. It was noted that students who do not excel in the doctoral program will become master's students. Accreditation bodies of different departments have certain requirements for students to earn a degree in that particular department. The council suggested a template to be sent to the departments to revise each section of the Graduate Bulletin.

New Business

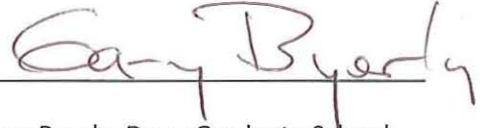
The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School