

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
February 20, 2014

The Graduate Council met at 8:00am in 129 Himes with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Day, Dow, Eades, Kelso, Marks, Matthews, McKillop, Nardo, Ortner, and Reeve (ex officio). Absent members were Chance, Euba, Meng, and Spivey.

Minutes of October 24, 2013 and December 5, 2013

Minutes were deferred to the next Council meeting.

Dean's Report

Council Members

Introductions of all present Graduate Council members. Loren Marks is the new College of Human Sciences and Education representative. Professor Frederick Ortner is representing the College of Art and Design.

Graduate Exams to be held on campus

The Physics program had a controversy as to where their Medical Physics students can hold their graduate exams. A majority of the Medical Physics faculty and graduate students are off campus at Our Lady of the Lake. The department requested general exams to be held off campus. A decision was made that graduate students should have some exposure to the LSU main campus and graduate exams will be held on campus only. The department chair, Mike Cherry, agreed since the dean's representative would be required to attend the exam off campus.

Academic Actions

There seems to be a serious problem with graduate students every year around the time academic actions are processed. A graduate student commits suicide and others require mental health hospitalizations each semester. They are not being informed about options they have regarding academic actions. Departments should be aware of students who may be in academic trouble. The Graduate School is asking departments to be proactive for students receiving unsatisfactory grades. There is a Graduate School staff member on the CARE Team and a CARE button on The Graduate School website. Departments should refer students to the Mental Health Center, CARE Team, or Disability Services if necessary.

Dean's Representatives

The Graduate School continues to have problems finding graduate faculty members willing to serve as the dean's representative. Department Chairs were notified of their faculty who refuse to participate. This did not assist with faculty being more willing to serve as the dean's representative. Currently only ¼ of the graduate faculty are willing to participate in serving once a year. The Coordinating Committee of Associate Deans suggested serving as the dean's representative should be a more prominent part of the annual review process.

McKillop recommended that a committee chair, whose student needs a dean's representative, should be required to serve as the dean's representative that same year. Matthews suggested that the dean's representative process may not be clear to the graduate faculty. Nardo mentioned that The Graduate School should publish who does and does not serve so the department chairs can notate on annual

reports. Graduate faculty should serve as the dean's representative as part of service to the university. Day noted his college counts the times served as the dean's representative as part of the annual report. It has become very helpful for his college. Kelso asked if The Graduate School could send a report annually to the department chair before annual reports are due. McKillop expressed that the benefits of serving as the dean's representative should be communicated to the graduate faculty. Council members should inform each faculty member in their departments the importance of serving. Ortner was surprised this has become an issue. He enjoys serving, discussing other disciplines with colleagues on campus, and he feels validated when he receives a thank you letter for serving as the dean's representative, which his director is copied on.

Perkins Diversity Fellowships

Byerly is reviewing nominations from the departments. Colleges and departments should continue to submit nominations throughout the year. During the spring semester, there are several unfilled fellowships due to students finishing their degree earlier than anticipated, students who are on leave due to health issues, etc. The Graduate School needs active applications year round to grant unfilled fellowships to deserving students.

Economic Development Assistantships

An Economic Development Assistantship conference is being scheduled for late April. Currently, The Graduate School supports forty EDA awards. The awards are for \$25,000 a year for four years for doctoral students. The conference will be in the Union ballroom and each student will present a poster with a faculty panel. New proposals will also be discussed. Stephen Moret, the principal person from the Economic Development of Louisiana Office, will present and the President will give an opening talk.

Academic Affairs Report

SACS

The SACS review team will be on campus March 11-13. On March 11th, the committee will meet with the President, Quality Enhancement Plan committee, and administration team. On March 12th, the committee will request to meet with different groups of people, including a few Board of Supervisors members, Academic Affairs, Office of Research and Economic Development, and other major areas of the university. OAA will let departments know once a schedule has been arranged. On March 13th, the committee will meet with the President and have an exit interview. The SACS committee requested the university to address seventeen items. After the campus visit, the university will submit another report in September and reaffirmation will be in December.

Quality Enhancement Plan

LSU Discover is an undergraduate research plan through the Quality Enhancement Plan. LSU Discover is based on analysis, surveys, and peers. There is a list of faculty working with undergraduate research students and participating through this program. The goal is to improve learning in all areas. On March 10th, there will be an undergraduate research poster forum. A total of seventy-five undergraduates are participating.

The Quality Enhancement Plan will be implemented next fall. The plan will be to engage research more with undergraduates and faculty. A proposed amount of money will be available on a rotating basis to build courses into department's curriculum for undergraduate research. The supplement funds will be available for one year. If undergraduates are involved in research and identify with a faculty member, there is a greater chance the student will go to graduate school.

Chairs Report

The May Commencement schedule is on moodle. Graduate Council members attend their college/school ceremonies. Please inform Chantelle if you can serve and if you need regalia.

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty: No report.

Awards Committee: No report.

The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School