

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
November 7, 2016

The Graduate Council met at 3:00pm in the Memorial Tower Conference Room with the following members present: Adams, Broussard, Cai, Chance, de Queiroz, Frick, Gansle, Kelso, Lane (ex-officio), Lindau, Lockridge, Massé (ex-officio), and Ortner. Absent members were Eades, Lee (ex-officio), Marchand, Mocan, Page, Perry, and Pojman.

Minutes of October 11, 2016

The minutes from the October 11, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Kelso, seconded by Broussard, and the motion was passed.

Dean's Report

No report.

Academic Affairs Report

Provost Rick Koubek met with the Graduate Council to discuss issues regarding graduate faculty and graduate education. He mentioned building a strategic plan with leadership qualities of who we are and what we do for the university to pursue. There are working groups reviewing the different areas of the strategic plan. The working groups will each have a focus group in order to create the strategic plan. Campus conversations will begin after Thanksgiving to discuss each focus group. The areas of the strategic plan are Education-theme of leadership; Coast and Environment; LA-unique history, culture, law, arts, etc.; Innovating Economy; and Health and Well-being. In addition, the strategic plan will include general ed reform; development of staff and employees; and quality of service. The strategic plan needs to be completed as a community plan. There will be a fundraiser drive for each of the five focus groups of one hundred million dollars. During the fundraisers it will be important to have a mission and to articulate the impact on students and faculty for the funds raised. People want to improve education in Louisiana and LSU will be the vehicle to do so. Metrics will be put into place to hold the university accountable in achieving goals.

The Graduate Council presented the Provost with the following document:

Strategic Planning for Graduate Education

Objective 1: Stabilize and increase enrollment of high quality students.

Rationale. The number of students enrolled in the LSU Graduate School in 2015-2016 and Fall 2016 have been less than in previous years.

Actions:

- a. Explore options for increasing graduate student stipends to levels more competitive with other PhD programs nationally.
- b. Explore options for increasing numbers of graduate school tuition waivers offered.
- c. Explore options for improving graduate student health insurance to improve competitiveness with other institutions

- d. Increase resources for graduate student recruitment
- e. Explore options to reduce the burden of funding of student stipends, student fringe benefits, and tuition on external grant applications.

Objective 2: Maintain highest quality of graduate instruction thereby increasing national recognition.

Rationale. The Graduate Faculty: Graduate Student ratio has decreased below what is optimal for graduate student education.

Actions:

- a. Explore options for increasing faculty numbers in units with reduced Graduate Faculty: Graduate Student Ratio.
- b. Explore options for increasing instructional budget to facilitate management of additional students

Provost Koubek mentioned that the President wants to increase graduate enrollment, but not decrease in the quality of graduate students. The graduate assistantship stipends are being increased this year and are part of the seven-year budget. The Provost believes having a stabilized budget will assist with moving forward with increasing graduate student enrollment. Budget cuts will continue this year. The university needs to be on state funds only. The current building capacity for student enrollment is 35,000. The university is currently at approximately 31,000. In seven years enrollment will grow to 35,000. Massé noted that 25% of the 35,000 will need to be graduate students. There will be 235 new faculty hired. At this time there are no new hires, but the university is working on that. The goal is to have a three percent raise each year and to increase graduate enrollment by three to four percent each year. It will be a slow and steady growth in enrollment. This is possible without increasing tuition each year.

Chairs Report

No report.

Old Business

Skype representation at exams and defenses: Kelso made revisions to the policy from the last council meeting.

A single committee member can participate in a Master's Exam, a Doctoral Degree Audit and Request for General Examination, or a Doctoral Final Exam remotely through VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) programs such as Skype upon receiving permission from the Graduate School. The program chosen must permit real-time, two-way exchange of visual information (e.g., presentation slides) and dialogue among the committee members and the student. Remote participation is for rare circumstances in which physical presence would be unfeasible. The individual participating remotely cannot be the Dean's Representative. Also, this individual cannot be the Committee Chair or student, except under extraordinary circumstances approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

The responsibility for arranging, testing, and assuring operative connection and time-zone arrangements rests upon the student and the committee chair. The form requesting such

participation must be completed and submitted to the Graduate School along with the request for examination at least three weeks prior to the date of the examination and by the current semester deadline for graduation, if applicable.

Kelso motioned to approve the revised policy, Frick seconded, and the motion was carried.

Failed general and final exam requirements policy: Chance will make revisions per council and the policy will be discussed at the next Graduate Council meeting.

New Business

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports


Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty: No report.

Awards Committee: No report.

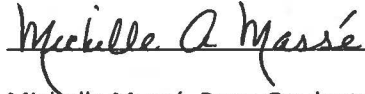
The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Michelle Massé, Dean Graduate School