

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **November 30, 2017**

The Graduate Council met at 12:30 pm in Thomas Boyd Hall in Room 135 with the following members present: Adams, Broussard, Cai, Chance, Francis, Frick, Gansle, Husseneder, Lane (ex-officio), Lindau, Marchand, Massé (ex-officio), Page, Perry, Pojman, and Sharky.

Absent members were Lee (ex-officio), Lockridge, de Queiroz and Mocan.

#### **Minutes of October 30, 2017**

Pojman asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes from the October 30, 2017 meeting. Husseneder suggested a minor grammatical change to minutes. The corrected minutes were moved for approval by Perry, seconded by Broussard, and minutes were accepted unopposed.

#### **Interim Vice Provost's Report**

Massé introduced Joseph Francis as the new council member representing the School of Veterinary Medicine.

#### **Academic Affairs' Report**

No report.

#### **Chair's Report**

No report.

#### **Old Business**

Massé stated PS-21 is an increasing matter of urgency with the Provost and after discussions with Graduate Advisors, Associate Deans, and etc., it is time for PS-21 to go back to Academic Affairs. She opened the floor for further deliberation by the Council members.

- Gansle and Broussard confirmed the changes accurately reflect previous discussions on the matter.
- Massé reiterated that the Council is sending forward a recommendation to the Provost and the Council does not approve or authorize the changing of the University's policy statements. Massé made a request for additional questions to include in the FAQs. Broussard moved the document be sent to the Provost on behalf of the Graduate Council. Gansle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business: Curriculum**

### **Letter of Intent for a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering**

Pojman introduced Dimitris E. Nikitopoulos, Department Chair of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, and Isabelina Nahmens, Industrial Engineering Program Director, and they provided the rationale for the introduction of the new program. Nahmens stated they are currently using a Ph.D. in Engineering Science to recruit students to the program but there is no specific Industrial Engineering Ph.D. which provides students with the appropriate degree or recognition they deserve. It would also be easier to attract top candidates if there was a discipline-specific Ph.D.

Chance asked if the program was an expansion of the current or a new one altogether. To this, Nikitopoulos stated that Engineering Science is designed to function as a multi-disciplinary program providing opportunities for people with different degrees to embark upon Ph.D. studies in their own specialty. He expressed the opinion that faculty and students were currently involved in lots of work and research in the field but are not getting the credit they deserve for it. He also shared his belief that this carve-out could lead to an expansion and re-energizing of the Industrial Engineering faculty as well as create better visibility.

Adams asked what the difference was in job descriptions for students with Ph.D. or Master's degrees in Industrial Engineering. She responded that students could build careers in consulting, research and academia.

Sharky wanted to know if similar proposals for new programs would be presented to the Graduate Council in the future. Nikitopoulos said that it was unlikely.

Gansle moved to approve the addition and Broussard seconded the motion, which was passed unopposed.

### **Letter of Intent for a Ph.D. in Experimental Statistics**

Representatives from the department were invited to join us at this meeting, and had agreed to do so, but were not present. Pojman opened the floor by asking for comments or concerns. Council members engaged in some brief discussions before finally arriving at a consensus that a few questions needed to be answered prior to voting. A new invitation will be sent to departmental representatives asking them to join us at our 12/11/17 meeting.

### Changing Graduate Concentration: Clinical Psychology

The clinical psychology doctoral program was required as part of an accreditation review from the American Psychological Association (APA) to add coursework on developmental psychology to its required courses. This will add 3 more credit hours to the required courses in the clinical psychology doctoral curriculum, changing it from a minimum of 93 hours to a minimum of 96 hours for a student coming in without a master's degree.

In addition, through an oversight, PSYC 7117 Methodology and Research Design, was listed both as a required course (which it is), and an optional course. It is being asked that it be removed from the optional course list.

Massé explained to the Council that curriculum changes have to be voted on by the Council. Frick stated the addition of new credit hours is in response to APA accreditation. Frick made the motion, Lindau seconded, and motion passed unopposed.

### Review of Commentary on Recent Policy Changes

In recent discussion, some specific suggestions were made about policies that have been revised in the past year. Sub-committees will consider these proposals, and present their recommendations for further revision at our 12/11/17 meeting.

- Dean's Representative (policy revised & FAQ created 5/16/17)
  - Issue: What to do if a Dean's Representative doesn't show up.
  - Massé asked for Perry to oversee any changes to the Dean's Representative Policy since Perry had previously chaired the Dean's Rep subcommittee and did a great job at it. Perry agreed to oversee and bring forth any changes to policy. Pojman suggested that the document created in Chemistry be consulted.
- Fail/Re-take Policy (policy revised 3/24/17)
  - Issue: Unclear whether the committee has to meet again
  - Issue: Might default if not turned in within 2 weeks be to "Retake" rather than "Fail"
  - Failure of the Master's or Doctoral General or Final Examination
  - Chance volunteered to oversee reviewing and updating policy.
  - One example discussed from the current policy is that edits to the actual thesis are due back in 2 weeks. It was debated if this time frame afforded enough time for a student to make minor changes. Lane stated there was a question of what is under the student's control. He went on to inquire if it could be registered as a retake rather than fail, if a student is unable to get all the required signatures within 2 weeks. The discussion swiftly moved to determining if two weeks was sufficient for a professor to review and suggest changes and for a student to effect these changes. There was also the question of whether there was a minimum amount of time to reschedule a retake. Sharky inquired if the current form has a retake option currently. Massé stated it was currently being updated, in addition to the website. Chance reiterated that the policy will be fully reviewed and everyone will be made aware of suggested changes.

- Remote Participation (policy revised 4/27/17)
  - Under current policy, 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 individual participating remotely cannot ever be the Dean's Representative, nor the Committee Chair or student, except under extraordinary circumstances approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.
  - Massé suggested that not needing permission for one person to remotely participate is a possibility. Permission would still be needed if that individual is the candidate or the chair, or more than one remote participant was being proposed. She noted possible advantages (fewer requests being processed) and disadvantages (the need to bring committee members back if the meeting did not meet milestone committee guidelines).
  - Gansle agreed to review the policy and report back to the Council.


### **Standing Committee Reports**

- Promotion/Tenure: Chance. No one has been hired in a while and so there was no report. They hope to have more to report in March, 2018. Tenure and promotion schedules were circulated to all Council members. Fall 2017 packets will be placed on Moodle before the holidays.
- Awards: Page/Lane. About 75 EDAs were received. The Council will do STEM and non-STEM assignments. There aren't enough Council members so the committee will be soliciting current and former EDA recipients to serve as reviewers. The committee decided current holders cannot reapply.
- Grad Faculty: Massé/Lane for de Queiroz. Massé mentioned the ongoing issue of graduate faculty appointments for AgCenter as being due to Workday in part. Lane said it was an issue of who gets permission to operate in both. They are currently submitting ad hoc administrative approvals until this issue is resolved.
- Graduate Council Webpage: No report.
- Bylaws: Massé. In December, the committee will look at extra appointments for associate professors. The Bylaws will be reviewed in January. Other points of discussion will be incorporated into the report that Jane Cassidy will be presenting to the Interim Vice Provost and Provost.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, December 11, 2017 from 3:30-5:00pm in room 129 of Himes Hall.

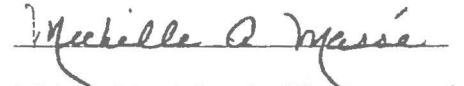
**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:32 pm

Recorded by:



Rodney Goldsmith, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Michelle Massé, Interim Vice Provost of  
Graduate Studies