

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
September 25, 2012

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

Minutes of May 7, 2012

Minutes were approved for the May 7, 2012 meeting. Hirschheim moved for approval, Kelso seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dean's Report

Byerly requested Gil Reeve to represent Academic Affairs at the Graduate Council meetings. He will not be considered a voting member. The Provost may attend a future meeting. He believes in the importance of a faculty governance committee.

The minutes are being organized for the SACS review. The minutes will be publicly available. If the spring minutes are used, the information on personnel will be redacted.

The Provost approved the new roster of membership for the Graduate Council. The current members reflect the reorganization of units leaving a collective unit with knowledge of previous meetings.

The moodle site is good for historical documents. If documents do not include personnel sensitive items, the documents may be emailed to the council members.

The graduate faculty spreadsheets are a snapshot of departments and colleges from their faculty annual evaluations. Most graduate faculty members were awarded appropriate status. The Graduate Council and Graduate School Dean still have the responsibility to review the process. If the process is not working, then the council and dean will need to reevaluate the process.

There has been difficulty in finding faculty members to agree to serve as dean's representatives. Hirschheim asked why are we having dean's representatives. Other institutions have someone outside the department serve and qualify the dissertations. Since the graduate faculty status has moved to the colleges and departments, should the departments have the oversight on the procedures? Byerly indicated that dean's representatives do write when impressed with a department and exam. Sometimes a problem will arise and the dean's representative will assist to resolve the problem. Nardo commented that the university is a research intensive university and when dean's representatives were initiated LSU was a different university. Hirschheim mentioned with the reduction in faculty that the resources are limited and sometimes difficult to have the committee and dean's representative agree to an exam date. McKillop said with the improved quality of research, respect for the faculty's decision on the student's exam should be considered. Euba noted not all departments require a minor outside of the student's department. Kelso reminded the council that the committee has been reduced to only three members. The Graduate Council will need to research this and discuss at a future meeting.

If a student is not the primary author of a journal article, the student is not allowed to use the article as part of the thesis or dissertation. The article may be referenced. This is a policy of the Council of

Graduate Schools and a written LSU policy. Similar policies are at other universities. Independent papers from two different students on the same topic are not the issue, but when a student wants to insert the entire article as a chapter into their document. These regulations are in the thesis and dissertation ETD guidelines.

The strategic plan will be updated next month. The Graduate School self-study will be loaded to moodle for the council to review.

Chairs Report

The graduate faculty nominations were voted on by email ballot. The council voted 11 approved and 1 abstained. The subcommittee's recommendations were approved. The subcommittee suggests recommendations for the Graduate Council to vote on. It is rare that a council member will question the decision of the subcommittee. The council verifies that there are no abnormalities.

The Graduate Council will go into an Executive Session for personnel matters. The council is an advisory body and approves curriculum changes. The council is an open meeting law committee like the Faculty Senate. The purpose of the council is to simply vote and recommend to the administration to consider. The minutes will be available online since the council acts like a public body. The Executive Session will occur for promotion and tenure and graduate faculty discussions. The Executive Sessions will occur at the end of the meetings if necessary. A two-thirds vote will be required during the Executive Sessions.

Routine Business

Online Degree Programs: Byerly indicated there is lots of uncertainty regarding the online degree programs. The Faculty Senate is asking the university to slow down the process so they may review. Byerly will meet with the Faculty Senate at the end of the following week. The online programs will be sent to the Graduate Council to review. There will not be changes to the curriculum since already existing programs. No additional approval will be needed unless a program requests changes to their degree programs. For example, if a potential student is doing well professionally, can they enter the professional program without the minimum requirements to be admitted to the Graduate School? The online programs are not doctoral programs. The target date is early spring to have the online degrees open for admission.

Reeve indicated that the programs are being developed and have been in the process since August 2011. All colleges and departments were asked if they were interested in participating. Three programs were identified in the first round (MBA, MEd in Leadership and Technology, and Master of Engineering in Construction Management). These programs were submitted to Academic Affairs from the college deans. Dave Kurpius set up a committee which reviewed what the vendor could do, developed the RFP, researched vendors, visited other institutions, concluded support was needed 24/7, needed general course design support, moodle would be used for technology, and the university would maintain the degree programs. Academic Partnerships, the vendor, is advising how to provide the online degree programs. Each course will be for seven weeks. There are concerns about development, quality issues, and the role of course and curricula committee. The current target date is January 1, 2013 and if not then March or the summer session. The result of the online degree programs is additional students and additional revenue.

Holton mentioned HRE has been using distance learning as a blend of compressed video, synchronous and asynchronous learning via the web which was approved by the Board. Academic Partnerships has a model to work with adult students with shorter terms, but heavy intensive courses. It works for HRE even with a different method of delivery.

Reeve noted that Academic Partnerships provides the best practices and what the competition is doing. The university thought three entry points (fall, spring, summer); however, there is talk of four, five, or six. The plan is to start with six and have less but with the flexibility to have more as programs emerge.

Eric Monday is working for colleges to find the funds needed to get started. The revenue will occur over a period of time.

Students entering into the online degree programs will remain in these programs.

Subcommittee Reports

Old Business

New Business

Graduate Bulletin combined with the General Catalog (Marie Hamilton): The University has a contract with a new vendor to deliver the General Catalog online. The Graduate Bulletin will replace the current chapter in the General Catalog. The publication date will move from July 1st to October 1st. The Graduate Bulletin will no longer be a separate publication. Individual units will be able to print sections they need.

LSU Ag Center Affiliate Faculty Status: The Graduate Council has been asked to review the affiliate status for faculty with 100% Ag Center appointments. This is due to a Faculty Senate resolution.

Graduate Committee Exams via Skype: One committee was approved last spring to allow the student to defend via Skype. The student and committee chair had several practices beforehand to work out any complications. Committee members have been allowed to do this if approved by the Graduate School. Many exams may occur via Skype that are unreported to the Graduate School.

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports

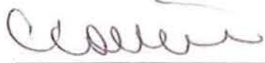
Promotion and Tenure Committee

Graduate Faculty

Awards Committee

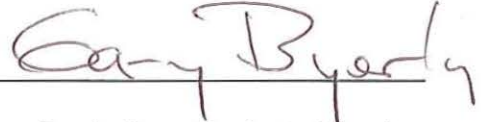
The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School