

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 11, 2017

The Graduate Council met at 3:30 pm in 129 Himes Hall with the following members present: Adams, de Queiroz, Francis, Frick, Gansle, Husseneder, Lane (ex-officio), Lindau, Lockridge, Marchand, Massé (ex-officio), Page, Perry, Pojman, and Sharky.

Absent members were Broussard, Cai, Chance, Lee (ex-officio), and Mocan.

Minutes of November 30, 2017

Pojman asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes from the November 30, 2017 meeting. Minutes were moved for approval by Lindau, seconded by Francis, and minutes were accepted unopposed.

Interim Vice Provost's Report

Massé thanked everyone for their service for the semester and welcomed invited guests.

Academic Affairs' Report

No report.

Chair's Report

Pojman suggested using Moodle as a means of emailing everyone. Massé stated it may not be the best method considering some people use professional email addresses and Moodle only sends to personal email accounts. Pojman also thanked everyone for their service during the semester.

New Business

Letter of Intent for New Ph.D. Experimental Statistics

Dr. Luis Escobar visited the Council to discuss the proposed Ph.D. in Experimental Statistics. The doctoral degree will be offered through the Department of Experimental Statistics within the College of Agriculture. Escobar addressed questions previously asked by council members. Escobar stated that there were enough faculty to teach the new courses associated with this proposal. Due to the high interest in this program, the faculty are willing to sacrifice and do the work. Escobar continued, saying the Graduate Council approved the program and it was sent to the Board of Supervisors several years ago; however, it was never implemented. Escobar went on to explain the importance of the program. It provides students with doctoral experience they cannot obtain elsewhere. Escobar is expecting one new faculty member with a Ph.D. in Mathematics to assist with the new program. Adams asked if there were any research opportunities appropriate for a dissertation and thesis. Escobar replied there are currently not any funds allocated for research. Escobar noted several faculty within the department have won various awards for their research efforts.

While deliberating, several council members stated the letter needed to be clearer on the number of course hours required. Marchand expressed concern about the size of the graduate faculty and their ability to teach the number of courses required. Specifically, if several different students need different required courses, how will the department correct this issue? She continued saying some teachers could feel overworked because they have to teach more courses than others. Adams pointed out that it not being a unanimous vote by the faculty could signal internal conflict for the faculty and water down the coursework.

Several questions were posed from council members prior to the letter moving to the next phase: Why is it evident that we need a PhD program in Experimental Statistics? What resources will be available for students and professors? Is it sustainable? Is it realistic to maintain enthusiasm if no more faculty members are hired or no additional funding obtained? If there is no financial assistance for students, will students still want to enroll? Will doctoral students be involved in service work? How many hours of graduate student and faculty labor are used for these in-house services? Are they being accurately documented?

Lockridge moved to approve the letter of intent, but with questions. Sharky seconded and the motion passed with one opposing vote.

Early Childhood (EC) Certificate Admission Requirements

Cynthia F. DiCarlo appeared before the Council to discuss the proposal. She stated that the faculty are requesting that the GRE requirement be waived. The department has done research and discovered two other schools within LSU waive them. They also found that potential students are often intimidated by the GRE, so they would like to remove the requirement.

Gansle stated they hope that by having lower admission requirements it will entice students to take a few courses. If the students decide to move forward, then they would be subject to regular admission requirements. Frick asked for clarity regarding the statement that a 3.00 is required in the last half of the degree requirements. DiCarlo stated it meant in the last two years in the student's major. After several questions about degree requirements and coursework, Page clarified that only the GRE requirement is up for consideration.

Sharky believes that waiving the GRE would lead to more students being added to the program. Frick believes this certificate is also asking to lower the GPA requirement. Massé would like to see documentation on what peer universities are doing for their Early Childhood certificates, similar to that provided in the Certificate in Urban and Community Education proposal. Pojman and Massé agreed the proposal should be revised to include data from peer institution and the GPA requirement clarified. Lockridge moved to table, Francis seconded, and the motion passed unopposed.

Graduate Certificate in Urban and Community Education

Jacqueline Bach appeared before the Council to discuss the proposal. She stated that the faculty are requesting that the GRE requirement be waived. Bach continued that there is a 3.0 requirement in addition to a statement of interest required for admission. The faculty see this as a way of getting students into the graduate program and allowing them to see what else the program has to offer in addition to teacher education courses. Bach stated this program allows students with no formal teaching experience who are practitioners in non-profits and other community organizations to come in and work with educators.

Similar discussions were had regarding what peer institutions are doing and clarity needed for GPA requirements. Lockridge moved to approve, Marchand seconded, motion passed, with one council member abstaining.

Pojman thanked all guests for meeting with the Council.

Old Business

Review of Commentary on Recent Policy Changes

- Remote Participation (policy revised 4/27/17)
 - Gansle took suggestions submitted by Council Members and made edits to the current policy. Only one member of the graduate committee is allowed to participate remotely. Additional members, as needed, have to apply for special permission to participate remotely.
 - Massé asked that it clearly state that neither the committee chair, nor the student can participate remotely except under extraordinary circumstances, but that the Dean's Representative never can. She also suggested the document be circulated electronically for review.
- Fail/Re-take Policy (policy revised 3/24/17)
 - Frick presented on behalf of Chance. The draft was not submitted to everyone for review. Lockridge motioned to table until the next meeting, Gansle seconded, and motion passed unopposed.
- Dean's Representative (policy revised & FAQ created 5/16/17)
 - Perry stated the final draft is not complete, however he will present suggestions for changes. A new remote access policy needs to be included and the Dean's Representative role has to be redefined as a full member of the committee, but primarily a procedural role. Another change suggested is that when the Dean's Representative is appointed, the committee chair forward a copy of the department's handbook.

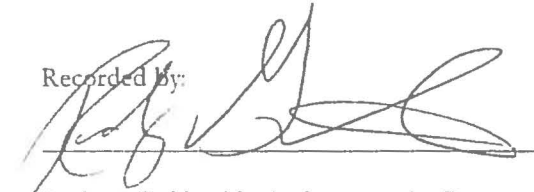
Standing Committee Reports

- Promotion/Tenure: Frick presented on behalf of Chance. Chance is not present but will get files for review soon.
- Awards: Lane mentioned that the EDA proposals will be submitted for review. There are 78 EDA proposals and 10 will be awarded.
- Grad Faculty: de Queiroz indicated the committee had nothing to report.
- Graduate Council Webpage: Pojman noted the need for a new committee chair, and Adams volunteered. Broussard will attempt to get intern if there is a proposal submitted.
- Bylaws: Massé indicated nothing to report at this time.

Next Meeting: TBD.

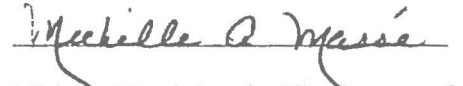
Meeting Adjourned: 5:05 pm

Recorded by:



Rodney Goldsmith, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Michelle Massé, Interim Vice Provost of
Graduate Studies