

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **September 30, 2013**

The Graduate Council met at 11:30am in 129 Himes with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Culross, Dow, Eades, Euba, Kelso, Lemieux, Matthews, McKillop, Nardo, Reeve (ex officio), and Rose. Absent members were Day, Chance, Meng, and Spivey.

#### **Minutes of April 15, 2013**

Minutes were approved for the April 15, 2013 meeting. Eades moved for approval, Matthew seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### **Dean's Report**

The Faculty Senate has suggested an elected body for the Graduate Council and a possible compromise would be to have part appointed and part elected. Graduate Council members are appointed by the chancellor based on recommendations from the Provost Office, Graduate School Dean, and College Dean. Byerly suggested an ad hoc committee be formed with members from the Graduate Council and Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The ad hoc committee would discuss elected versus appointed or appointed only. Nardo suggested that faculty have a choice to recommend council members. Faculty could have input in the process, but not elected members. Culross indicated that each college has representation on the council. The Graduate Council is for the best interest of the Graduate School and not for specific colleges. McKillop noted that Faculty Senate's power is limited and faculty can be heard, but changes may not necessarily be made. She recommended a portion of the Faculty Senate serve as Graduate Council members or elected by the faculty and the elections be given to the chancellor. Byerly mentioned what the Graduate Council has done in the past has been given to other authorities on campus. For example, graduate faculty status is at the department level; new programs and degrees go through the Faculty Senate course and curricula committee. Rose stated that the Promotion and Tenure cases are confidential and wondered if it would be appropriate to have elected members on the council. Kelso noted that the council is an advisory committee to the dean. Matthews agrees as an advisory to the dean and that the dean makes the final decisions. Nardo mentioned that all colleges have a faculty advisory committee; therefore, she recommends one recommendation from the dean and one from the policy committee should be sent to the chancellor. Byerly will meet with Kevin Cope to discuss ideas.

Mark Zucker from the College of Art and Design passed away while teaching out of the country. The college is working to replace him on the Graduate Council.

Students earning doctoral degrees should have 1/3 of courses applied to the degree earned at LSU. Doctoral degree programs require a minimum of 54 hours which can include dissertation hours. Reeve noted any hours listed on the transcript will be part of the 54 hours. Last spring the council approved to change the wording from 3 years of fulltime coursework to 54 hours. The residency requirement is determined by the department. McKillop motioned to include the SACS 3.6.3 statement in the General Catalog, Lemieux seconded, and the motion was passed.

"At least one-third of credits toward a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree."

Approved theses and dissertations are published through the web. Often faculty and students request for the document to be removed or revised. Previously the Graduate Council discussed that removal or

revisions cannot be done unless harmful or plagiarized. A student has requested that her dissertation from December 2010 be removed in order for her to submit her document for a blind peer review for a journal article. According to the contract, her dissertation is not allowed to be online. There is concern since the document has already been available for 3 years for people to read and copy. Removing the document from the website will not stop people who previously reviewed her document. The Graduate School has a firm policy not to change once published on the website. Creative Writing is the only area that has a permanent opt out option to have the document withheld. All students have the option to have their document embargoed for several years. Students own the copyright of their documents and LSU reserves the right to publish the documents. A policy may need to be created to allow students to have their document embargoed permanently, which would apply to all master's theses and doctoral dissertations. The current policy needs to be clearly conveyed to the students so they understand if submitting a manuscript that their document should be embargoed for a period of time.

A letter of intent for a Master's in Digital Media Arts and Engineering has been submitted to the BOR. If approved, a full proposal will be submitted.

The Geography and Anthropology Degree was approved by the board and has been popular in the department. McKillop stated that students are returning to the PhD in Geography to continue their program or moving to the new Geography and Anthropology Degree with a concentration to be selected. One-third of continuing students have decided to move to the new degree program.

### **Academic Affairs Report**

Reeve reported that the compliance report for SACS has been submitted by Darrell Henry. The QEP undergraduate research report will be submitted in January by Randy Duran and Carol O'Neil. The SACS review committee will be on campus March 11-13. The Graduate Council may need to meet with the external review committee. The reaffirmation occurs in December 2014.

### **Chairs Report**

The Graduate Certificate in Fisheries Science and Assessment was approved by an email ballot of the Graduate Council. Twelve council members voted unanimously to approve the certificate proposal.

Changes in Education courses were approved by email ballot of the Graduate Council. Ten council members voted unanimously to approve the course changes.

Kelso mentioned that the council should discuss teleconferencing for theses and dissertation defenses at the October meeting. A policy needs to be developed by the council.

### **Routine Business**

**Online Degree Programs:** The online degrees have a growth curve. The estimated enrollment for fall 2014 is 1000 students. Other factors will likely arrest this growth before it gets this large.

### **Old Business**

**LSU Ag Center Affiliate Faculty Status:** Reeve noted that various groups are reviewing how to assimilate graduate faculty status since the Ag Center is a part of the LSU A&M campus. A faculty committee will review the Human Resources part to consolidate by March.

**Plus and Minus Grading:** Plus and minus grading has not been approved yet. The Provost received information from the Faculty Senate to review. If approved, it will need to be worked into the new system which will be implemented in two to three years.

### **New Business**

**Peterson's Test of English:** Marina Pereira, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, presented information on the Peterson's Test of English (PTE). International students may take the IELTS instead of the TOEFL, which was previously approved by the Graduate Council for some students. PTE is a newer test for international students to take prior to being admitted. It has been on the market for four years. PTE is very popular in the Asian regions. PTE was evaluated as the best practices of the TOEFL and IELTS exams. ASH (Admissions, Standards, and Honors) Committee approved the PTE for undergraduates. The test was viewed by peer institutions. Based on a comparison to peer universities, the minimum for LSU is 59. The maximum score on the PTE is 90 and the lowest is 10. The TOEFL minimum for LSU is 79 and the range is 0-120. The IELTS minimum for LSU is 6.5 with the range being 0-9. The requirements for graduate students are the same as the undergraduates at LSU. TOEFL had security breaches resulting in testing changes. The testing was originally a paper test, then in 1997/1998 was a computer based but not connected to the internet. The answers were saved to the computer and then graded. The TOEFL is now through the internet, answers are saved, and are graded as a group. Scores are valid for 2 years. PTE is a computerized test with results within 4 days instead of weeks. Once an international student arrives to campus, the student will go through the ESL testing to read, write, and speak English. The PTE is only for admissions standards.

McKillop moved to add the Peterson's test to the list of approved testing for international students and delete the automatic admission from the policy. Culross seconded and motion was passed.

### **Executive Session**

#### **Standing Committee Reports**

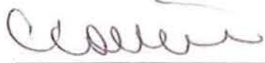
**Promotion and Tenure Committee:** No report.

**Graduate Faculty:** No report.

**Awards Committee:** No report.

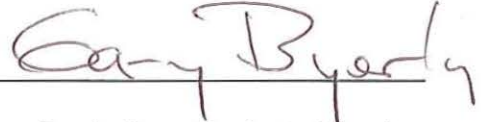
The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School