

**GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**October 17, 2012**

The Graduate Council met at 1:00pm in 129 Himes Hall with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Day, Dow, Euba, Hirschheim, Holton, Kelso, Lemieux, Matthews, McKillop, and Spivey. Absent members were Gaunt, Liu, Nardo, and Neff.

**Minutes of September 25, 2012**

Minutes were approved for the September 25, 2012 meeting. McKillop moved for approval, Dow seconded, and the motion was carried.

**Dean's Report**

Byerly has discussed with various people regarding dean's representative service. A number of issues seem to have been discussed. In some cases the committee chair has been dismissive to the role of the dean's representative. The dean's representative is considered to be a full voting member of the committee. The committee chair and committee members need clear articulated roles and responsibilities, especially for the dean's representative. Faculty are most likely split on having a dean's representative or not. Hirschheim suggested having a graduate faculty email poll to see opinions on having dean's representatives. The poll should have yes/no and short answer questions. Hirschheim and Holton polled their departments and both indicated that there was a time where dean's representatives were needed, but maybe not needed now. McKillop mentioned that a dean's representative sometimes knows the material and other times has no knowledge or background. The advantage with the composition of the committee is having the outsider verify the exam is run smoothly. McKillop suggested that random representation could be requested by the student or committee member. Byerly stated that some departments believe the committee is informal. Currently the student and faculty know who will be attending the exam. With random representation that would not be the case. Since the doctoral committee has been reduced to three committee members, should the number of committee members be increased if no dean's representative? Dow indicated she has raised questions and objections while serving as a dean's representative. She suggested that there be training for dean's representatives. Byerly agrees that the role of the dean's representative needs to be clearly understood. Day indicated that the dean's representative should verify that the exam upholds the standards of the university and fairness to the students.

The Graduate Faculty meeting is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Byerly shared 2200 names of McNair Scholars with each college on campus. These students are earning bachelor degrees across the United States. These students are being recruited for graduate school. The underrepresented minorities, first generation, and low income college students are part of the McNair Scholars program. Typically the students are from the United States. Byerly hopes departments will recruit McNair Scholars more than in the past. Departments will need to fund these graduate students.

The Presidential Management Fellows announcement for nominations was distributed to the departments. If departments have students interested in careers with government service, please review the announcement. Typically, LSU has students awarded the fellowship each year.

The spring commencement will be divided into six ceremonies at the PMAC. The main ceremony will be on Thursday afternoon and the individual ceremonies will be on Friday.

### Chairs Report

Day introduced Tiffany Muse, a graduate student from the Education Department and a graduate assistant in the Graduate School. She was present to observe the meeting.

### Routine Business

**Online Degree Programs:** Byerly reported that a new calendar for the online degree programs is in the process of dividing the academic year into 6 parts. This will enable the university to include the online programs into the academic calendar. The sections for the online programs will be in 7 week increments and listed on the transcript. The name of each increment is pending. The calendar will have the capability to have half semester courses. The student would register, take the class, and receive the grade in seven weeks. Currently, students are required to register at the beginning of each semester, even if the course is in the second half of the semester.

### Old Business

**LSU Ag Center Affiliate Faculty Status:** A motion has been submitted to the Graduate Council for Ag Center faculty to be granted regular membership on the graduate faculty. Currently, the only status available for faculty with 100% Ag Center appointments is professional or research affiliate status. A Faculty Senate resolution is pending supporting this request. Some faculty appointed 100% on the Ag Center campus have the same research, same professional degrees, publish, etc. as the faculty on the A&M campus. Kelso mentioned that the Ag faculty are productive faculty, tenured, some are full professors that have graduate students, publications, grant money, and should be considered like the A&M faculty. The Ag Center proposal is not for all Ag Center faculty, but the ones that meet the level of standards as current graduate faculty members. The Ag Center faculty are vetted through the Ag Center as A&M campus faculty are vetted through this campus. Holton suggested that the decentralization has given the authority to the colleges and departments. Matthews noted that many, not all, of the Ag Center graduate faculty nominations were indistinguishable.

The council was concerned with who would review since the graduate faculty status has been decentralized. Would it be the departments the Ag Center faculty member is associated with or the College of Agriculture? Since the tenure of these faculty members goes through the Ag Center and not the LSU campus, who would evaluate this process. Is this in violation of the SACS accreditation process since the tenure does not go through the A&M campus? The council did agree that the employees of the university should be considered for graduate faculty membership.

The Graduate Council unanimously voted to pass the Ag Center's recommendation. A memo will be sent to Academic Affairs suggesting the recommendation be approved. OAA will need to have policies in relation to accreditation factors for how to handle Ag Center faculty wanting to be full members of the graduate faculty. Holton motion, McKillop seconded, and it was passed with the understanding that OAA had to figure out how to handle those pending issues.



**Graduate Committee Exams by Skype:** There has been one instance where a student presented his exam via Skype. The committee carefully organized and practiced before the exam with the major professor. The committee agreed it went well. The Graduate School is reluctant to allow repeatedly until voted on by the Graduate Council. Rare cases will be approved as long as there is a clear justification. There is concern that exams via Skype may not be fair to the student and committee for lack of personal interaction. As we become an international university, we will want committee members from prestigious international universities to participate in student exams. The current policy will remain that prior approval is required by the Graduate School and exams via Skype will not be encouraged.

### New Business

**Human Resource Education Concentrations:** Holton explained that the School of Human Resource Education and Workforce Development requests approval to formally declare concentrations. No changes in the degree requirements or courses. Students would be allowed to declare the concentrations. The requested concentrations for both the master's and doctoral degrees are Agricultural, Extension, and Adult Education and Human Resource and Leadership Development. McKillop moved for approval, Kelso seconded, and the motion was carried.

**Social Work Concentrations:** Lemieux noted the merge of Social Work and Human Ecology into the College of Human Sciences and Education has taken the Child and Family Studies portion of the Human Ecology doctoral degree and added it to the Social Work doctoral degree. The School of Social Work is requesting a formal concentration of Child and Family Studies. The same concentration was in Human Ecology with part of the doctoral degree. Social Work requires 12 hours outside of the major discipline. The concentration is 15 and would be a great recruitment tool. Holton moved for approval, Matthews seconded, and the motion was carried.

**Electrical and Computer Engineering:** The department has requested a few minor changes in the program. The first is to remove the requirement for the student to take 6 credit hours outside of the major department. The number of required hours would not change. The second change would be to allow 6 months instead of a year between passing the general exam and taking the final exam. The Graduate School's requirement is three months. Hirschheim moved for approval, Holton seconded, and the motion was carried.

### Executive Session

#### Standing Committee Reports

##### Promotion and Tenure Committee

**Graduate Faculty:** An email ballot will be sent for the Council to vote on pending affiliate nominations. The current graduate faculty status is expiring and will need to be renewed for these faculty members.

##### Awards Committee

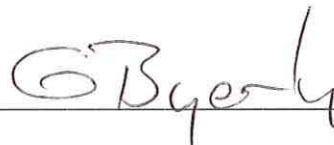
The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School