

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
October 15, 2014

The Graduate Council met at 8:00am in 129 Himes with the following members present: Armbrust, Byerly (ex officio), Chance, Eades, Gansle, Marks, McKillop, Mocan, Nardo, Ortner, and Spivey. Absent members were Day, Euba, Kelso, Matthews, and Reeve (ex officio).

Minutes of September 24, 2014

The minutes from September 24, 2014 were deferred to the November Graduate Council meeting.

Dean's Report

Dean's Notes to Graduate Council, October 15, 2014

- Redistribution of the 2011-2015 Graduate Supplements and Enhancements –The supplements/enhancements/enrichments have not been changed relative to the 2011 plan. This year every department has the full amount promised in 2011. What is happening is that as each 4-year cycle comes to a close the deans and vice-chancellors will look to see if more impact would be made by moving some of the money to other departments. This will involve a dialog between department chairs, college deans, and upper administration. It is also expected that in addition to the current funds there will be new funding available to support additional graduate students and higher stipends. The highest priority as we move out of the budget-cutting years has been to get faculty salaries to the point that we can once again recruit and retain good faculty. The second priority will be to do the same with graduate students. Department chairs will provide college deans with plans, the deans will examine all the departmental needs, strategic plans, potential for growth, etc. The deans will then make recommendations that will be looked at in ORED and the Graduate School, with the final decision made by the Provost, though my understanding is that money will go to colleges to be used by the Deans. To my knowledge the Foundations of Excellence are no longer being used in making decisions about new faculty lines or additional resources. This is not a decision that I was involved with, it is something that has evolved over the past several years with new leadership. I was on the University Planning Council when the Foundation departments were selected (or deselected), but when I became dean of the graduate school I had to resign, or at least I was asked to resign. I don't know who is on this council or what impact they have on these decisions.
- Graduate Student Health Plan Increases -- Only one company bid on the contract to supply health insurance to graduate students. I've had two meetings now with HRM and Academic Affairs about what to try next. AG Monaco is in charge of this process and he is looking at some new strategies that would include creative use of Americans Affordable Care Act, it is likely that the average health cost for graduate students will stay high, but that students will have a range of plans that are more suitable for their circumstances (single individuals will not have to pay the premium for childbirth, etc., and domestic students will not have to pay the premium for international students (who apparently are significantly more expensive to insure).

International students are required to purchase health insurance. HRM is searching for multiple health insurance vendors for graduate students to select from. The increase in health insurance

premiums may be harder to recruit international students. The Graduate School is working to increase graduate assistantship stipends.

- The Role of the Graduate Council in University Planning and Budgeting – If we find that any University budget decision has an adverse impact on graduate programs, then it is appropriate for the Council to discuss and make recommendations.
- Graduate Certificates in the “pipeline” include the following with their approximate point in the review process –

Education Specialist	Approved
Materials Science and Engineering	Approved
Econometrics	Council Draft
Strategic Communications	Council Draft
Life Span Studies	Council Draft
Library Science	Council Draft
Workforce Development	Council Draft
Behavior and Health	College Draft
Fisheries Management	College Draft
Music	College Draft
Advanced Secondary Math	College Draft
GIS & Spatial Data	College Committee
Climate & Climate Change	College Committee
Wetlands Management	College Committee
Historical Preservation	College Committee
Health Communications	College Committee

Academic Affairs Report

No report.

Chairs Report

No report.

Old Business

- DMAE
The College of Engineering and College of Art & Design have approved the proposal for the Master of Digital Media Arts and Engineering. Chance motioned for approval, Nardo seconded, one abstention, and the motion was passed with nine council members approving the proposal.
- ETD Committee
A subcommittee of Mocan and Eades was formed to review the thesis and dissertation withholding exceptions. The exceptions are requesting for more than two years for their document to be withheld from the public. The subcommittee will review the pending requests and create a policy for future requests.

New Business

- Certificate in Behavior and Health
The approval letters from the departments and colleges proposing the Graduate Certificate in Behavior and Health are forthcoming. Kinesiology, Psychology, and Nutrition will participate in this certificate. This will benefit both professionals and current students. The certificate will focus on the inactivity in Louisiana and the growing problem of obesity. Armbrust motioned to consider the proposal via email pending approval letters from the departments, Marks seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.
- Certificate in Life Span Studies
The Graduate Certificate in Life Span Studies requires six courses. Communication Science and Disorders, Kinesiology, Psychology, and Social Work will be the participating departments. The certificate will be offered to professional and current students. The certificates are relatively focused, but can revise after approved by the BOR and BOS by the Graduate Council if additional departments wish to join the certificate. Nardo motioned for approval, Gansle seconded, and motion was approved.
- SLIS remove the comps exam
Library Science has surveyed other programs and proposes the removal of the comps exam to be competitive with peer programs. According to the General Catalog, departments may request to be exempted from a final examination. Chance motioned for approval, Nardo seconded, and the motion was carried.
- SLIS degree changes
Library Science requested to change the required number of hours for the master's degree from 40 to 36 hours. Chance motioned for approval, Armbrust seconded, and the motion was passed.
- Minor in Hispanic Studies
The university offers a master's of arts in Hispanic Studies. The interdisciplinary department proposes a minor in Hispanic Studies. The minor will require nine hours and six hours must be at the 7000 level or above. Mocan motioned for approval, Nardo seconded, and the motion was approved.
- Theatre Changes
The department did not submit a justification for the requested changes; therefore, additional information will be required. The Graduate Council will be asked to vote via email ballot.
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- International undergraduate 3-year degrees
European countries with a three-year undergraduate degree instead of a four-year degree and are a part of the Bologna agreement are reviewed one applicant at a time to receive an exception to allow their three-year undergraduate degree to count. The Graduate School requests a policy to be made to allow three-year undergraduate degrees to be accepted as long as the university is a part of the Bologna agreement. The three-year program is a rigorous program. The Graduate School will not consider any other three-year undergraduate degrees that are not included in this agreement with the Bologna System. All departments have the ability to accept or decline a three-year undergraduate degree. The universities in the Bologna agreement are accredited schools and any additional universities added to the agreement go through the accreditation system. Nardo motioned to approve, Armbrust seconded, motion was passed.
- New Dean's Representative policy
After a graduate student's first semester in the graduate program, The Graduate School will assign a dean's representative to the student. The student is to communicate with the dean's representative at least once a year. The dean's representative will be a part of the student's committee for the proposal, general and final examinations. All graduate faculty will take part in the dean's representative process. The Graduate School will work to match graduate faculty members with graduate students with similar research interests. Students are to schedule meetings and examinations with the dean's representative. The responsibility is now on the graduate student. The general exam request will now include the name of the dean's representative as part of the committee. Departments should have a minimum of one committee meeting annually with each graduate student; however, there is no accountability for these meetings. Departments will be responsible for documenting when the committee meets and if the student is making progress towards the degree. The graduate faculty will be educated to notify The Graduate School Dean if annual meetings are not occurring prior to scheduling an exam. The responsibilities of the dean's representative will be clarified. Currently a letter stating the role and responsibilities of the dean's representative is sent to new faculty when they serve for the first time, but now all dean's representatives will receive this letter. Gansle motioned to approve, Marks seconded, the motion was carried.

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty:

Awards Committee: No report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20am.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School