

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 2, 2012

The Graduate Council met at 3:00pm in 129 Himes Hall with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Culross, Day, Dow, Euba, Hirschheim, Kelso, Liu, McKillop, Meng, and Nardo. Absent members were Gaunt, Holton, Lemieux, Matthews, and Spivey.

Minutes of March 19, 2012

Minutes were approved for the March 19, 2011 meeting. Hirschheim moved for approval, Nardo seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dean's Report

At the beginning of the semester, over 1000 students were on the commencement list. Currently, there are 970 students graduating. The number could decrease as the deadline approaches.

Research Assistants and fellowship tuition issues continue to be discussed. A revised memo was sent to faculty. A reduction in cost for RA tuition will be recalculated every year based on averages in colleges and the Budget and Planning figures on assistantships.

Fellowship tuition is being worked on by Byerly and Tom Klei. Donna Torres reported that 318 graduate students are on fellowships. The national average is 25%. LSU has less than 10%. Of the 318, 113 are national fellows (NSF, NASA, etc.). Others are on a grant for teachers submitted by Jim Madden and Byerly. About 200 are supported by state budget or Board of Regents fellowships. Less than 10 are on annual gifts or endowments. Faculty should encourage, find, and assist students in applying for fellowships. This would increase the strength of the Graduate School.

Several departments sent all of their fall applications over the weekend requesting the Graduate School to expedite the admissions process so the department could make offers to those students before losing them. Currently, the Graduate School has less than one week backlog for those on financial aid and close to three week backlog on those not on aid. The Graduate School is doing its best with the staff it has. The biggest concern is LSU is not being competitive if offers are not sent by March 1st. Some departments are moving the fall application deadline. For example, Psychology has moved the deadline to December 1st. Departments should ask students to apply earlier and make earlier decisions. Hirschheim indicated that midyear cuts influence how many students can be accepted. Byerly suggested maybe a multitier approach for accepting students.

Byerly hopes to get a recruiting budget to assist colleges with funds to use for recruiting to invite better applicants to visit LSU.

Chairs Report

The new I-grade policy will begin next fall. Graduate students will need to complete the necessary work to have the I-grade changed by the last day of classes for the following regular semester. For example, I-grades in the fall have until the last day of classes in the spring semester. I-grades in the spring have until the last day of classes in the fall semester. This change will assist Robert Doolos and his staff in manually changing the students' grades.

Hirschheim moved for approval, Euba seconded, and the motion was carried.

TOEFL changes in the Graduate Bulletin have been revised with recommendations from Nardo. The wording should be consistent with what is listed for undergraduate students. The wording will assist international students with understanding the requirements for admission.

Hirschheim moved for approval, Nardo seconded, and the motion was carried.

Routine Business

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty: No report.

Awards Committee: The committee is reviewing the nominations for the dissertation fellowships. Their recommendations will be sent to Byerly on April 13th.

Old Business

Master Degree Changes: has been deferred to the April 30th meeting.

New Business

Economics Degree Changes

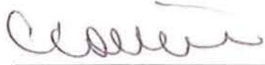
Areendam Chanda discussed the proposal the Economics Department submitted to the Graduate Council for approval. The PhD structure is odd compared to peer universities. Compared to these universities, LSU is not a competitive market. Students enter the program after have taken the masters level courses or a strong undergraduate background in MATH or ECON. On average, students in economics doctoral programs complete the degree in five and half years. LSU Economics students complete in six to seven years. The department is requesting a reduction of six course hours, which would allow students to graduate earlier. The current required hours is 45 and the proposed amount is 39.

The department also recommends that the general exam be allowed earlier in the student's academic program to be comparable to peer universities. The department would like to move the qualifying exam (general exam) to the end of the student's first year. The department will recommend to the student to enroll as a master's degree student if not ready after the general exam. The student would be required to take the two courses that are being reduced in the PhD curriculum. Currently the general exam is at the beginning of the fourth semester. Students are required to write a third year paper which assists them with research and preparing for their dissertation. The third year paper is defended in front of the department. After the presentation, the student begins to write his/her dissertation.

Culross moved for approval, Kelso seconded, and the motion was carried.

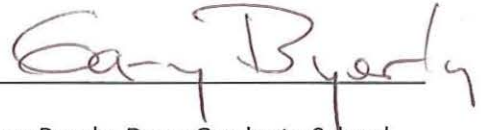
The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School