

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
November 13, 2012

The Graduate Council met at 12:30pm in 129 Himes Hall with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Day, Euba, Hirschheim, Holton, Kelso, Liu, McKillop, Nardo, Neff, and Reeve (ex officio). Absent members were Dow, Gaunt, Lemieux, Matthews, and Spivey.

Minutes of October 17, 2012

Minutes were approved for the October 17, 2012 meeting. Hirschheim moved for approval, Kelso seconded, and the motion was carried. Graduate Council minutes will be available on the Graduate School website. An Executive Session will be called if personnel matters need to be discussed. The information will be redacted from the published minutes. The minutes from the November meeting, agenda for the December meeting and any additional documents will now be loaded on Moodle 2.

Dean's Report

A Public Administration master's student took more classes as a non-matriculating student than allowed by Graduate School policy. Exceeding the 12 hour limit is rarely accepted into a degree program. The student had an LSU degree and the computer system allowed her to exceed the limit. The system does not catch those with an earned degree. The student has now been admitted into the PADM program. She believed she was already admitted during the time she was taking the courses as a non-matriculating student. Byerly requested the Graduate Council to approve this one time exception to allow the student to count these hours towards her PADM degree. Kelso moved to approve, Hirschheim seconded, motion was passed. The Graduate Council did agree that the regulations should remain consistent for non-matriculating students. No more than 12 hours should be allowed for students to earn while classified as a non-matriculating student.

A few departments have requested to make minor changes to the Graduate Bulletin which will be inserted into the General Catalog. These are not Graduate School changes, but department changes for the catalog.

Human Resource Education and Workforce Development requests to waive the GRE/GMAT for students following certain criteria for the concentration in HRLD. Holton mentioned the internal studies show almost no success in GRE and GPA. The student body is 70% part-time students which are working adults. Typically adult students do not do well on or take standardized tests. A more holistic admissions process is necessary. This would assist the online program and growing the program in the future. The online program is recruiting working students. The GPA is more predictive of success. Requiring students to take the GRE will become a barrier to recruiting online students.

If the student meets the following criteria, the GRE would not be required.

1. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA in their last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.
2. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA on all previous graduate coursework.
3. Three letters of acceptable recommendations.
4. Three years of demonstrated successful professional work experience.
5. Successful completion of a criterion-based essay as specified by the faculty.

The essay would address any criteria necessary for the department. Hirschheim suggested that the students take the GRE, but the department may decide not to use it when admitting students. Use as an assessment tool in the program. Day commented that the decentralization process should allow departments to determine if they want to use the GRE or not.

Reeve was asked if the GRE scores were needed to collect data for doctoral programs. He indicated that the decentralization to departments means that the departments will need to decentralize measure for their programs. What measurements are useful for that particular departmental program? More precise measurement by asking applicant information based for the purpose of the department. A vote would be taken at the December meeting on the GRE requirement for HRLD.

Three certificates programs are close to being ready to move through committee. The programs include strategic management, materials science and engineering, and music. The Council was asked to review the materials for the December meeting.

Chairs Report

Day reported the Graduate Faculty meeting went well this week. The faculty was promised a full graduate faculty vote would happen at the spring meeting. Voting will be on three issues:

1. Membership and appropriate policy for qualifying faculty with 100% Ag Center appointments.
2. Examine the Faculty Senate resolution for part of the Graduate Council membership to be an elected body.
3. GRE and any additional changes in university wide requirements for admission to the Graduate School. At this time, the Graduate School requires applicants to take the GRE; however, no score is required. Some departments do not use the GRE, while other departments request the GRE requirement to be waived. This is on a case by case basis.

Routine Business

Old Business

New Business

Geography and Anthropology Degree Change: Patrick Hesp and Kevin Robins were present to discuss their departments' request for degree changes. The proposal requests a change in the name of the doctoral degree from Geography to Geography and Anthropology. Currently Anthropology is an interdisciplinary discipline within the department. Hesp noted that 21 students have declared the Geo-anthropology Concentration in the PhD program in Geography out of a total of 60 doctoral students is Geography. There are 14 faculty members involved in Anthropology, including 6 subareas of Geography and Anthropology. There are 48 MA Anthropology, 3 MA Geography, and 17 MS Geography graduate students currently enrolled in the department. The anthropology students take geography courses making a unique department.

Reeve believes the process to change the name of the degree would be a formal letter from the Office of Academic Affairs to the System to the Board of Regents. This would be a staff approval issue.

Robins indicated that the faculty is in favor of the name change. Those against were based on the perception of the change and believed there was no need for a change or wanted a new degree program in Anthropology. The fear was if the degree would be degrading to geography if combined; however, the faculty disagreed. The final faculty vote was 20 in favor and 4 against.

Liu commented that the joined department would have distinct differences. The degree should remain as the Geography degree since the Anthropology degree is not a striving degree program. He recommended a subcommittee review the name change. Liu mentioned that the overlapping of both areas may dilute the strength of the PhD in Geography.

Nardo mentioned during the Program Review in 2006, there was a suggestion to combine the degree for uniqueness to Louisiana. At that time the Board of Regents and Board of Supervisors denied the request for Anthropology to have its own degree. It may be due to the job market and demand for the degree. Hesp noted that the one major factor was due to a smaller number of Anthropology faculty compared to Geography faculty. Therefore, not enough faculty to cover all areas of anthropology to proceed with a degree on its own. Geography and Anthropology faculty cross teach courses in the department. Mixed degree programs are common across the United States.

McKillop included that the department recognizes the mixed degree program is already happening. The degree change is being driven by the students in the program. This change would benefit the students fundamentally. LSU is well known about the opportunities offered and in a combined department due to different conferences and presenting. The interdisciplinary program exists within the existing degree program. Spring graduates would like to be included in this new degree.

McKillop motioned for approval and Kelso seconded. The attending Graduate Council members voted; 7 were in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstained. The motion was passed.

Masters in Natural Science (addition to agenda): Guillermo Ferreyra was present to present a proposal for degree changes in the Masters of Natural Science degree. The proposal requests changes to the existing description in the Graduate Bulletin. The changes are minor and describe better the professions available once the degree is earned. This is an interdisciplinary program. The changes would replace the wording of major and minor areas to primary and secondary areas. The primary focus area is changing from 15 to 18 hours and the secondary focus area is changing from 9 to 12. The reduction in hours of electives will be from 12 to 6. The implementation of a plan of study describing what students should take by approval of faculty and the administrator (Ferreyra). This will be added to the December Graduate Council agenda for a vote.

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee

Graduate Faculty: Holton summarized all nominations were approved as nominated except for one. The nomination was for research affiliate; however, qualified and approved for professional affiliate. Kelso moved for approval, Euba seconded, motion was passed.

Awards Committee

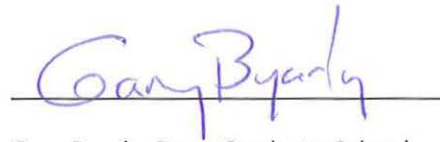
The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School