

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
March 16, 2016

The Graduate Council met at 12:30pm in 129 Himes with the following members present: Broussard, Chance, Day, de Queiroz, Eades, Euba, Gansle, Kelso, Lane (ex-officio), Lee (ex-officio), Lindau, Lockridge, Massé (ex-officio), Matthews, McKillop, Ortner, Page, and Perry. Absent members were Marchand, Mocan, Pojman, and Spivey.

Minutes of November 9, 2015

The minutes from November 9, 2015 and March 16, 2016 meetings were motion to be approved by Day, seconded by Lindau, motion was passed.

Dean's Report

- **Seven-Year Time Limit Extension:** Massé presented the Graduate Council with a revised list of guidelines for students seeking a seven-year time limit extension for the doctoral degree.
 1. The student must have completed the general examination.
 2. The petition must be written by the student's major professor and submitted no earlier than the beginning of the semester immediately preceding the 7-year deadline for completion of the degree.
 3. The petition must address the extenuating circumstances related to the student's failure to complete the degree within seven years. If medical or legal issues are part of those circumstances, documentation must be included.
 4. The petition should elaborate upon the student's current status in the program and his/her progress toward completion of the degree requirements.
 5. The petition must include a specific time-line for the completion of the steps remaining in the dissertation's research, writing and defense. The requested extension may not exceed one academic year. No open-ended extensions will be granted.
 6. The petition must satisfy the above criteria and must be unanimously supported by the student's committee, excluding the Dean's Representative, all of whom must sign (or approve via email) the petition.
 7. The student's major professor will then send the petition to the department's Chair or delegate, such as the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, who will attach a brief statement about support of the petition and confirm the student's standing.
 8. The Chair or delegate will then send the petition, along with an endorsement or denial, to the appropriate dean in the college, who will in turn assess the petition, attach a brief statement, and send it to the Dean of the Graduate School for the final decision.

Matthews motioned to approve, Euba seconded, and the motion was passed.

Academic Affairs Report

- Matt Lee on behalf of Academic Affairs did not have anything to report.

Chairs Report

- Gansle requested everyone to introduce themselves since there were new council members and visitors at the meeting.

Old Business

- Social Work dual degree with LSU Health Sciences Center: Catherine Lemieux from Social Work discussed the proposal. The dual degree is popular around the country and Alabama has a similar model. The LSU Health Sciences Center is interested in participating in this dual degree program. The faculty in both Public Health and Social Work have approved the program. No degree changes are required in either program; however, the programs will share electives. Chance moved to approve, Euba seconded, and the motion was carried.
- PhD Committee Requirements: The Graduate Council members asked their departments for recommendations on changing the doctoral committee requirement from two full graduate faculty members to one full graduate faculty member. Gansle reported that Education's senior faculty wanted to keep the current policy and junior faculty wanted to allow the changes to the policy. Chance noted that Mocan requested he mention that it is troubling to change the requirements due to reduction of faculty in departments. McKillop mentioned that Geography and Anthropology's faculty was split on the changes. She believes that two full members on the committee actually benefit the student. Page asked if a department is having problems with staffing the doctoral committees is it possible that the department is admitting too many students and does not have the capacity for that many students. Day reported that the Mass Communication Associate Dean of Graduate Studies indicated he could go either way with the requirements. Matthews noted that Science did not have strong feelings on this issue. The Science Associate Chair of Graduate Programs is aware of the possible changes, but has decided to keep the current policy. Day's only concern is that too many committees for junior faculty to serve on while working to get tenure. Eades commented that Veterinary Medicine requires four committee members on doctoral committees. Chance motioned to vote, Perry seconded the motion. One council member approved the changes, ten council members denied the changes, one council member abstained, and the motion did not pass
- Certificate in Early Childhood: The Certificate in Early Childhood was discussed at the March 2nd Graduate Council meeting with the understanding that the Graduate Council would vote at the March 16th meeting. Day motioned to approve, Lindau seconded, and the motion was passed.

- Certificate in Instructional Coach: The Certificate in Instructional Coach was discussed at the March 2nd Graduate Council meeting with the understanding that the Graduate Council would vote at the March 16th meeting. Matthews moved to approve, Euba seconded, and the motion was passed.
- Certificate in University and College Teaching: The Certificate in University and College Teaching was discussed at the March 2nd Graduate Council meeting with the understanding that the Graduate Council would vote at the March 16th meeting. The certificate is aimed at the university's doctoral students. Chance's concern is the amount of time students have in the summer to earn the certificate. McKillop agreed that many students use the summer for research and fieldwork. Lane suggested that the department may wish to have a trial in the summer to see how many students enroll in the course. Chance moved to vote and Page seconded. Four council members approved the certificate and seven opposed resulting in the Certificate in University and College Teaching not being approved.
- Certificate in Urban and Community Education: The Certificate in Urban and Community Education was discussed at the March 2nd Graduate Council meeting with the understanding that the Graduate Council would vote at the March 16th meeting. Matthews motioned to approve, Chance seconded, and the motion was passed.

New Business

- Law Center and Social Work (Concurrent Degree): Wesley Church, Social Work Director, and William Corbett, Law Center Dean, were present to discuss the concurrent degree proposal. There is interest from both programs to create the joint program. The program is popular and successful throughout the country. Students would earn a MSW and JD at the end of the program. Day moved to approve, Euba seconded, and the motion was carried.
- MSW GRE waiver: Wesley Church discussed the proposal. Competitors in the SEC and Southeast region waive the GRE for the MSW. The School looked at the benefits of the GRE with the current students. The GRE is not a good predictor of success; however, the undergraduate GPA is a better predictor of success in the program. Removal of the GRE puts the program in competition with peers. Peer universities using the GRE only view the verbal scores. The School assumes that students may not apply to LSU since the GRE is required while peer universities do not require the GRE. The program is offered online which is attractive to students. The GRE waiver will increase applications providing the department with a greater pool of applicants to view. Gansle mentioned a concern of decreasing standards and the quality of the degree. Page noted that the GRE is not currently being used to admit students and the Graduate School does not require a minimum score. The GRE will continue to be used for the doctoral program. Lockridge motioned to approve, Euba seconded with ten council members approving and one council member opposed. The motion was passed.
- MLA removal of final exam: Mark Boyer from Landscape Architecture was present to discuss the removal of the final exam. He arrived last July and realized that the final exam is for all students. The program is a first degree professional program which requires studio based work through the final project. The student's final project is presented in front of the faculty and an outside panel. Peers in North America, Australia, and New Zealand do not have a final exam. Those students completing a thesis will have a written research document and defend the document

as the final exam. Students completing a non-thesis degree will work on a studio project to complete the degree. Most students earn a non-thesis degree. At the end of the program, students have the credentials to sit for the national licensure exam. The department will be asked to make some revisions and add comparisons from peer universities. The Graduate Council will vote once the additional information is received and reviewed.

- Medical Physics Certificate: Wayne Newhauser from Physics discussed the proposal for the Medical Physics Certificate. The department already has a PhD in Medical Physics. The certificate is designed for those with a doctorate in the hard sciences or engineering and they want to be medical physicists. The certificate requires formal training in an accredited setting and six core courses. The certificate is a residency program and approved by CAMPEP (Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs). Students enrolled in the certificate program will be classified as graduate students and must be enrolled in at least half of the semester's coursework at the graduate level. Students must have completed a PhD to enroll in the program. The market for this certificate is zero to three students at any given time. The department has informally been doing this for years. Since 2011, two students have completed the program and one student is currently interested in the program. The department receives routine inquiries about having this program and the department does not currently advertise. This certificate targets postdocs and these students would assist faculty with research and training. Matthews moved to approve, Lindau seconded, and the 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 at 2:00pm.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Michelle Massé, Dean Graduate School