

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 30, 2019

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Broussard at 1:00 pm in Thomas Boyd Hall in room 135 with the following members present: Broussard (C), Lockridge (AC), Richardson (ex-officio), Wicks (ex-officio), Haynie (Provost) Chance, de Queiroz, Frick, Husseneder, Lindau, Perry, Piccoli, Pojman, Raffoul, Seifried, and Sharky.

Absent: Lee (ex-officio), Adams, Cai, Francis and Gansle.

Minutes of December 13, 2018

Broussard asked if there were any corrections or objections to the December meeting minutes. Perry made a motion to approve the minutes, Pojman seconded, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Chair's Report

- Broussard announced she would be resigning as Graduate Council chair and member effective January 30, 2019.

Interim Dean's Report

- Council of Graduate School's External Audit- Richardson plans to meet with the Grad School's leadership team and the Provost to schedule the best time for the external audit. The team of auditors expressed interest in meeting with various groups on campus. An email notice once a schedule is finalized.
- Three-year Degrees- Richardson stopped the current requirement and will evaluate on a case by case basis. He will provide an updated policy at a later date.
- Climate Survey- This survey will be divided into two sections and sent to all graduate students.
- Graduate Certificates- Will work with Dean Wicks to create regulations to monitor graduate certificates.

Provost's Report

- Provost Haynie thanked everyone for their service and for welcoming her to the meeting. She gave an update on the search for a permanent Graduate School Dean. After the unsuccessful search in May, Malcolm Richardson agreed to serve as the Interim Dean of the Graduate School.
- The position will continue to focus on graduate education without an international component and will include recommendations from the external CGS audit. The search is expected to begin in the fall.
- Haynie asked members to give feedback or suggestions about the Graduate Dean's position.

- Haynie reiterated the President's goals to have 35,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled by 2023, increase the retention of these students, and continued growth of online programs.
- She is enthusiastic about plans for growth and emphasized the importance of retention. She thanked everyone for their time.

Academic Affairs' Report

- No report.

New Business

Non-Thesis Option Proposal: School of Theatre MFA Acting Non-Thesis Option Proposal

- Jim Murphy briefly discussed the proposal for a non-thesis option for the MFA in Theatre specialization in Acting. The final project for the non-thesis option requires students to create and perform in a 15 to 20-minute original theatre piece for a public audience. For this option, students will document the development process through a digital portfolio rather than through a written companion piece. Students will film and preserve the final project as an additional artifact. The research required to create an original work of this nature necessitates that students complete the required six credit hours of research.
- After Murphy clarified additional minor details for members, Sharky motioned to approve the proposal, Piccoli seconded, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Form D- Change in Admission Requirements MS in Civil Engineering

- Mostafa Elseifi, a professor in the Civil & Environmental Engineering department, stated they are working to establish an Online Master in Civil Engineering for students with an undergraduate degree in an engineering discipline and a desire to pursue a graduate degree online. The online Master in Civil Engineering (MCE) has been developed to address the urgent needs of the deteriorating Transportation infrastructure in the Nation and with particular emphasis on the conditions in Louisiana. The degree will also make students more marketable professionally. The department are requesting the following changes:
 - A GPA of 2.50 may be accepted with relevant work experience. The graduate school currently allows probationary admission with a GPA of 2.75.
 - The GRE may be waived for applicants with relevant work experience.
- Elseifi does not think the degree would be sustainable without the GPA requirement. Wicks reminded everyone that students admitted with a 2.5 GPA would be on academic probation. Elseifi added that students with an undergraduate degree in an engineering discipline could use work experience related to transportation and a letter of recommendation from a supervisor would be required.
- A few members are concerned about enrolled students' success when both the GPA and GRE are simultaneously being removed/waived for the online programs, and without

more structure in place prior to ensure that students are screened for a reasonable likelihood of success before they are admitted, and tuition dollars accepted.

- Overall, members agree that the admission requirements seem to screen to balance the budget and not the success of enrolled students. According to Elseifi, the budget is strong, and students are rarely placed on academic probation. In the event students are placed on probation, the instructors inform them that they may not complete the program if they remain on probation. Elseifi concluded the presentation and thanked members for their time.
- After further discussion, members concluded the following should be addressed and included in the proposal:
 - A sample of comparable universities which have similar programs with similar entrance requirement and an assessment of their student success rate.
 - A clearer explanation about how applicants' professional experience will be evaluated. There was a general unease about admitting student with "a letter from their boss" (as one member phrased it) unless it directly addresses academic and research issues.
 - In general, what admission standards can be created to demonstrate that the student can be successful and, once admitted, is on target for the degree?
 - A definition and description of the PE exam and what it means professionally and its relation to academic programs would be helpful for non-engineers.
 - Could an entrance test be devised, or why would this not be necessary?
 - Many Council members felt that the proposal (as presented) reflected less a desire to create a needed academic program than a way to make money for the department.
- Piccoli motioned to table the proposal until the proposal is revised, Pojman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Catalog Revision: GPA Requirements

- Wicks informed members of what the current policy says in the General Catalog, and the low success rate of students admitted on probation. The Graduate Admissions team would like to exercise their authority to deny students who don't meet the GPA requirement without extra justification.
- Slate allows departments to view candidates with a 2.5 GPA and request the application be forwarded to them by the Graduate Admissions office.

Old Business

Authorship of Dissertations

- Pojman stated the subcommittee revised the document to include recommended revisions from previous discussions. Chance motioned to approve the revised document, Frick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

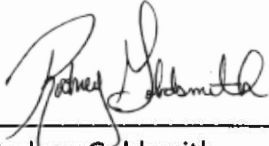
Standing Committee Reports

- **Promotion & Tenure- Chance:** The committee reviewed a total of 65 cases with only 15 requiring additional discussion. The subcommittee may meet with the Provost to discuss cases in more detail. Chance thanked all of the committee members for their hard work.
- **Awards- Pojman:** No Report.
- **Graduate Faculty - de Queiroz:** No report.

Meeting Adjourned- 2:19 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 27th, from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm in 135 Thomas Boyd Hall.

Recorded by:



Rodney Goldsmith
Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Malcolm Richardson
Interim Dean of the Graduate School