

**GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**May 6, 2015**

The Graduate Council met at 12:30pm in 129 Himes with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Chance, Day, de Queiroz, Eades, Euba, Gansle, Kelso, Lindau, Marks, Matthews, McKillop, Nardo, Reeve (ex officio), and Taylor. Absent members were Mocan, Ortner, and Spivey.

**Minutes of April 1, 2015**

The minutes from April 1, 2015 were motioned for approval by Taylor, seconded by Matthews, one abstention, and the motion was carried.

**Dean's Report**

I would like to thank all of you for the great job you have done this year, and for some of you, for the entire 3.5 years of my deanship. You made wise decisions and did so with respect to those with alternative views. There were even a few moments of humor, or at least a quick smile, and perhaps Heather will bring a few more "maple leaves" to share at our final meeting.

Graduate Council Members: Thank you for the service of Loren Marks, Heather McKillop, Anna Nardo, and Carol Taylor. Marks served from 2014-2015 and is leaving the university to go to BYU. McKillop served as the chair of the Graduate Council from 2014-2015. Nardo served from 2012-2015 and is retiring from the university. Taylor served for one semester and promised to return after she serves as the Chemistry Department Chair.

Board of Supervisors: The five most recent certificate proposals will be on the May 8 agenda: Strategic Communication; Records and Information Management; Community Engagement; Applied Depositional Geosystems; Climate Science; and Analytics.

Board of Regents: We hope to have all Council approved certificates to the Regents for one of the two remaining meetings prior to the start of Fall 2015 academic year.

Graduate Student Insurance: This is still in flux and I have little additional information to share with you at the moment. Apparently LSU was not in compliance with ACA this year and could face a major penalty. The university lawyers are involved to see what penalties the university may have for past years' violations and to view the contracts pending for incoming students. An email was sent to departments to prevent future offer letters from having the insurance benefit information. The goal is to have information for current and newly admitted students within two weeks. Academic Affairs, HR, and Finance are trying to come up with a solution.

Budget Reductions and Workflow in the Graduate School: Like all units at LSU, we have been asked to prepare for 5, 10, and 15% budget cuts. The latter two scenarios will require the loss of Graduate School staff. Over the summer we will learn how severe the cuts will need to be, but we are planning for contingencies. Two changes that are very likely: 1) the editing process of theses and dissertations will only be a basic examination of title page and table of contents; and 2) the Graduate School will no longer offer editorial help to graduate students. The hoped-for development of RADIUS into a sophisticated marketing and recruiting client-management system to help grow graduate enrollments will likely fall onto departments to develop (or not). The admissions process may rely more heavily on

departmental examination of student credentials, with the Graduate School admitting applicants based on departmental recommendations with very little screening in the Graduate School.

I am happily off to Stanford with a Blaustein Fellowship for 2015-16, and a nice retirement package from LSU. But as I have told some of you already, I regard this as a change in funding source more than retirement. I will continue to advise graduate students, write papers and proposals, and perhaps teach a class occasionally.

### **Academic Affairs Report**

Reeve thanked Dean Byerly and Assistant Dean Marie Hamilton for their contributions to the Graduate School as they both retire.

LAW Center: On April 1<sup>st</sup> the LAW Center merged with LSU. The Graduate Council needs to consider having a representative from the LAW Center serve on the council. The LAW Center has joint degrees with LSU programs and master's degrees. The university is reviewing issues like graduate faculty, promotion and tenure, etc. in order to incorporate the LAW Center. Byerly proposed that the Graduate Council submit a resolution to the Provost requesting approval for a LAW School representative to be on the council.

### **Chairs Report**

Reeve: McKillop thanked Reeve for his insight from Academic Affairs and for coming to the meetings. The person replacing Reeve will fill in for the next Graduate Council meeting as Reeve takes on his new role as Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Planning.

Byerly: McKillop thanked Byerly on behalf of the Graduate Council and appreciates what he has done for the Graduate School and the Graduate Council.

Marie Hamilton: McKillop also thanked Marie on behalf of the Graduate Council and appreciates her service.

Graduation: Graduate Council representatives will attend the college ceremonies for spring graduation.

Graduate School Dean Search: Graduate Council members are meeting with the Graduate School Dean candidates on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Graduate Council Chair and Co-Chair: Gansle, a representative for Human Sciences and Education, was nominated to be the 2015-2016 Graduate Council Chair. McKillop motioned for approval, Nardo seconded, and the motion was carried. Eades, a representative for Veterinary Medicine, was nominated to be the 2015-2016 Graduate Council Co-Chair and the chair for the following year. Euba motioned for approval, Chance seconded, and the motion was carried.

### **Old Business**

Philosophy Concentration: The council requested an email regarding the department faculty vote on the concentration. The council also requested documentation asking if Women's and Gender Studies

supports this concentration and if there is a need for this concentration for students. Gansle motioned for approval if the documentation is received by the Graduate School, Euba seconded, and the motion was passed.

### New Business

Psychology Name Change: The Psychology Department requested a program name change for the Cognitive and Developmental Psychology program. The new name would be Cognitive and Brain Sciences program. This is a specialization/track within the department and not an official concentration. The new name would better reflect the nature of the program, cover a larger set of topics, and will assist students in finding better jobs. The department has hired two new faculty members for this program. The department created an EEG Neuroscience laboratory for students in this area. Kelso motioned for approval, Day seconded, and the motion was passed.

SPSS Curriculum Changes: The School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences submitted curriculum changes for the masters and doctoral degrees. The request would give the students and committees more flexibility. The changes will not change the number of hours, but the required courses. The council decided to table this until the fall semester and request a justification from the school.

Agricultural and Extension Education: Agricultural and Extension Education is a new department. Currently, only an undergraduate degree is established at the moment. The department has received inquiries regarding a master's degree program in this area. The core block is 18 hours with a proposed four to five focus areas. The letter of intent will be sent to OAA and OAA will request for a list of required core courses. Day motioned for approval, Gansle seconded, and the motion was passed.

Music Posthumous Degree: The School of Music submitted a request to award a posthumous degree for a student who died in March. Kelso motioned for approval, Gansle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### Executive Session

#### Standing Committee Reports

**Promotion and Tenure Committee:** No report.

**Graduate Faculty:** No report.

**Awards Committee:** No report.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Recorded by:



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Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



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Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School