

APPROVED

JAN 30 2019

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 13, 2018

LSU GRADUATE COUNCIL

The Graduate Council met at 10:00 am in Thomas Boyd Hall in room 135 with the following members present: Pojman (Chair), Richardson (ex-officio), Wicks (ex-officio), Adams, Chance, de Queiroz, Francis, Gansle, Lindau, Perry, and Seifried.

Absent: Lee (ex-officio), Broussard, Lockridge, Cai, Frick, Husseneder, Piccoli, Raffoul, and Sharky.

Minutes of November 12, 2018

Pojman asked if there were any corrections or objections to the November meeting minutes. Gansle made a motion to approve the minutes, Francis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Chair's Report

- No report.

Interim Dean's Report

- Council of Graduate Schools Conference- Richardson and Wicks gave a brief synopsis of various sessions they were able to attend while there.
- LSU Graduate Catalog
 - The Graduate School is currently reviewing the requirement of the number of instructional hours and the number of credit hours accepted from international universities.
- Meeting with Vice Provost Cassidy about Graduate Faculty requirements for AgCenter and Pennington faculty members on the main campus. Richardson stated Vice Provost Cassidy is at the beginning stages of simplifying the process on the main campus and would have feedback at a later date.

Academic Affairs' Report

- No report.

New Business

Curriculum Change: PhD in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

- Sunggook Park, the Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (MIE) Graduate Advisor, spoke to Graduate Council members and the proposed curriculum change. MIE faculty members recently evaluated the effectiveness of their current policy of Ph.D. students being required to take 42 credit hour coursework (not S/U graded coursework) and 12 hours of dissertation research beyond their B.S. degree, with the maximum number of 24 credit hours is allowed to transfer from the student's MS degree.

- The main issue with the current policy is the department is currently not offering many graduate level courses, and many students are having trouble finding appropriate courses that help fundamental understanding of core engineering principles or students' researches. The increased undergraduate enrollment in the MIE department as well as in the College of Engineering is partially the reason for the problem. This problem prevails for all the Ph.D. students but affects more those students who received MS degrees in LSU-MIE because they have already taken most core courses and courses related to their researches during their MS programs.
- The MIE faculty believes the solution to this problem is to reduce the number of coursework credit requirement from 42 to 36 and increase the number of dissertation research credit requirement from 12 to 18 so that the total number of required credit hour remains unchanged at 54.
- At the same time, the MIE faculty voted for reducing the maximum number of credit hours that are allowed to transfer from students' MS degrees outside LSU from 24 to 18 so that students who received their MS degrees from other universities can have a similar coursework requirement, which will provide sufficient training opportunities to have a strong background in engineering principles.
- Park stated that the faculty is aware that they would still teach the same amount of courses for Masters and Ph.D. students, but the proposed change would be more for the students' benefit.
- Various members expressed some uncertainty about the rationale provided to justify the changes. It appears to be more of an issue of a lack of personnel to teach courses.
- Perry recommended the justification be revised to answer the following questions of Council members:
 - Are the proposed curriculum changes fulfilling SACS requirements?
 - How are other departments in the College of Engineering addressing any challenges caused by the low faculty to student ratio?
 - Are Engineering Departments at peer institutions having similar challenges? If so, how are working to resolve the issue?
 - Has the department requested additional faculty members? If so, please provide the rationale given for the denial.
- Gansle motioned to table the discussion until additional information, including the revised justification, is received. Francis seconded, and the motion to table the proposal passed unanimously.

Curriculum Change: Request to Add Graduate Minor: Writing Pedagogy

- Jacqueline Bach from the Education addressed members of the Council to discuss the benefits of the minor. The graduate Writing Pedagogy minor will focus on the vital and

necessary skills, strategies, and critical pedagogical methods needed to teach writing effectively. Bach stated the current version of the proposal includes suggestions from the Faculty Senate from nearly a year ago.

- Chance moves to approve, Perry seconded, Motion passed with one abstention.

GRE Scores for Entering Graduate Students

- Carol Wicks spoke to Council members about the current version of the requirement in the LSU General Catalog. The language is generic and recommends using wording to clarify the role of departments in score requirements and the flexibility used regarding work experience. She included research from other SEC schools says is a general one. Departments have different GRE requirements. She included excerpts from other admission requirements of other SEC schools.
- Members discussed briefly. Perry motioned to approve the proposed revision to the statement, Chance seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Proposed Revision Remote Participation

- Malcolm Richardson stated that this was a clarification of the existing policy that includes the previously suggested revisions.
- Gansle suggested adding “by the Dean of the Graduate School” to specify who would review emergency requests considered on an ad hoc basis.
- Chance motioned to approve the proposed revisions (including Gansle’s suggestion) to the policy, Gansle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

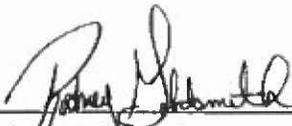
- **Promotion & Tenure- Chance:** The committee is preparing to review P&T packets soon. Chance and Gansle met with the Associate Professors Network to discuss the P&T process.
- **Awards- Pojman:** Currently reviewing about 70 packets.
- **Authorship of Dissertations- Seifried:** The committee reviewed materials submitted and statements from different associations. A document created by the Graduate School will be revised to be more generic. He will forward recommendations to members to review later.
- **Graduate Faculty - de Queiroz:** No report.
- **Graduate Council Webpage- Adams:** No report.

Meeting Adjourned- 10:58 am

Next Meeting: TBA.

Recorded by:

Approved by:



Rodney Goldsmith
Assistant to the Dean



Malcolm Richardson
Interim Dean of the Graduate School