

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
December 1, 2016

The Graduate Council met at 3:00pm in the Memorial Tower Conference Room with the following members present: Broussard, Eades, Frick, Gansle, Kelso, Lane (ex-officio), Lindau, Lockridge, Marchand, Massé (ex-officio), Page, Perry, and Pojman. Absent members were Adams, Cai, Chance, de Queiroz, Lee (ex-officio), Mocan, and Ortner.

Minutes of November 7, 2016

The minutes from the November 7, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Gansle, seconded by Lindau, and the motion was passed.

Dean's Report

The Graduate School budget remains stable. Local cuts are expected later in the year, which the Graduate School has planned for. No major news to report.

Academic Affairs Report

No report.

Chairs Report

No report.

Old Business

Failed general and final exam requirements policy:

Failure of the Master's or Doctoral Written and/or Oral Exam (non-thesis defense/general exam)

The written and/or oral exams are major milestones in the graduate student's professional path. Once an exam is scheduled, a result must be filed with the Graduate School in a timely manner. The only results that can be reported are P ("Pass"), F ("Fail"), or R ("Retake"). The grade must be filed within two weeks of the scheduled exam date. Failure to turn in a grade defaults to an F.

A grade of P indicates that the student has successfully passed the entire exam and is not required to retake any or all of the exam.

A grade of F indicates that the student has failed the entire exam and is not permitted to retake any or all of the exam. An F results in the student being terminated from the program at the end of the regular semester in which the exam is taken. The committee is required to provide the student feedback on why the exam was failed.

An R indicates that the student has failed part or all of the exam and will be permitted to take part or all of the exam one additional time. The committee will provide the student feedback on the specific weaknesses that should be corrected. The committee determines when the retake will be given, but it

must be completed no later than the end of the next regular semester. For the exam retake, the only grades that can be reported are P or F.

If the student wishes to graduate the semester during which the exam is taken, the student must make sure that the grade report is filed before the Graduate School deadline for graduation that semester.

The student has the right to petition for reconsideration.

Failure of the Master's Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation Oral Defense

The masters' thesis and doctoral dissertation represent the culmination of these degree programs. Although failure is unusual, it can occur even with seemingly well-prepared students. Once an exam is scheduled, a grade must be filed with the Graduate School in a timely manner. The only grades that can be reported are P ("Pass"), F ("Fail"), or R ("Retake"). The grade must be filed within two weeks of the scheduled exam date. Failure to turn in a grade defaults to an F.

A grade of P indicates that the student has successfully completed and defended the thesis or dissertation.

A grade of F indicates that the student has not successfully completed or defended the thesis or dissertation. An F results in the student being terminated from the program at the end of the semester in which the exam is taken. The committee is required to provide the student feedback on why the exam was failed.

A grade of R indicates that the student has not successfully completed or defended the thesis or dissertation and that additional work, which may include a second oral defense, is required and permitted. The committee will provide specific feedback on the remaining requirements. The final grade, P or F, filed with the Graduate School by the end of the next regular semester. For an exam retake, the only grades that can be reported are P or F.

It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the final defense with sufficient lead time to meet the Graduate School deadlines for graduation in a given semester.

The oral defense and the dissertation are considered an integrated requirement. It is not possible to pass one and fail the other. The committee should not sign the thesis or dissertation signature page until all requirements, including successful oral defense, are completed, nor should it sign the oral defense report until the thesis or dissertation has been successfully defended.

The student has the right to petition for reconsideration.

Kelso motioned for approval, Marchand seconded, and the motion was passed.

New Business

Environmental Health Concentration in Coastal Environmental Science: Vincent Wilson was present to discuss the Environmental Health Concentration in Coastal Environmental Science proposal. The undergraduate degree program in Coastal Environmental Science has a concentration in Environmental Health. LSU is partnering with the LSU Health Sciences. The LSU Health Sciences in New Orleans requires a 3.0 or above GPA for seniors to enroll in graduate coursework while LSU A&M requires a 3.5 GPA. The School of Public Health accepts students into their program and the students can transfer the courses back to the LSU A&M campus. The School of Public Health decides which students to admit into their program and the LSU Graduate School does not have any policies for these students regarding GPA requirements.

Kelso moved to have the Graduate Council Chair submit a letter of support to the Faculty Senate Courses and Curriculum Committee, Marchand seconded, and the motion was passed.

Graduate School Admissions requirements: In July, the federal government passed a ruling regarding I-20s for international students. If an international student is admitted on probation, ISO may not issue an I-20 for the student. The international student may receive an I-20 if the student is a regular admit or admitted provisionally. A provisional admit is where the student will send in official scores or transcripts and then will be classified as a regular admit. The type of admission must follow what is stated in the Graduate School's portion of the General Catalog. The proposed change is similar to undergraduate admissions and allows exceptions to the policy. The TOEFL requirements cannot be waived.

Other Considerations

Applicants who meet the educational requirements listed in this catalog will be considered for admission. Admission will be denied if requirements listed in this catalog are not met. Admission is not automatically granted when these requirements are met; it may be denied if other factors, in the judgment of university officials, merit denial. Students may appeal admission decisions to the departmental faculty and, with departmental approval, the Dean of the Graduate School. Students failing to meet a requirement of admissions (such as test scores or gpa) may be considered for admission if faculty find that the applicant possesses other skills (e.g., work experience, research experience, etc.) which compensate for the stated requirement.

Kelso motioned to approve, Broussard second, and the motion was passed.

Graduate Certificate in Archival Studies: Edward Benoit in the School of Library and Information Science submitted a proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Archival Studies. Students from the humanities would be trained in archival studies to become an archivist. Council members questioned who was eligible for this graduate certificate and decided to vote via email ballot once additional information was provided.

Clinical Psychology revision of general exam: Frick discussed Psychology's proposal to revise the general exam for the clinical students. The general exam is research based and not just clinical based. The exam is written and oral. The purpose of the change is to balance the practice training and science for the clinical students. During the APA accreditation, it was suggested that the general exam needed to have an increase in the clinical balance and more focus on research.

Kelso moved to approve, Lindau seconded, and the motion was passed.

Dissertation Fellowships: Sean Lane reported that the Graduate School received 40 nominations for the dissertation fellowship. A total of 5 students were awarded. One of the students received the dissertation fellowship and the remaining four received a dissertation assistantship. The dissertation fellowship is for a full year (fall and spring) and the competition for these students was for additional fellowships that were available. In the future, the competition may only occur once for full year dissertation fellowships and if any are available after the fall semester, the committee would go back to the original nominations to grant funds.

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty: No report.

Awards Committee: No report.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51pm.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Michelle Massé, Dean Graduate School