

APPROVED

MAY 01 2019

LSU GRADUATE COUNCIL

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

March 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm with the following members present Lockridge (Chair), Richardson (ex-officio), Wicks (ex-officio), Lee (ex-Officio), Adams, Chance, Cai, Francis, Frick, Gansle, Husseneder, Lindau, Perry, Piccoli, Pojman, Seifried, and Sharky.

The following members were absent: de Queiroz & Raffoul.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The February meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

Chair's Report

- Lockridge announced she would accept nominations for the 2019-2020 Associate Chair.

Interim Dean's Report

- LSU Online: LSU Online: Richardson met to discuss their concierge service. After a productive discussion, all parties agreed the Concierges would advise online graduate students on some matters, but the students will also have a relationship with department representatives and Graduate School staff members.
- Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting: The Faculty Senate will vote on a resolution to have elections to select members. He will announce the results at the next meeting.
- Wicks reported that she received over 700 responses from graduate students to the Climate Survey. The final report will give insight into the type of workshops, services, and programs graduate students need.

Academic Affairs' Report

- No Report.

Old Business

Curriculum Change: Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering

- Sunggook Park, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (MIE) Graduate Advisor, briefly addressed Council members to discuss the revised version of the proposal. Park stated that the proposed change in credit hours still meets SACS requirements, and are common within the college and peer institutions. The faculty recognizes the current uneven student-faculty ratio, but this change will allow students to concentrate more on research and publishing more papers.
- After a brief discussion, Piccoli made a motion to approve the revised version of the proposal, Francis seconded it, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Dissertation Unity Policy

- Richardson explained he included all the suggested revisions made during last month's meeting. Gansle made a motion to approve the revised version of this policy, Seifried seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

New Business

Curriculum Changes: M.S. in Entomology & Ph.D. in Entomology

- Jeff Davis, a professor in the Entomology department, discussed the proposed changes for both programs. The department would like to modernize both curriculums and place more of a focus on research. The department believes the M.S. program will give students more flexibility. The Ph.D. will allow students the opportunity to take required upper-level courses and the time to focus on their dissertation.
- Davis entertained questions from the floor. Gansle suggested fixing the broken web link in the proposal.
- Gansle motioned to approve the M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology proposals, Husseneder seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Letter of Intent: M.S. in Financial Economics

- Cliff Stephens, Director of Graduate Studies, spoke to members the Department of Finance's letter of intent for the M.S. in Financial Economics. This program, offered jointly by the departments of Finance and Economics, will replace the departments' M.S. degrees. The program will provide a better experience and more rigorous training for students.
- Stephens answered questions from members. Gansle inquired about the demand for the combined degree when there is currently none. Stephens stated it is a current challenge, but unable to guarantee an increase in demand. Chance added that this degree could enhance the brand and become more innovative. Lockridge asked if the concurrent degree program, JD/Masters in Finance would go away. Stephens says he is unsure if it would become inactive.
- Adams motioned to approve the letter of intent, Seifried seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Curriculum Change: MSW in Social Work

- Elaine Maccio & Denise Chiasson from the School of Social Work presented a proposal to eliminate the requirement for a non-thesis option. The department proposes a non-thesis option to be comparable to peer institutions. Perry motioned to approve the proposal, Lindau seconded it, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Curriculum Change: MM in Music Theory & Ph.D. in Music Theory

- Jeff Perry spoke about the MM & Ph.D. in Music Theory. The Graduate Council previously approved the course additions for the Musicology curriculum. They are being added to the MM & Ph.D. in Music Theory programs also.
- Gansle motioned to approve the proposal, Piccoli seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Promotion and Tenure:** Chance- The committee reviewed one new hire with tenure case.
- **Graduate Faculty:** de Queiroz- No Report.
- **Awards:** Pojman- The committee finished evaluating Dissertation Year Fellowships and Distinguished Dissertation Awards.

Meeting Adjourned- 2:41 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 1:00 pm in 135 Thomas Boyd Hall.