

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
September 20, 2016

The Graduate Council met at 10:00am in 129 Himes with the following members present: Adams, Broussard, Cai, de Queiroz, Eades, Frick, Kelso, Lane (ex-officio), Lockridge, Marchand, Massé (ex-officio), Page, Perry, and Pojman. Absent members were Chance, Gansle, Lee (ex-officio), Lindau, Mocan, and Ortner

Minutes of May 11, 2016

The minutes from the May 11, 2016 meeting were deferred to the October meeting.

Dean's Report

Budget: A 5% mid-year budget cut is expected. The university has known since July and have been planning accordingly.

Graduate Assistant Stipend: An increase in graduate assistant stipends of a minimum of 3.1% has been issued by the Provost and President. The colleges will receive the money to disburse to their graduate assistants.

SREB and Perkins Fellows: The SREB and Huel Perkins fellows had a joint mixer to meet each other coordinated by the Graduate School Dean.

3MT: The three-minute thesis competition will be held this semester. The student has three minutes to discuss his/her research with one slide directed towards a general audience. On November 2nd, there will be heats to determine the top eight to ten finalists. The media and legislatures will be invited to be judges. The winner will go to the regionals.

Recruiting Fair: On November 17th, the Graduate School will host a recruiting fair. The evening will be for non-traditional/community students. Another event will be held for interested applicants.

Academic Affairs Report

No report.

Chairs Report

New Graduate Council Members: Eades welcomed the new council members: Philip Adams from Physics serving for Science, Steve Cai from Civil Engineering serving for Engineering, Paul Frick from Psychology serving for Humanities and Social Sciences, and William Kelso in Renewable Natural Resources serving for Agriculture. Jinx Broussard representing Mass Communication and Jeffrey Perry representing Music and Dramatic Arts are official members now. Broussard and Perry sat in on council meetings last semester along with the members from their colleges that were leaving the council.

Eades reminded the Graduate Council that they are advisory to the Dean of the Graduate School.

Moodle: The agenda, minutes, and related items will be on the Graduate Council community moodle page a week prior to each meeting.

Awards: A call will be sent out for Dissertation Year Fellowship nominations and Economic Development Assistantship proposals. The Dissertation Year Fellowships will be for the spring 2017 and summer 2017 semesters. The EDAs will be granted for the Fall 2017 semester. Typically, the committee will review 70-80 applications for each award. There will be a few weeks for the committee to review and vote on the nominations and proposals.

Committee Make-Up: The committee make-up could consist of people outside of the council to review since a short time frame. If so, who will determine who to ask to serve. Previous EDA recipients have been asked to serve on the committee in past years. A recommendation was made to ask previous Graduate Council members to review the Dissertation Year Fellowship nominations. Kelso mentioned instead of two nominations from each department, that the college should submit two from the college to eliminate so many nominations to review and having to use external reviewers. Broussard mentioned that colleges have the expertise to vet the nominations to the Graduate Council. There will be a rubric to use as to why the college is making the recommendations. Lane noted that it may be too late to ask the colleges to submit two due to the time limit. Cai suggested that it may be a conflict of interest for the college to submit two nominations instead of the departments. Kelso noted that the number of nominations should be based on the number of PhDs awarded. Lockridge suggested that two committees should be formed. One for each award to assist with the workload. Eades circulated the criteria and evaluation information for the Dissertation Year Fellowship from previous years. The subcommittees will need to develop the criteria, calibration, etc. and meet before voting. Those not receiving the award want a report of why not. Last year those previously awarded the EDA shared with those wanting examples of winning proposals.

Economic Development Assistantship Committee: de Queiroz (co-chair), Marchand (co-chair), Adams, Gansle, Kelso, Lockridge, Mocan, and Ortner.

Dissertation Year Fellowship Committee: Eades (co-chair), Pojman (co-chair), Broussard, Cai, Chance, Frick, Page, and Perry.

Perry moved and Marchand seconded the motion for every Graduate Council member to serve on one of the two committees. The colleges with two council members will be required to have one council member on each committee. The chairs of the subcommittee will use previous guidelines to determine the criteria for this year.

Infoready Software: Lane mentioned that Infoready is a new software that the Graduate School will be using for nominations and proposals to be submitted online. The committee members will also vote online.

Meeting with the Provost: The Provost is meeting with each college. The Graduate Council will meet with the Provost on October 20th at 3:00pm. This will be a strategic planning session with the Graduate Council for the Graduate School. Council members should bring issues for guidance from the Provost. Some examples include: mandated increased enrollment with decrease in funding of graduate stipends, reduction in graduate faculty, graduate student health insurance costs, PM31 residency, etc. The Graduate Council should pick three to four major issues on behalf of the graduate faculty to discuss with

the Provost. Eades mentioned faculty funded grants are harder to get since paying the tuition for the graduate assistants. Adams noted that the university is struggling financially and fringe benefits are difficult to pay on low grants and contracts. Perry mentioned issues with low completion for departments in smaller programs. Departments are now in favor of hiring post-docs. Eades suggested council members ask colleagues what they see as needs.

Old Business

Skype representation at exams and defenses: Council members were asked to submit input to Eades for discussion at the next council meeting. She will compile the list of suggestions and the council will discuss at the October meeting.

Failed general and final exam requirements: Council members were asked to submit input to Eades for discussion at the next council meeting. She will compile the list of suggestions and the council will discuss at the October meeting.

New Business

Executive Session

Standing Committee Reports

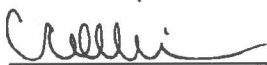
Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty: The graduate faculty nominations submitted to the Graduate Council were voted by email ballot on June 8th. There were thirty-eight research affiliate and nine professional affiliate nominations approved with twelve council members approving the subcommittees recommendations.

Awards Committee: No report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04am.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:

 11/3/16

Michelle Massé, Dean Graduate School