

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **October 30, 2017**

The Graduate Council met at 3:30 pm in Thomas Boyd Hall in Room 135 with the following members present: Adams, Broussard, Chance, de Queiroz, Frick, Gansle, Husseneder, Lane (ex-officio), Marchand, Massé (ex-officio), Page, Perry, and Sharky,

Absent members were Cai, Lee (ex-officio), Lindau, Lockridge, Mocan, and Pojman.

#### **Special Guest**

Broussard introduced a special guest, Provost Richard Koubek, who joined us to discuss the Strategic Plan. He wanted to make sure it was understood that the ten initiatives in the Strategic Plan are not the only ones, but are to be used as examples. In addition, each of the units is being asked propose 5 initiatives that align with the Strategic Plan.

Koubek announced that the LSU Foundation will launch a fundraising campaign based upon the plan the university puts forward in January 2018. The plan is to put \$1 million of the following year's budget towards the initiatives. He says the public's reception to the Strategic Plan has been positive, and reiterated that the design of the Plan was a collaborative effort among faculty, staff, and administration.

Massé stated that it was crucial for everyone present to consider what the Strategic Plan means for graduate education. She encouraged everyone to go back to their colleges and ask what it means for graduate students and staff to be a part of the Strategic Plan. Marchand highlighted that the recommitment to the land-grant university mission calls for involvement from graduate faculty and graduate students. Broussard commented that she thought the emphasis upon LSU as a land-grant institution having an effect upon not just Louisiana, but the world, was commendable. Adams voiced concern about the plan's alignment with the current political climate and public criticism of arts degrees. Koubek stated that as a flagship university, LSU is taking that opposition head on. Sharky asked if there are any plans for cross-disciplinary initiatives, and Koubek stated that further clarification on the value of cross-disciplinary proposals would be communicated to colleges. Koubek thanked the Council for their time.

#### **Minutes of October 5, 2017**

Broussard asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes from the October 5, 2017 meeting. Perry stated that a minor change was needed under the DMA Non-Thesis option, and suggested that DMUS be used consistently. Perry motioned for minutes to be accepted with the changes, Sharky seconded, and the motion passed unopposed.

#### **Academic Affairs Report**

No report.

#### **Interim Vice Provost's Report**

Massé announced that the Council will be contacted about designated representative to attend December commencement services for the colleges. Volunteers are welcome and Goldsmith will confirm representation with colleges. The Graduate School will provide robes if necessary.

### **Chair's Report**

Broussard thanked the Council for going over the items on Community Moodle. She reiterated that these items are a part of the public record and should be reviewed for accuracy. She stated that the last 15-20 minutes will be used for sub-committee progress reports.

### **New Business: Curriculum**

In the last meeting, several curriculum changes were reviewed. Massé will not be bringing forward changes designated by Adding a New Course (Form A), Dropping a Course (Form B), Changing an Existing Course (Form C), or Changing a Rubric (Form R) unless she thinks discussion necessary. The addition of new curriculum, or changes in curriculum, as set forth in PS-45, will still be presented to the Council. She opened the floor for feedback. Chance and Gansle were in agreement that only major items should be presented and that it is not necessary to discuss lesser changes.

Chance made a motion for the Graduate Council not to consider Forms A, B, C, and R. Gansle seconded. The motion passed unopposed. Broussard suggested that the change take effect immediately in light of the day's agenda items, and all agreed.

Writing Pedagogy. Professor Bach asked to be taken off the agenda. Courses and Curricula asked for them to make some changes. Once revisions are made, they will present a revised proposal to the Graduate Council.

### **Old Business**

Revisions to PS-21 on Graduate Assistantships: Three different edited versions were combined in the draft version of PS-21 presented to the Council in both "track changes" and "tracks accepted" formats. The floor was opened for commentary on the revisions.

***Stipends:*** Discussion fell into several groupings on 1) what a minimum stipend should be, 2) whether any stipend minimum should be specified, 3) how colleges were expected to fund such minimums, and 4) the university's role in setting minimums.

***1) Massé*** presented four different sums for the minimum stipend for discussion with the Provost. Last updated in 2004, the total amount for a 20 hours per week (full-time graduate assistantship), 9 month appointment were then set at \$10,800. Those amounts were:

- \$21,500: study from the Graduate School and based on the cost of living in Baton Rouge
- \$17,000: average of Oklahoma Study on peer schools across the US
- \$15,800: Faculty Senate resolution from spring 2017
- \$15,000: online historical converter from worth of \$10,800 in 2004 to worth in 2017

The amount proposed in the revision of PS-21, \$16,000 has been discussed by the Provost and Massé in the context of these suggestions.

***2) Whether*** any stipend minimum should be specified.

- Chance doesn't think the policy should list a minimum stipend. He would rather see a mechanism in place on how these numbers are calculated vs seeing the actual number.
- Sharky is certain that the Provost and President know we aren't competitive.
- Broussard summarized this stage of discussion as whether it is beneficial to set a minimum or not. Her concern is that by not putting it in there is that there is a race to the bottom.
- Page and Gansle thinks the minimum should be listed and possibly tied to inflation.
- Sharky thinks there should be more discussion about the minimum.
- Adams thinks this is a symptom, not a solution.
- Sharky doubts that \$16K will help achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan

### 3) *how colleges* were expected to funds such minimums

- Adams wonders how the university will get stable funding
- Sharky's impression is that, since he has been here, money for assistantships has decreased. The College of Art and Design misses out on highly qualified people because there isn't enough money. What do colleges like his do with a number that can't be reached like \$16K? Massé says this is a Provost question, and probably involves a history of college-specific decisions as well as external funding allocations.

### 4) *the university's* role in setting minimums

- Marchand want to know whether the university should dictate what we tell colleges to do
- Page wonders about college decision making if there is a statement from the Council saying this is what the minimum is
- Massé said that Policy Statements are neither issued from the Graduate Council, nor are we the final approvers of those Statements. In the case of PS-21 on Graduate Assistantships, however, our input and recommendations are crucial.

Other key points of the revision are:

- The question of how and why the amount of hours are observed and enforced.
- The continuing requirement for timesheets.
- Restrictions on external employment. All references to outside employment will be deleted, because there is no way to monitor students working elsewhere. Students wanting to work up to 5 extra hours weekly on campus or in the LSU system will still need special permission from departments, colleges, and the Graduate School.
- Sample letters of offer and annual evaluations will no longer be collected by the Graduate School.
- Individual letters of offer and annual evaluations should be uploaded by the Student Employment Partner to Workday.

Broussard called for an end to discussion, and asked the council to provide specific suggestions and send to Massé for review prior to our next meeting. Massé stated that we seem to be talking about one specific issue, PS-21, and a more general one about the role of the Graduate Council in making recommendations. Broussard asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to draft a

statement on the latter. Adams and Sharky volunteered. Broussard suggested that discussions of statement drafts start within the colleges

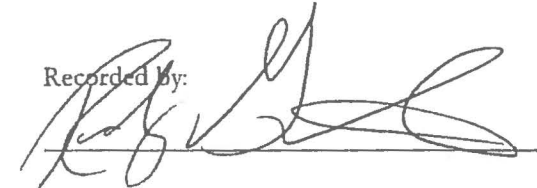
**Sub-committees' Brief Meeting**

- Promotion/Tenure: Chance. None have come in at this time
- Awards: Page. Did meet to finalize language for EDA. Proposals will be assigned.
- Grad Faculty: Lane for de Queiroz. Committee hasn't met. Asked subcommittee meeting to meet and send report in 2 weeks.
- Webpage: Chance for Pojman. John has asked them to review and committee members are submitting suggestions from other school's sites
- Bylaws: Massé. Cassidy will be meeting with colleges and discussing the balance between centralization and decentralization of each colleges, and these discussions, as well as data from the last two years, will be part of policy and Strategic Plan revision.
- Awards Protocol. Broussard suggests that that discussion of current and new awards, as well as their rubrics and protocols, be merged into a single committee. Sue Marchand agreed to join this group

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 from 12:30-2:30pm in 135 Thomas Boyd Hall.

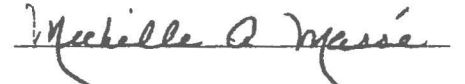
**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:44 pm

Recorded by:



Rodney Goldsmith, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Michelle Massé, Interim Vice Provost of  
Graduate Studies