

GRADUATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2014

Meeting Location: 3007 Converse Hall

Present: Jennifer Branscome, Bonni Cohen, Lorena Cole (for Corine Myers-Jennings), Phillip Dybicz (for Michael Sanger), Matthew Grant, Dixie Haggard (w/proxy for Fred Knowles), E-Ling Hsiao, Lyle Indergaard, Sandra Kregar, Jennifer Lambert-Shute, James LaPlant (presiding), Linda Most, David Nelson, Alicja Rieger, Mel Schnake, Nancy Swanson, Ted Uyeno (for Jim Loughry), Sherman Yehl. Guests: Matthew Lovelace, Rebecca Petrella, Jessica Trautwein, Teresa Williams.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. James LaPlant at 2:03 PM.

Fall Nominations for Graduate Faculty Status were approved.

Minutes from the September 25, 2014 meeting were approved.

Announcement: To those programs that have not done so, please update GRE Scores to new scaling as soon as possible.

College of Arts & Sciences

Course Deactivations: PHIL 5150, 5190, 7100, 7900, 9070 – for informational purposes only.

College of Education & Human Services

Revised Catalog Copy – MED School Counseling: Narrative will refer applicants to the program web site for current admissions requirements instead of the catalog. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposal was approved with changes.

Other Business

1. From the Dean's Council: Deans are preparing a budget exercise –a 5% reduction from each college for FY16. The exercise, or scenario, was requested by the Board of Regents. State revenue is up now, and the plan is to not cut where we are growing – hopefully Valdosta State will be held harmless but it is really in the hands of the state legislature.
2. Introduction: Dr. LaPlant introduced Matthew Lovelace, our new admissions specialist.
3. Marketing Update: Mary Gooding explained that there are three Graduate School marketing programs underway; two are for public radio spots in Georgia and Florida, and the third program is targeting prospective students in Public Administration and Healthcare Administration through LinkedIn. During the last 30 days there were 300,000 people viewing the ads with 200 clicking to VSU's site through LinkedIn. Dr. LaPlant was commended for using year-end funds for these programs. The Ignite campaign is underway; sample ads were displayed. A brochure for undergraduate admissions was distributed. If graduate programs coordinators want to explore marketing they are welcomed to contact Mary Gooding.

4. Graduate Student Travel Awards: To date just over \$5,000 has been awarded in student travel.
5. Graduate Assistantship Allocation: Dr. LaPlant said this will be visited in November, but we know that super sections and labs are fewer due to low enrollment. Our graduate assistantship stipend pool will need to absorb graduate assistantships previously covered by GOML. The Committee also discussed the creation of research assistantships for which faculty could apply.

Topics from the Floor

Dissertation and Thesis Defense – Committee members were asked how many chances students are allowed to defend before being dropped from a program. E-Ling Hsiao said she would ask her department, but usually committees pass with conditions, and dissertation chairs must guide students. Other program coordinators with dissertation or master's programs were asked to relay the question to their departments.

Follow up e-mail from CLT: "Typically, we get the possible problems fixed in the proposal level (ex. research design, literature review, measurement used, reliability and validity issues....), so there should not have any serious problem existed after a proposal defense. Then if the committee members are not satisfied with the final version of the dissertation (the committee members usually get the file 2 weeks before the defense meeting), they can contact the dissertation chair to postpone the final defense meeting and have the student revise or rework the dissertation till it is ready for the defense. The dissertation chair and the researcher have the responsibility to ensure that the dissertation is ready for defense before the official meeting. Leon [Pate] told me that if a student fails in the defense meeting it means that the committee members would be in trouble for not giving the student right direction and advice for doing a dissertation and letting a bad research design go that far. "

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, at 3:00 pm.

Teresa Williams

Teresa Williams, Recorder

James T. LaPlant

James T. LaPlant, Ph.D., Interim AVP for
Research and Dean of the Graduate School