

Graduate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2018

MEETING LOCATION: 3007 Converse

Present: Shirley Andrews, Jeremy Bauer, Luis Bejarano, Serey Bright, Matthew Carter, Maren Clegg-Hyer, JT Cox, Iris Ellis, Matt Grant, Kelly Heckaman, Shannon Lowe, Jerry Merwin, Linda Most (proxy for Dixie Haggard), Anne Price, James LaPlant

Guests: Rebecca Petrella, Ernest Smith, Dominique Harris

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

Minutes from March 22, 2018, were approved.

College of Arts and Sciences

Revised Catalog Copy – Master of Arts with a Major in History: Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposal was approved with minor edits.

Revised Course – MUSC 6510 Song Literature I: Combining courses as this course will cover all relevant material. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposal was approved.

Deactivate Course – MUSC 6520 Song Literature II: MUSC 6520 will be covered in MUSC 6510 I so this course is no longer needed. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposal was approved.

Other Business/Topics from the Floor

1. Faculty Hooding – Remember to line up in the P.E. Complex on Friday, May 4th. Lineup will occur on the mezzanine. Hooding for doctoral students to be performed by their chairs. All master's programs will have 1 hooder no matter the number of graduates. If a program has both EDS and Master's students, then you can have a different hooder for EDS and Master's respectively.
2. Summer GA and Fall GA's – GA questions should come to Ernest. So far we have 43 applicants for the GA Specialist and plan to have the position filled by the end of May. Interviews will take place next week. The new hire will handle GA renewals for the Fall. We have had the most GA requests in years for the summer and can't fund them all for the entire summer. However, we should have all funded for some combination of the summer months even if it just for one month. Remember that even if they only work 1 month, they get the summer tuition waiver applied for the entire summer. There is no

limit to general tuition waivers. However, for out of state tuition waivers for those not on a Grad Assistantship we only get 20. Currently we have pretty much allocated all 20 waivers. Rebecca is still checking to see if we have any left for the Summer. Program Coordinators have to recommend a student for this waiver. There was a general discussion of GA stipends. Our GA stipends are low and we may want to look at raising the stipends in the near future although it would ultimately mean less graduate assistantships if additional funds are not added to the GA Stipend Pool.

3. 3 Minute Thesis Competition – We have a poster session in the Spring and wanted to know if there is a possible interest in a 3-minute thesis competition where graduate students distill info/research down to a 3-minute video that summarizes their research. Possibility to do this in the Spring. We could incorporate into the Graduate Research Symposium. Could be more than just for thesis students. We could expand to be a 3-minute research competition for any graduate student. Would need a fall competition in order for winners to compete in other competitions such as the Georgia Council of Graduate Schools or the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools.
4. Calculation of Undergrad GPA for EdS/Doctoral Programs – The Graduate Executive Committee discussed if we need to require copies of all undergraduate transcripts for graduate students who are applying to doctoral or EdS programs. The GEC was unanimous that we need not require copies of all the undergraduate transcripts for calculation of an undergraduate GPA. The transcript from the final institution granting the bachelor's degree (which would of course show all coursework) would be sufficient. These students also have a graduate GPA which has been established through their master's degree. The GEC noted that transcripts should be provided from all undergraduate institutions attended for those students applying for master's programs. **We may need to suggest revised language for the Graduate Catalog at a GEC meeting this fall to finalize this policy change.**
5. The Radius modules for the electronic submission of graduate program applications as well as the electronic review of applications will be funded on the end-of-the year spending list. Our admissions team will set up a conference call with Kennesaw State, who recently adopted Radius, to discuss lessons learned and best practices for implementation.
6. Early Walkers – Doctoral students must have successfully defended their dissertation and submitted their final copy to the Graduate School by the posted deadline to be included in the program. “Walking early” is just not an option for doctoral students.
7. Analyzing Retention Data – Barrie Fitzgerald pulled together the retention data for Dr. LaPlant. This data pertains to new students enrolled and how many are retained 1 year out. If figures are off for your program, we can consult with Barrie Fitzgerald. NOD stands for Non-Degree. This is a first cut and we can still drill down further to get the data that best helps to inform our programs. Dr. Bauer (I/O Psych) has agreed to do a detailed analysis of the predictors of retention rates for several of our graduate programs (MPA and Communication Sciences and Disorders are interested in

participating). It would be nice to do some regression modeling. Regular vs. Probationary, GA vs. Non-GA, VSU undergrad vs. Non-VSU undergrad, International vs. Non-International, Full-time vs. Part-time, and Fully online vs. Hybrid vs. Face to Face would be some of the key independent variables to predict retention rates across programs. If you want your program involved let us know.

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:03.

Ernest Smith

Ernest Smith, Recorder

James LaPlant

James LaPlant, AVP for Research and Dean of the
Graduate School