

March 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Members Present: R. Cheek, S. France, J. Laudun, D. Linton, A. Magidin, S. McNerny, A. Loewy, P. Sheppard (chair), M. Teutsch, D. Wadsworth, D. Zhao, M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member)

Guests: Dr. Ray Von Robertson, Dr. James Henderson

1. Call to order by P. Sheppard at 2:04 p.m.
2. Unanimous approval of February 11, 2014 meeting minutes.
1. Call to order ..... Dr. Peter Sheppard
2. Approval of March 11, 2014 meeting minutes
3. Announcements:
  - A. The list of March degree candidates was presented.
4. Old Business:
  - A. Criminal Justice request for waiver of letters of recommendation for UL Lafayette Criminal Justice graduates was discussed with Dr. Ray Von Robertson of the Criminal Justice Department. Dr. Robertson explained that the request was motivated by the realities that there a just a handful of faculty in this department, that the faculty are involved in the graduate program and the consideration of applications, and that they often feel they're writing these letters to themselves. The members of the Council expressed concern about waiving this admissions requirement in general and urged the department to consider completing the recommendation form for these students and/or requiring their students to get letters of recommendation from faculty outside of their department. The Council further discussed the merits of having these letters of recommendation as part of the application, including the necessity of having them for applicants who apply for the University Master's Fellowships. Following questions and discussion, Dr. Robertson exited the meeting. Motion made to deny the request by Criminal Justice. Motion seconded and passed.
5. Committee reports:
  - A. Student Appeals: No report.
  - B. Curriculum: No report.
  - C. Fellowships: No report. Motion made to allow the Fellowships Standing Committee to make offers to students before the April Graduate Council meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

D. Graduate Faculty: No report.

6. New Business:

- A. Invited Guest: Dr. James Henderson: General introductions were made between the Graduate Council and Dr. Henderson. Dr. Henderson provided an overview of his time thus far and his approach to understanding policy and authority at UL Lafayette. The Provost also discussed his stance towards the final report and recommendations offered by the University Task Force on Graduate Education Governance and the recommendations that he hoped to implement and those he wished to postpone/deny. A plan was discussed to assess the success or failure of implemented Task Force recommendations in a year's time as a means to generate honest feedback from the Graduate Council and graduate faculty. Dr. Henderson finished by stating that he wished to foster communication between himself and the academic and administrative bodies on campus by encouraging a dialogue when policy, both academic and administrative, is involved. Dr. Henderson was thanked by the Council for his attendance.
- B. Request was considered for emergency appointment to the graduate faculty for the Spring and Summer 2014 semesters for two faculty members from the Chemical Engineering Department. The request explained that a transition in departmental leadership had led to some confusion regarding the application process for new faculty members that led these faculty members to assume that appointment to the graduate faculty was automatic upon their arrival at the University. The request further explained that the faculty members will apply for regular appointment in Fall 2014. The CVs of the two faculty members in question were provided with this request. Motion made to approve the request for an emergency appointment to level 1 graduate faculty status for Spring and Summer 2014. Motion seconded and passed. Request to consider continued appointment of two Communicative Disorders graduate faculty members who will be leaving the University was tabled until the April Graduate Council Meeting.
- C. Discussion of Graduate Certificate Programs rules and regulations was tabled.