

Graduate Council
February 12, 2015
Minutes

Members Present

Lorraine Gaddis	Sheila Adams
Joy Townsend	Johnnie Sue Wijewardane
Brian Anderson	Teresa Hamill
David Carter	Mark Bean
Irene Pintado	Bridget Pieschel
Kendall Dunkelberg	Sue Jolly
Peppy Bidy	Dee Dee Larson
Scott Tollison	

Ex-Officio Members Present

Lynn Dobbs	Marty Hatton
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Guests: Rich Sobolewski

The Graduate Council met on February 12, 2015, in the Welty Boardroom. The minutes of the January meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

Council Actions

College of Education & Human Sciences

1. Modify an Existing Curriculum – Health Education

Irene Pintado presented this proposal noting that HED 570 was added to this curriculum. Sue Jolly made a motion to accept this proposal as presented. Johnnie Sue seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

College of Arts & Sciences

2. Modify Program Requirements -- for MFA Creative Writing
 - GRE requirement

Kendall noted he relies heavily on the writing sample submitted by the student as part of the required documents for graduate admission into the Creative Writing program rather than the GRE. He feels that the GRE requirement would be a roadblock to those students who may not can afford it, or who think they might not be able to pass a certain portion of the GRE and not take it, and therefore, not pursue the degree.

There may be other areas that may not benefit from requiring the GRE but there are some that have to require it for accreditation purposes, Nursing for instance. Global Commerce requires the GMAT which is more costly than the GRE. We may look at possibly changing to a program decision rather than the graduate school overall, whichever serves the program more effectively.

Sheila Adams suggested that we look at Best Practices at other institutions and maintain complete documentation for SACS. We will be looking at other IHL institutions and what they require as well.

The MFA in Theatre does not require the GRE, submitted a similar request and received approval from this committee. Kendall would like to request the same opt-out feature as per the attached memo. Bridget Pieschel made a motion to allow the MFA in Creative Writing to opt-out of the GRE requirement. Peppy Biddy seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

Faculty Credentials

Kendall Dunkelberg presented the following credentials for graduate faculty for MFA in Creative Writing. These faculty will be adjuncts since they would not be full time or tenure track. We will need more creative writing faculty to be able to market the degree.

1. Creative Writing MFA – Cary Holladay
2. Creative Writing MFA – Kris Lee
3. Creative Writing MFA – Sefi Atta

Bridget Pieschel moved to accept these credentials as graduate faculty pending MFA degree in May by Kris Lee. Sheila Adams seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

Old Business

MSU Library Thesis/Dissertation Template

Johnnie Sue Wijewardane sent information in a memo (see attached) requesting more defined information as to what is needed for her contacts at MSU to present. They are willing to build the templates to our specifications. Please review the following links from their website:

MSU Thesis/Dissertation home page: <http://lib.msstate.edu/thesis/>

MSU Formatting Standards: http://lib.msstate.edu/assets/docs/theses-and-dissertations/standards_6th_ed.pdf

Templates: <http://lib.msstate.edu/thesis/templates/>

Fire Engine Red

Rich Sobolewski presented a flow sheet (see attached) of how EMAS and FE Red works with banner for graduate applications and online recommendation letters. There was some discussion following with questions concerning how many people it will take for this to work. Although one person was recommended, there was concern that if that one person was out, who would be able to step in and continue the process. Sheila Adams recommended that any implementation begin in the spring semester rather than the fall.

Graduate Appeals Policy

Marty reminded everyone that the Graduate Appeals Committee policy is coming up for review. Please review the policy for any necessary changes and contact him as soon as possible.

New Business

- Kendall indicated that the terminology for the varied categories of faculty needs to be more defined. For example, students who may be interested in the MFA Creative Writing will look at the website to see who they will be working with. We need to put those faculty as core faculty, proposed new faculty or other term to indicate who will be affiliated with the program.

What would be the best to use? Nursing has permanent part-time faculty. Others might be instructor level, adjunct and full-time faculty.

- Social Media has been turned over to Marty. He will make the group administrators so each representative can manage their department's various accounts.

The following will be reviewed at the next meeting:

- Update – Executive Certificates
- Planning for Campus Graduate Events
- Letters of Recommendation from Campus Sources

Our next meeting is the last meeting to bring forth proposals for submission to the 2015-2016 bulletin. Since this meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2015, during spring break, any proposals submitted by noon March 6, 2015, will be reviewed and approved/tabled online.