

Graduate Council Minutes

August 29, 2017

The Graduate Council met at 12:30pm in 129 Himes with the following members present Adams, Broussard, Chance (conference call), Gansle, Kelso, Lane (ex officio), Lindau, Lockridge, Marchand, Massé, (ex officio), Mocan, Page, Perry, Pojman. Absent members were Cai, de Quieroz, Frick, Husseneder, Sharkey

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 04/24/17 meeting were presented. There were two corrections of the Promotion and Tenure Committee report by Chance: we should also say "assistant to associate," and the last sentence in that report should read "GS Dean" before "Provost." Perry move to approve, Lindau seconded. The minutes were approved with one abstention. That approval also includes email ballots following the 4/24/17 last meeting:

- Election of new Jinx Broussard as new co-chair
- Approval of the Dean's Representative policy

Dean's Report

- **Revision of PS-21 on Graduate Assistantships** – Upcoming this fall
- **TOEFL** – Working with ISO to consider changes in policy to allow exceptions to current criteria
- **Council of Graduate Studies** – Joining the Career Pathways survey as an affiliate member
- **Call Center** – New space in Himes. New call center to handle questions from applicants with respect to Radius.
- **2017 Summer Institute on the Future of Graduate Studies** – Initiatives developed during the summer to be rolled out this year
 - Survey of Graduate Students' Campus Climate
 - Graduate Student Ambassador Program
 - Graduate Student Retention and Advocacy Committee
 - Integration of International Students
 - Preparing Future Faculty
 - Professional Development Initiative

Chair's Report

- Reminder about Graduate Council members' responsibilities

New Business

- Awards Committee (Lane)
 - Lane – Discussed the possibility of having the awards committee focus on policy and criteria for awards. Graduate Council members would serve as reviewers for the Economic Development Assistantship and Dissertation Fellowship competitions, with the exception of members of the Tenure and Promotion Committee
 - Economic Development Assistantship

- Kelso – Should have college-level screening to be able to reduce the number of proposals. Would serve as arbiters of the soundness of the research
 - Pojman – Most awards have been in STEM, an across the board restriction on the number of proposals per college would be unfair
 - Mocan – focus on economic development is not clear. Should focus on academic and scientific merit, and ignore economic development
 - Adams – concern about the serial submissions by faculty. Would be in favor of some restrictions on the number of times you can receive, or the length of time in between awards
 - Kelso – would be interested in limiting to untenured faculty
 - Broussard – thinks that the awards committee should consider the criteria and scope
 - Pojman – Does it make sense for the awards committee to consider all these issues?
 - Promotion and Tenure committee (Chance)
 - Most of what we do is clustered around January, but have been working with new hires over the summer. Also do off-cycle promotion and tenure cases.
 - Advisory committee provides recommendation to the Provost, through the Graduate School Dean
 - Review all materials from promotion and tenure, including new hires
- Expansion of Graduate Council
 - Masse – scheduling a meeting with Faculty Senate to discuss expanding more representation from lower-rank professors and a graduate student. Once those meetings have occurred, she will put forward a proposal to the Graduate Council
 - Gansle – increased size could make it difficult to schedule meetings
 - Chance – we have had difficulty making a quorum, and this could make it worse
 - Lockridge – should be reflective about the potential change. What are the pros and cons? Are there alternatives, such as bringing in more people to serve on specific committees?
 - Marchand – Would like us to think about the burden on faculty that are already asked to serve on committees
 - Perry – would limited terms (e.g., one year) be useful for more junior members
 - Broussard – Should look at the extent to which we can move to more work to these smaller committees, and then perhaps can meet less often as a complete body. In favor of having more voices.
 - Mocan – Some departments like Economics have policies to protect Assistant Professors from service commitments. This is a time intensive service commitment. My department would not send an assistant professor to serve, which would mean that some departments would be represented and not others
 - Adams – could see limiting the involvement of lower-rank members so that load would be reasonable
 - Marchand – would be concerned if served with an assistant professor from the same department

- Chance – believes that assistant professors should not serve as members of the Council
- Revision of By-Laws
 - Masse – we will be doing that this year
- Graduate Council web site
 - Broussard - Make it more streamlined and more appealing. Easily readable and understood. Update the content.
- Visiting departments to discuss the Graduate Council
 - Pojman – Many people do not know what the Graduate Council does, or who their representative is. How do we overcome that?
 - Broussard – Going out to the faculty in department. Attend department meetings, get their feedback and let them know we are their representatives.
 - Adams – College representation of the members should be clear on website
 - Broussard – Should have that and FAQs on website
 - Pojman – Would this be useful?
 - Lockridge – Some department meetings are already fully scheduled. In this case, an email would be more useful
 - Gansle – I don't think department-level faculty would care as much. Already have a good relationship with Associate Dean at College, who would be the most important
 - Lindau – He has done this in the past at meetings, and has not found that faculty are very interested.
 - Adams – many departments do not have a member of the Graduate Council
 - Lockridge – an email to department chairs on a regular basis might be useful
 - Masse – Could also include in college newsletters. Clarifying what it is that the Council does.

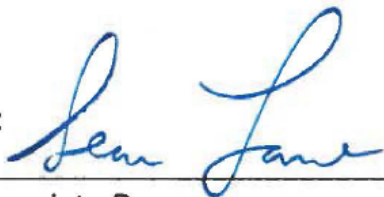
New

- Marchand – Two issues would like to discuss in the future
 - Residency
 - Dissertation and Thesis Editorial process
- Masse –
 - Residency issues have been brought up
 - Suggested that an ad hoc could be formed to address

Lockridge moved to adjourn, Adams seconded. Unanimously approved.

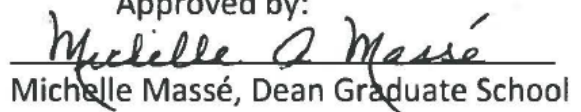
The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Recorded by:



Sean Lane, Associate Dean

Approved by:



Michelle Massé, Dean Graduate School