

GRADUATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2016

Meeting Location: 3007 Converse Hall

Present: Shirley Andrews, Jennifer Beal-Alvarez, Serey Bright, Matt Carter (for Corine Myers-Jennings), Maren Clegg-Hyer (also for Michelle Ritter), Phillip Dybicz, Herb Fiester, Matthew Grant, Dixie Haggard, Jonghoon Kang (for Jim Loughry), Lyle Indergaard, James LaPlant (presiding), Gerald Merwin, Linda Most, David Nelson, Erica Parra (for Luis Bejarano), Anne Price, Mel Schnake. Guests: Samantha Hartman, Rebecca Petrella, Teresa Williams.

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

Minutes from the August 25, 2016 meeting were approved.

College of Education & Human Services

Curriculum Changes and Catalog Copy Changes – EDD Leadership and C&I; New Course – RSCH 9999; Curriculum Change and Catalog Copy Change – Certification Only/ Ed Leadership; Curriculum Change and Catalog Copy Change – EDS in Performance-Based Leadership: Herb Fiester said that the new course was actually a reactivation of an old course so that dissertation hours credit for faculty could be better tracked. The curriculum and catalog changes are the result of updated GAPSC rules. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposals were approved.

Other Business

1. 4 + 1 Programs: James LaPlant said that a pilot program is in the works with Sociology for a 4 year to master's degree program. Other universities (i.e., Emory, FSU, UF, and Clayton State) are using this program. VSU is looking into this option as a way to boost numbers in low enrollment programs. The challenge, however, is that students would not be eligible for HOPE or the Pell Grant. Policies mandate that if the master's degree is not completed here, the courses cannot be transferred elsewhere. Clarification is needed regarding tuition: do students pay graduate or undergraduate tuition? How will the admissions process work – admit conditionally, where a student must complete the undergraduate degree before being fully admitted to the Graduate School? Another concern was online vs. face-to-face courses...allow both, or just online courses? Timeline to implement: must submit a substantive change form, but it does not need approval from the Board of Regents. A fall 2017 roll out is ambitious. Programs possibly interested are Sociology, History, English, Communication Arts, and Athletic Training.
2. Dissertation Database Update: James LaPlant said that his graduate assistant has a short survey ready to go to faculty. The plan is to create a database for students looking for committee members from outside of their major department - hoping to make the database available for spring. A group or task force is being formed consisting of representatives from doctoral programs. The database can also be used for faculty conducting research searching for other faculty with a particular expertise. It will be a collaborative tool.

3. Dissertation/Thesis Handout: Teresa Williams said that a new submission process is being test driven this fall – students will submit their documents to a dedicated e-mail address (gradreviewer@valdosta.edu). This will decrease the number of trips to campus, especially for online students.
4. The Graduate Student Fall Forum has been postponed to next fall. It is hoped that the event can be a 3-minute research project competition, open to masters and doctoral students and include thesis, dissertation, and other project research.
5. Graduation: Fall graduation is scheduled for Friday, December 9 at 7 pm in the PE Complex. Lineup will begin at 5:30 in Jennett Hall and the Ed Center lobby. It is hoped that one person from each program will be able to hood. Dissertation chairs can hood their students, as usual. More details to follow.

Topics from the Floor

1. Fraudulent Test Scores: Rebecca Petrella said that there have been three cases of fraudulent IELTS scores from international applicants. VSU now has the capability to check and verify scores.
2. NC-SARA Consortium: A map is available showing the states with authorization reciprocity agreements, but Florida is still not on the list. The link will be forwarded to GEC members.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, at 3:10 pm.

Teresa Williams
Teresa Williams, Recorder

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