

Graduate Council
October 30, 2009

Meeting Minutes

I. Opening Remarks and Lunch

Dean Larry Lyon called to order the regular meeting of the Graduate Council at 12:00 p.m. on October 30, 2009, in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. Dr. David Sturgill, from Computer Science, gave the invocation.

II. Attendance

Graduate Council Members Present: Rodney Bowden, David Corey, Steve Dworkin, Gary Elkins, Charles Garner, David Garrett, Baudelio Garza, Barry Hankins, Chris Kearney, Myeongwoo Lee, Dorothy Leidner, Mark Morman, David Music, Bill Pitts, Matt Stanford, Ron Stanke, Amanda Sturgill, David Sturgill, Michael Thompson, DeAnna Toten Beard, Joseph White, Walter Wilcox.

Substitutes and Visitors Present: Steve Eisenbarth (Engineering), Bethany Smith (student award winner), Angela Douglass (student award winner), James Stamey (Statistics), Elizabeth Roberts (Philosophy), Linda Plank (Nursing), Lori Spies (Nursing), Suzanne Wood (Health & Bus. Admin.), Karen Mittendorf (Business), Joe Yelderman (Env. Sci.), Dianna Vitanza (English), Anna Henderson (Graduate School).

Graduate School Deans Present: Larry Lyon, Ken Wilkins, Denny Kramer.

Unable to attend: Lee Bewley, Tom Bratcher, Bryan Brooks, Gary Carini, Robyn Driskell, Doug Ferdon, Len Gruppo, Ken Hafertepe, Jay Losey, Chris Marsh, Josef Moore, Jacque Neatherlin, Bob Roberts, Lori Sigrist, Laine Scales.

III. Recognition of Outstanding Graduate Student Teachers

Graduate School Dean, Larry Lyon, presented plaques to the winners of the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award. The students receiving recognition included Bethany Smith (*English – Jay Losey, GPD*), and Angela Douglass (*Physics – Walter Wilcox, GPD*). Dr. Dianna Vitanza accompanied Ms. Smith since Dr. Losey was unable to attend.

IV. Discontinuing the Printed Catalog: Discussion & Vote

Graduate School Dean, Larry Lyon, explained that it would be possible to save over \$10K by not printing the graduate catalog. Dr. Ken Wilkins added that many universities are no longer printing catalogs, but have them online only. He stated that there are many reasons for making the change: the money saved can go to other important things like student travel awards and recruiting, and having a digital version is environmentally friendly.

Dr. White asked about archiving past copies of the catalog, and Dr. Wilkins responded that each year's catalog would be archived digitally as pdf file and would remain a static copy. The catalog under which a student enrolls in the university would be kept accessible to students. Currently we have three years of archived catalogs accessible. Dr. Kramer added that as many years as desired can be made accessible.

Dr. White made the motion to accept the proposal for discontinuing the printed catalog. The motion was seconded. Proposal to discontinue printing the catalog was passed.

V. Formation of Committee: GPD Appointment, Compensation, and Assessment

Dr. Lyon pointed out that the process for electing GPDs varies widely across departments. The process seems to be mostly based on tradition...how we've always done it. He said that the Graduate School would like to bring some standardization to the process and to make more resources available since the responsibilities for GPDs are greater. The best way to make sure the support and assessment of GPDs is meaningful is for the GPDs to take the lead in organizing the process. Some of you have already been asked to serve on an ad hoc committee to look into the process by which GPDs are appointed, compensated, assessed. The Graduate School will be trying to get a meaningful set of recommendations – starting with Arts & Sciences and the School of Education since they have the most GPDs. Rodney Bowden and Robyn Driskell will be a part of this committee, but we would like for more of you to be involved. Anyone who wants to serve please send Rodney an email.

Dr. Bowden added that the committee will make an effort to create compensation and standardize the process. He assured all that the committee would be very intentional with the time invested. He said that he was looking forward to working with those who have volunteered.

VI. The State of the Graduate School

Dean Lyon reported that the goal to double the number of applications since 2002 started out well, but that the current numbers are now tracking below the goal on both PhD and total apps. He said that the goal for overall enrollment is 1650. The goal for doctoral enrollment is 540. The goal for doctoral enrollment has nearly been met. GRE and GMAT scores both show us to be on track. The average GRE score for Philosophy doctoral students averaged just over 1400 for the 1st time in Baylor history. According to the GRE Gap data, the Clinical Psychology program has GRE scores 300 points higher than the national average. The travel awards program is growing – we have publicized the program better than before and have opened it up to master's students. Regarding graduate student and faculty teaching assessments – graduate students continue to score higher than faculty, and this indicates we are in good shape. The Quadrangle apartments are now occupied with 100% grad students, and beginning this fall we will have our 2nd all graduate housing community with 1 BR apartments Half students already graduate students. In accordance with the vision of Baylor 2012, the quality of graduate education is increasing.

VII. New Degree Proposal: Doctoral Program in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Ken Wilkins brought to the Council a recommendation from the Graduate Curriculum Committee to approve two new doctoral programs for Baylor. The first is a Doctoral Program in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Representatives were asked to present a brief overview. The proposal was sent to you via email a few weeks ago.

Dr. Michael Thompson spoke in some detail regarding the proposed PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering:

the potential for positive things engineers can do, the coming development of the research park (BRIC) – and the engineers who are responsible for its technology & financial development. Baylor has the opportunity to jump into this category along with UT, A&M, and Rice. In good shape to start this in electrical engineering. All other universities in the Big XII have Engineering PhD programs. There is great potential for Engineering to attract research funding. The 10 Baylor Engineering faculty members have been fairly active in research.

Dr. Steve Eisenbarth spoke about program goals – building a program that is nationally recognized, building a doctoral program that is research intensive, a focus on Christian leadership in the discipline. The PhD would tend to strengthen the undergrad program also. The proposal includes aggressive faculty hiring. Curriculum – 60-75 hours is the national average in PhD programs. Baylor would start its program at 60 hours. The

program would face some challenges with space in Rogers building being limited, but would be targeting some space in Marrs McLean and at the new BRIC.

Drs. Eisenbarth and Thompson fielded several questions:

Q. What about an environmental program?

A. Environmental is something we are looking at down the road..assimilating other programs.

Q. Curriculum?

A. A minimum of 6 semester hours outside ECE would be math, ethics oriented courses. Nature of engineering is much broader than most programs.

Q. The number of faculty hires is contingent on what? Is the money for that coming from direct investment of the university?

A. We will graduate 5-6 per year. Undergraduate enrollment is also growing. Need to recruit a broad range of students and need to focus on American students.

Q. Current faculty all tenure track? Will it affect the grad school budget, stipend, etc?

A. Dr. Lyon answered that it will not affect the graduate school's stipend budget – we will get a bigger pie to start with. Cost for faculty is considerable and the number is considerable. If metrics are not met then faculty hires are not approved. Engineering understands that as does the Provost. When I first saw this proposal I didn't think the expense was justifiable, but the public universities are discovering that there is no way they can win at USNWR rankings. They are pushing for recognition of research universities...external funding for research metrics. We don't have a med school. That source of research funding is closed to us. We have the BRIC coming online and have a chance to begin to play in the game. It is a major initiative...probably the biggest academic research grad education initiative we have had since the launch of 2012. After thinking about it for a long time I am excited about the proposal. It can raise our research profile across the nation.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee recommends support.

Voting Results: 21 in favor, 5 not in favor, 1 abstained. The proposal passed Graduate Council with recommendation of support.

VIII. New Degree Proposal: Doctor of Nursing Practice, Nurse Practitioner (Family and Neonatal Concentrations)

Dr. Linda Plank and Lori Spies mentioned that it is becoming mandatory for nurse practitioners to have a doctoral degree. This new degree will plug in the family and neonatal concentrations into our existing DNP degree. Lori Spies pointed out that patient care is becoming more complex all the time. Nurse practitioners are more competitively priced. This degree will make the Nursing School more competitive in the national market with these specialization areas. There will be no additional cost or faculty. All of the courses are already being taught.

Q. Are you saying that because of changes in the profession there is not a function for a non-doctoral Nurse Practitioners?

A. L. Spies – that is what we expect in future...mandated by 2015 by accrediting bodies.

Q. How many other schools are competing?

A. UTA and TWU and TCU.

Q. Do persons with this degree use the title “doctor,” and do the MDs respect that?

A. In some states it is illegal because physicians think they own the word. We are very careful. Many MDs appreciate the expertise the DNP's bring to the field. In New Mexico there are even independent Nurse

Practitioners who hang out their own shingle. It is in a legislative battle right now. DNP's must often seek permission for what they want to do.

Grad Curriculum Committee recommends support.

Proposal passed Graduate Council: All in favor; none opposed.

IX. Council for Undergraduate Research

Walter Wilcox spoke about Baylor accessing this registry. Dr. Lyon mentioned that it is something that Truell Hyde recommends. It is a resource for recruiting season at no cost to the department. Council of Undergraduate Research can identify students who are likely to go to graduate school. An email with further information will be going out soon to all GPDs of the programs represented.

X. New Benefits for TORs

Dr. Lyon gave an overview of new benefits for TORs. Insurance coverage for master's level TORs has been added. There will also be dining vouchers to encourage the TORs to eat with their students...5 vouchers per semester. Another new benefit will be a paid parking permit. All of this is in line with what the competition is doing. GPDs can go ahead and let the TORs know about these new benefits. Note that these benefits will not apply to grad students who are fully supported from external grants and are not teaching – you would have to build these benefits into the external grant.

XI. Announcements and Closing Comments

Dr. Lyon reminded everyone who wishes to do so to fill out a stipend/tuition increase request form by Nov. 20 to request an increase for FY 2011. Humanities and Social Science programs do not need to submit a request since they are already getting an increase. For those of you who fill out the form, there will be a meeting with the Provost on Dec. 1 to make your case.

The PhD in Social Work has passed the Baylor Board of Regents. It will launch in 2011. At that time the SSW PhD will come under the Graduate School umbrella with its own GPD.

DScOT also passed the Regents. No cost to Baylor for that program.

The Dean's assessment launches next week. Dr. Lyon mentioned that he is especially interested in the assessments from the GPDs. The assessment responses will be anonymous. Dr. Lyon encouraged the GPDs to take the time to type out a few things it might be good for him to know.

In your notebook are copies of the program profiles that were sent out a few weeks ago. We are still planning on further enhancements to the document.