

GRADUATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2014

Meeting Location: 3007 Converse Hall

Present: Jennifer Branscome, Eric Chambers (for Jim Loughry), Matthew Grant, Dixie Haggard (w/proxy for Fred Knowles), E-Ling Hsiao, Lyle Indergaard, Lana Kim (for Jennifer Lambert-Shute), Sandra Kregar, James LaPlant (presiding), Ellice Martin, Linda Most, David Nelson, Michael Sanger, Nancy Sartin (for Alicja Rieger), Mel Schnake, Nancy Swanson, Sherman Yehl. Guests: Shirley Andrews, Rebecca Petrella, Jessica Trautwein, Teresa Williams.

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

Minutes from the August 25, 2014 meeting were approved.

Announcement: To those programs that have not done so, please update GRE Scores to new scaling as soon as possible.

College of Education & Human Services

Request for New Program – K-5 Mathematics Endorsement & New Courses – ECED 6010, 6020, 6030: Shirley Andrews said that the proposals are based on school districts requesting that Valdosta State's COEHS offer elementary teachers STEM endorsement courses. The GaDOE awarded the COEHS a \$200,000 grant to develop and offer the program. Courses are taught in ECSE, all online with strong pedagogy content. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposals were approved.

Request for New Program – K-5 Science Endorsement & New Courses – ECED 6110, 6120, 6130: Nancy Sartin explained that this program is offered under the same grant as the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposals were approved.

Other Business

1. Enrollment Update: The Graduate School is pleased to announce a 3.1% increase for fall 2014 graduate enrollment compared to last fall. Marketing efforts from this office and various programs have paid off! We hope to have Mary Gooding at our next meeting so she can share what we are doing now with marketing.
2. Commencement Update: There is a "good" chance the graduate student commencement ceremony will be reinstated in the spring, but no final decision has been made yet. Tentatively, undergraduates will have a 5:00 pm ceremony and the graduate student ceremony will be at 8:00 pm on Friday night. The spring ceremony would also have three undergraduate ceremonies on Saturday. December's combined graduation format will remain the same with three ceremonies on Saturday, December 13 – students line up in Jennett Hall and then walk over to the PE Complex.
3. Graduate Student Travel Awards: Last year, the Graduate School supported 13 students traveling to present at conferences. An announcement about this year's funding will go out shortly. There is \$5,000 in the pool, and a student must be presenting to be eligible. This award can be used as a marketing tool.

Topics from the Floor

Graduate Faculty Applications: The Graduate School has received 20 applications for renewal of appointments, and 15 applications for first-time appointments. Digital Measures seems to be working as faculty generate reports. More tweaking will be done to the process.

Graduate Faculty Scholarship Fund Applications: So far, seven applications have been received. The deadline to submit applications is October 10.

Writing Quality Task Force: The committee is working in Qualtrics to evaluate faculty perceptions of graduate student writing quality. An electronic survey will go out to faculty in October. Michael Sanger said the MSW program worked with the Student Success Center to evaluate new students' writing – excellent feedback from Dr. Chere Peguesse and her staff.

VSU Undergraduates Application Fee Waivers: Question was asked – are there application fee waivers for undergraduates wanting to apply to graduate school? Rebecca Petrella said they could attend upcoming events and receive paper applications and fee waivers (the Graduate School will have tables at the Grad Finale on October 7 and 8, and the Graduate & Professional Student Fair on October 14).

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, at 3:00 pm.

Teresa Williams

Teresa Williams, Recorder

James T. LaPlant

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