

ULM Graduate Council Minutes

Hemphill Hall 316

23 July 2015

10:00 a.m.

Present: Jana Giles(Chair), Patti Calk (Secretary), Paul Sylvester, Amy Dagley, Donna Luse, Jack Palmer, Leonard Clark (Director, Graduate School), Donna Cary (Graduate School)

Absent: Amal Kaddoumi, Attapol Kuanliang, Kim Marie Tolson, Carl Kogut

I. Preliminary, Old, Initial Business:

None

III. Graduate Faculty Recommendations:

A. None

IV. New Business:

A. Absentia Policy Clarification

Graduate school needs to have approved documentation of completion of thesis/dissertation before student can register for absentia.

B. Council agreed that Appeals and Graduate School documentation should be posted to Moodle 72 hours prior to Graduate Council meeting.

C. Dr. Rick Stevens: Query re: Psychology Doctoral Students Committee Composition regarding whether faculty from another field can serve as chair.

1. The committee discussed the topic and agreed that the current policy, which requires that the chair be a member of the student's program or field of study, be maintained.

D. Appeal for Admission, Readmission, and Continuance

1. Dr. Rick Stevens—Clarification requested regarding Appeal for Admission Readmission and Continuance, specifically the need for a faculty letter of support in the case of an appeal for admission (as distinguished from readmission or continuance)

2. Donna Luse provided a handout of the current wording in the catalog, titled "Appeals for Readmission"

Tabled until Aug. 2015 meeting:

a) Discussion regarding whether a separate category of "Appeal for Admission" to be added to the catalog for purpose of clarity

b) Discussion regarding whether in cases of "Appeal for Admission" we wish to recommend that students solicit documentation of support from the program, which the program may or may not choose to provide.

c) The outcome of this decision should be reflected in the new "Checklist" for appeals (see below).

d) This topic was discussed in a Grad Council meeting several months ago. The Council felt that in borderline cases it would be useful to know if the student was a desirable candidate for the program they wished to enter, thus the need for supporting documentation from the program was recommended. Suggest that councillors review past minutes.

E. Discussion of recommendation that, regarding Admissions, the Graduate catalog and web page change wording from

- “Some programs have additional requirements for taking courses under non degree status” to
- “Some programs have additional requirements and/or exceptions to requirement for taking courses under non degree status”.

F. Agenda Item for Aug. 2015: (Tabled in July)

Discussion of policy regarding whether a person should be suspended/denied continuance based on more than 6 hours of “C” rather than the current determination of the 3.0 GPA cutoff.

1. It was recommended that, in advance of the next meeting, councillors investigate practices at other universities, and that Dr. Clark investigate any possible state requirements.
2. The question was raised whether such a change was manageable given Banner and certain restrictions in the registrar’s office. It was recommended that discussion with the registrar take place in advance of the next meeting.

G. Agenda Item for Aug. 2015: (Tabled in July)

Checklists for cases reviewed by the Council: (Draft attached)

1. These would provide the Graduate School a set of guidelines for documents needed by the Council to adequately evaluate cases.
2. The checklists would provide subcategories (Appeal for Admission vs. Appeal for Readmission, for instance).
3. The checklists would be created in cooperation between the Council and the Graduate School office

H. Agenda Item for Aug. 2015: (Tabled in July)

If the Council seeks more information about the denial of an appeal, how should such information be presented if the details are confidential or legally problematic?

- 1) Do we seek this information in writing?
- 2) Can written support be provided in the meeting but not attached to Moodle?
- 3) Do we seek verbal testimonial from campus faculty or administrators?
- 4) Do we need specific information, or will a general statement be sufficient?

Meeting adjourned: 12:00 noon

Motion to adjourn Donna Luse- Approved by Council