

May 6, 2016

Graduate Policy Committee

2014-2015 Annual Report

Based on our charge from the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Policy Committee conducted work in three main areas this year: (1) the review of graduate programs across campus, (2) the consideration of new graduate program proposals, and (3) the discussion of graduate academic policies that affect university-wide programs.

(1): Eleven graduate programs were reviewed by the GPC in 2015/2016: Communication, Physics, Earth, Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (EOAS), Computer Science, Theatre, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics,, Law, Music, Nursing, Psychology, and Communication Science and Disorders.

(2): Three proposals to explore or implement new programs were approved. Proposals to explore programs for a PhD and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering and for a M.A. in Asian Languages and Culture were approved. The proposal to implement a LLM program in Business Law was approved.

(3): The GPC discussed a number of policy issues related to graduate programs. Some of the significant issues discussed included:

A. Provisional Graduate student policies and procedures were reviewed. The GPC formulated and passed clarifications on procedures for provisional graduate students. The revisions were approved by the Faculty Senate.

B. The GPC considered a leave of absence policy. No such policy has existed at FSU. The policy specifies conditions where a graduate student may request a leave and the process for approval of a leave. A student on leave would be exempted from the continuous enrollment policy. Limits are placed on the length of leave. Students on approved leave would retain their status in their programs. The policy was passed by the GPC and the Faculty Senate.

C. The GPC discussed granting of Graduate Teaching Status to postdocs. Currently, postdocs must obtain a courtesy appointment to teach graduate courses. An amendment to policy was developed and passed by the GPC. The amendment would provide a procedure and required approvals for a post doc to be given GTS on a course by course basis. The Faculty Senate approved the amendment.

D. The GPC discussed policy regarding the language of the dissertation. The GPC approved a policy that specifies that the dissertation should be in English unless there was a scholarly rationale for having the dissertation in a language other than English. A process was specified for approval of the use of a foreign language. All members of the dissertation committee would need to be fluent in the language. The defense would be in English. The GPC and the Faculty Senate approved the proposal.

E. The College of Business requested a waiver of the GMAT requirement for applicants to the Masters of Accounting proposal if applicants met certain criteria. The GPC passed the proposal.

F. The GPC reviewed the doctoral residency requirement. The requirements of other institutions were studied. The Committee developed the concept of academic engagement to replace the residency requirement. Academic engagement requires students to be actively engaged in academic pursuits on or off campus. After extensive discussion by the GPC and members of the Steering Committee, a proposal was passed and sent to the Faculty Senate. The proposal was tabled by the Senate. The GPC

reviewed the concerns of the Senate in the Fall of 2015. Language was added to require any new program with more than 50% online course work or any existing program that makes changes that result in more than 50% online course work to seek GPC approval for the program. The amended proposal was passed by the Faculty Senate.

For the GPC,

Lee P. Stepina, Chair