

GRA. Research Assistants and fellowship tuition issues continue to be discussed with the faculty. A reduction in cost for RA tuition will be recalculated every year based on the Budget and Planning figures on assistantships.

Fellowship tuition is being worked on by Byerly and Tom Klei. Donna Torres reports that 20% of students are on fellowships. The national average is 25%. LSU has less than 20% of students on fellowships. Fellowships are provided by the State Budget Board, National Science Foundation (NSF), NASA, etc. by other sources. The Graduate School should encourage, find, and assist students in obtaining fellowships. This would increase the strength of the Graduate School.

Several departments sent all of their fall applications over the weekend requesting to expedite the admissions process so the department could make offers to the students. Currently, the Graduate School has a 7.3% increase in the number of applications received. The time to process applications is currently 10 weeks. The Graduate School should consider a 5% increase in the number of applications received.

st. Some departments are moving the fall application deadline. For example, Psychology has moved the deadline to 0.003 months.

Chairs Report

The new grade policy will begin next fall. Graduate students need to complete the necessary work to have the grade changed by the last day of classes for the following regular semester. For example, 1st grades in the fall have until the last day of classes in the spring semester. 2nd grades in the fall have until the last day of classes in the spring semester.

Hirschheim moved for approval, Euba seconded, and the motion was carried.

TOEFL changes in the Graduate Bulletin have been revised with recommendations from Nardo. The wording should be consistent with what is listed for undergraduate students. The wording is a bit different for international students with understanding the requirements for admission.

Hirschheim moved for approval, Nardo seconded, and the motion was carried.

Routine Business

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty: No report.

Awards Committee: The committee is reviewing the nominations for the dissertation fellowships. Their recommendations will be sent to Byerly on April 13.

Old Business

Master Degree Changes: has been deferred to the April meeting.

New Business

Economics Degree Changes

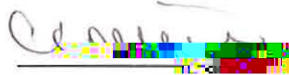
Areendam Chanda discussed the proposal the Economics Department submitted to the Graduate Council for approval. The PhD structure is odd compared to peer universities. Compared to these universities, LSU is not a competitive market. Students enter the program after have taken the masters level courses or a strong undergraduate background in MATH or ECON. On average, students in economics doctoral programs complete the degree in five and half years. LSU Economics students complete in six to seven years. The department is requesting a reduction of six course hours, which would allow students to graduate earlier. The current required hours is 45 and the proposed amount is 39.

The department also recommends that the general exam be allowed earlier in the student's academic program to be comparable to peer universities. The department would like to move the qualifying exam (general exam) to the end of the student's first year. The department will recommend to the student to enroll as a master's degree student if not ready after the general exam. The student would be required to take the two courses that are being reduced in the PhD curriculum. Currently the general exam is at the beginning of the fourth semester. Students are required to write a third year paper which assists them with research and preparing for their dissertation. The third year paper is defended in front of the department. After the presentation, the student begins to write his/her dissertation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by:

Approved by:





Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Cary Beverly, Dean, Graduate School