
6. Cost of fringe benefits to pay graduate assistant's tuition is an excessive burden on grants. As a result, many researchers are unable to include graduate student support grants. A portion of the fringe benefits goes to pay unfunded accrued liabilities which does not benefit graduate education directly.

The discussion also included the following:

1. Grants can hire postdocs to save money rather than hiring a graduate assistant.
2. Graduate education is all about financial needs to support graduate students.
3. The number of graduate faculty members is down due to funds being dedicated to other things instead of faculty lines and tenure-track lines.
4. The minimum stipend amount per PS is \$10,800 for a nine-month appointment which does not include fees. Each department varies on the minimum stipend.
5. The recent raise was for only graduate assistants' soft money and not those funded by grants.
6. Instead of increasing enrollment, how about increasing stipends and work with the graduate students currently enrolled.
7. Since resources are already limited, issues need to be identified as well as ways to fix issues.
8. The Provost already has data on comparing LSU to other schools on stipends, fees, tuition, etc.
9. The goal of the meeting is to stabilize graduate cost, increase enrollment of higher caliber graduate students, and increase stipends. Also, to obtain additional funds for grants, explore tuition waivers, strategic planning of recruitment, and out-of-state tuition waivers.
10. Masters programs need to accept international students through programs like Shorelight and share revenue, graduate faculty lines, and generate additional funds for the departments from non-resident fees and tuition since these students pay both.
11. What are the incentives for faculty to increase enrollment, stabilize enrollment, and increase stipends?

Eades will strategically revise topics and send electronically the Graduate Council members prior to the meeting with the Provost.

Commencement: Each council member needs to attend the college commencement ceremony and those ceremonies without representatives need to have another council member attend. Gansle noted that each council member should attend three ceremonies every two years, which would be equal for all council members.

Old Business

Skype representation at exams and defenses: Kelso presented a proposal for Skype representation on general and final exams. The policy is reasonable and will work with permission of the Dean of the Graduate School. Only one person may participate remotely. The director or student may request permission to participate remotely only under extraordinary circumstances. The department must request permission from the Graduate School prior to the exam. The dean's representative may not participate remotely.

Remote Participation in Graduate Committees: DRAFT

A single committee member can participate in a Master's Exam, a Doctoral Degree Audit and Request for General Examination, or a Doctoral Final Exam remotely through VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) programs such as Skype upon receiving permission from the Graduate School. The program chosen must permit real-time, two-way exchange of visual information (e.g., presentation slides) and dialogue among the committee members and the student. Remote participation is for rare circumstances in which physical presence would be unfeasible. The individual participating remotely cannot be the director or the student except under extraordinary circumstances.

The responsibility for arranging, testing, and assuring operative connection and time-zone arrangements rests upon the student and the director. The form requesting Skype participation must be completed and submitted to the Graduate School along with the request for examination at least three weeks prior to the date of the examination and by the current semester deadline for graduation, if applicable.

Kelso will revise the document and circulate it to the Graduate Council for additional comments.

Failed general and final exam requirements: Chance noted there is no clear policy on failed general and final exams.

Failure of the Master's Exam, Doctoral General Examination, or Doctoral Final Exam: DRAFT

The Master's Examination, Doctoral General Examination, and Doctoral Final Examination are major milestones in a graduate student's professional path. Although failure is unusual, it can happen even with seemingly well-prepared students. Once any exam is scheduled, a result is filed. That result can be P ("Pass"), F ("Fail") or D ("Delayed").

If a committee agrees that a student's work shows a minor issue a "D1," which will delay submission of material for one week while minor revisions are made (e.g., proofreading for a thesis or dissertation) or a "D2," which will delay re-taking of the examination to the end of the next semester. (N.B.: In some fields, depending upon the agreement of the committee, this may involve new course work to address deficiencies.)

The student can take any of these examinations no more than twice. If the student fails the second attempt, the student is considered terminated from the program at the end of the second examination semester. The student has the right to petition for reconsideration.

Proposed Revisions for 10/11/16 Graduate Council Meeting

Suggestion: "At least 2 weeks." (faculty member in Science)

Suggestion: Change text to "the student is considered terminated from the program at the end of the semester during which the second attempt of the examination occurs."

Suggestion: Delete "The student has the right to petition for reconsideration." (faculty member in Science)

Suggestion: Add a sentence about how the student is not allowed to schedule the last allowable attempt of the exam/defense until all members of the Committee have met with and approved the remediation process, the details of which have to be provided to the student in writing within a week of the exam/defense that they fail. (faculty member in Science)

Suggestion: "Some departments might like a policy that permits passing in one or more areas and failing in one or more other areas, with a retake of the failed portions relatively soon. . . . Perhaps the solution would be a grade such as D3 (retake a portion of the exam within a few months), rather than a D2, waiting an entire semester." (Don Chance)

Additional discussion included:

1. Allow flexibility with the departments
2. Pass entire exam, but be allowed to make minor edits
3. Failure with remediation-allowed to retake exam with

11. The dean's representative would still be responsible for seeing that the exam was appropriate and meets the Graduate School's requirements.

Ganlse moved to separate this policy into two different documents. One for general exams and non-thesis final exams and the other for thesis final exams and doctoral final exams. Broussard seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. Chance will make revisions for council members to review and vote.

Academic Actions Policy Proposal: Lane presented the proposal on behalf of the Graduate School. The plus/minus change created issues with academic actions.

Proposal for a change in cumulative GPA requirements as they relate to Graduate School Academic Actions (probation, academic drop and permanent drop)

According to current Graduate School policies, a graduate student with a cumulative graduate GPA below 2.75 but above 2.50 is placed on probation. A graduate student with a cumulative graduate GPA below 2.75 but above 2.50 receives an academic drop, while graduate students with a cumulative graduate GPA below 2.50 are permanently dropped by the Graduate School.

The proposed changes reflect the new +/- grading scale. A graduate student with a cumulative graduate GPA below 2.75 but above 2.50 (B- to A-) will be placed on probation. A graduate student with a cumulative graduate GPA below 2.75 but above 2.50 (B- to A-) will receive an academic drop, while graduate students with a cumulative graduate GPA below 2.50 (C+ to F) will be permanently dropped by the Graduate School.

Academic Drop

- 2AP Academic Drop – Student had a cumulative GPA below a 3.00; admit on probation
- 2OP Academic Drop – Student had a cumulative GPA below a 2.75; admit on probation
- 2DR Academic Drop – Consecutive semester where cumulative GPA remained between a 2.75 and a 2.50
- 2AV Academic Drop – Student's cumulative GPA dropped below a 2.75, but remained higher than a 2.50
- 2UR Academic Drop – Student received second U grade in research hours.
- 2AI

Recorded by:

Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:

Michelle Massé, Dean Graduate School