

Faculty Senate Meeting
December 5, 2014

Report from the Graduate Council

At our December 3rd meeting, the Council approved 2 requests for Affiliate Graduate Status. The Council also supported 3 curriculum proposals from the College of Business and 1 curriculum proposal from the College of Social Sciences and Communication.

Discussion continued regarding format issues with the current application for Graduate Status. In January, the Council plans to move forward with a new form that is streamlined, available as a Google Doc that can easily be edited and printed for final signatures, and submitted electronically.

The Council completed work on a new policy for graduate admission and has forwarded the proposal to Faculty Senate. By changing from 12 to 9, the number of hours from which the Graduate School evaluates students for full admission, graduate students can be considered for graduate assistantships after a single semester as opposed to no less than a year per the current policy. Thus, this change should attract and retain more graduate students who factor graduate assistantship opportunities into their process of selecting programs to enroll.

Dean Casey shared that all graduate students eligible to register for the spring semester are receiving emails to encourage them to contact their advisors and continue with their degree aspirations. Applications for Graduate School continue to be significantly higher compared to this time last year and the process for completing the approval process is working much more efficiently due to new automated processes. With regard to marketing, Dean Casey encouraged all graduate program coordinators to take advantage of the Graduate School's ability to distribute mass email blasts using listservs already created by departments and programs. For more information about this opportunity, contact Larry Beachler in the Graduate School (lrbeachler@ualr.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Layton, Chair
Associate Professor of Reading
Department of Teacher Education
College of Education and Health Professions

Members: Tansel Karabacak, Marjorie Williams-Smith, & Brian Berry (*College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences*); Gaurav Kumar, Nancy Landrum, & Roger Dorsey (*College of Business*); Kent Layton, Jim Grover, Gail Hughes (*College of Education and Health Professions*); Karen Kuralt, Vicki Edwards, & Shaun Thomas (*College of Social Sciences and Communications*); Coskun Bayrak, Dan Berleant, & Mike Deangelis (*Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology*); John Siegle (Library); and Emily Davis (Graduate Students).