

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024**

M. Cunningham, C. Acari, K. Andrinopoulos, R. Stivers, G. Morris, S. Overstreet, S. Yates, A. Schumacher, J. Proctor, K. Haugeberg, B. Lundebjerg, S. Montes, T. Zwanziger, D. Pociask, H. Ashbaugh

1. Meeting called at 8:30 AM by Michael Cunningham
2. Approval of October Minutes
 - a. The October 16, 2024, minutes were reviewed.
 - b. Motion: Approval by B. Mcfadden, seconded by S. Overstreet.
3. Graduate Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2024
 - a. Program proposals and major changes must go through the CIM system and include a cover letter for clarity.
 - b. Next meeting: December 11, 2024, to address incoming proposals.
4. Announcements
 - a. Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition
 - i. Held on November 7, 2024.
 - ii. Winner: SLA Linguistics student presenting on Yoruba language translation. Winner advances to the Council of Southern Graduate Schools Regional Competition in Spring 2025, Dallas, TX.
 - iii. Audience favorite: Psychology student discussing selective attention.
 - b. International Education Week
 - i. Hosted by the Office of International Students and Scholars.
 - ii. Keynote speaker: Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Cuban multidisciplinary artist.
5. Graduate Student External Employment Policy
 - a. Concerns
 - i. Graduate students, especially those in PhD programs, often face challenges balancing external jobs with their academic responsibilities.
 - ii. External employment can interfere with students' ability to meet academic milestones, such as exams and research requirements.
 - b. Discussion
 - i. International Student Issues
 1. International students are limited to working 20 hours per week due to visa restrictions, making it difficult for them to earn enough to support themselves. Most on-campus jobs do not provide sufficient financial support, forcing many international students to seek off-campus work.
 - ii. Stipend Concerns

1. Many students feel that their stipends are not enough to cover living expenses, so they need external work. This creates a conflict between meeting financial needs and academic performance.
- iii. Academic Impact
 1. The council discussed the challenge of students needing to work more hours outside of their academic commitments.
 2. It was suggested that reviews during the year could help identify when work is affecting students' academic progress.
- iv. Proposals
 1. Can raising stipends help students avoid the need for external employment?
 2. Should departments create clearer guidelines to help students manage both their academic workload and employment?
 3. Should departments implement more regular reviews (like annual or mid-year check-ins) to monitor how external jobs might be affecting students' academic progress?
- v. Continue the discussion at the December meeting, with more input from departments on practical solutions for supporting students without overburdening them.
6. Dual Credit Policy for Multiple Tulane Degrees
 - a. Concerns
 - i. Credits shared between programs capped at 25%, disadvantaging Tulane students compared to external applicants who can transfer up to 50% of credits.
 - ii. Students earning a master's en route to a PhD are considered "continuous students" but face inconsistent policies across departments.
 - b. Proposals
 - i. Should there be an adjusted shared credit policy to allow up to 50% for internal master's to PhD progression?
 - ii. Should there be a standard policy across all departments to ensure that students moving from a master's to a PhD are allowed to share the same amount of credits, regardless of the department?
 - iii. Should there be a set of rules about how old credits can be before they are no longer accepted toward a new degree? Some fields might accept older credits, while others may need newer ones to ensure students are up to date with current knowledge.
 - c. Additional Discussion
 - i. Some departments treat the master's as an academic milestone within the PhD. Should this model be more widely applied in Tulane?

- ii. Some departments allow students to “graduate” with a master’s if they leave the PhD program. Should this be more broadly allowed, and what should the requirements be?
 - iii. Public Health restricts credit applicability to seven years, aligning with Tulane's maximum graduation timeframe. Should this time limit be applied more consistently across all programs at Tulane, or should some programs have a longer or shorter timeframe based on the field of study?
 - iv. Draft a proposal for review at the December meeting.
- 7. Programs and Certificates
 - a. Discontinuations
 - i. Graduate Certificates: IT Strategic Planning (CISP), Technology Architecture (CITA).
 - ii. MS in IT Management Concentrations: Cybersecurity, Emergency Management, Homeland Security.
 - iii. MS in Cybersecurity Management Concentrations: Emergency Management, Homeland Security.
 - b. New Certificate
 - i. Strategic Communications Certificate introduced and approved.
- 8. Additional Announcements
 - a. Vanessa Rodriguez from the School of Professional Advancement is hosting annual training for directors of graduate studies and admissions officers.
 - b. Midsummer Night’s Dream -- Playing at the Windermere Theatre through Sunday.
- 9. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.
 - b. Motion: Adjournment by G. Morris, seconded by S. Overstreet.