

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2020

D. Blake, J. O'Brien-Brown, L. Lukkarila, L. Pratt, M. Cunningham, L. Dornier, K. Haugeberg, G. Morris, T. Albrecht, C. Pealer, V. John, B. Mohan, A. Reusch, A. Childress, K. Andrinopoulos, M. Lewis

1. Meeting called at 8:35
2. Approval of September Minutes, motioned by M. Lewis, seconded by K. Andrinopoulos, all in favor
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2020
 - a. November 11
 - b. December 9 (tentative)
4. Announcements
 - a. Responses to the Provost's survey. We have seen the responses from graduate students. Responses varied substantially by school; the provost will coordinate with the school deans to send out messages to each school.
 - b. Everyone is fatigued and we're looking at ways to work in a few breaks within the Spring semester. Calendar committee is working on it.
 - c. Overwhelming concern from graduate students who are TAs or instructors that they needed to be tested more. That will be happening, the announcement should come out later this week about an increase in frequency of COVID testing for graduate students
 - d. There is a want and a desire for programming among graduate students, especially important for first year students
 - e. 1841 new graduate and professional students this year; 5390 graduate and professional students overall this year as of the October 1 census
5. Three Minute Thesis – November 11 at 2 pm
 - a. Will be done by Zoom, best practices have been established
 - b. We do not have any BMS or PH students participating yet
 - c. Students have three minutes and a single static slide to communicate their thesis research to an educated but non-specialist audience
 - d. Briana will be emailing the GC with more information after the meeting; students can sign up by the end of this week
6. Graduate student cohort issues
 - a. Particularly challenging for master's and first year students
 - b. Ideas for Zoom – give different cohorts different backgrounds to help identify each other. We do need to be mindful that not all computers support zoom backgrounds well

- c. Socially distant in person events can be possible
 - d. Room reservations: <https://registrar.tulane.edu/general-pool-classrooms>
- 7. COVID Vaccine trial is being started in the School of Medicine
 - a. Email Diane Blake (blake@tulane.edu) for information
- 8. OGPS Workshops for October 2020
 - a. All workshops will be held via Zoom
 - b. We have workshops covering career development and academic resources
 - c. Workshops cover how to handle reading, which included students at all level of study, note taking, research writing
 - d. Doing joint workshops on diversity statements, teaching statements, and research statements, personal statements for students applying to PhD programs
 - e. Some of the workshops (on statements) will be recorded so that they can serve as resources in the future
- 9. Law School: two new Master of Jurisprudence programs – notification. Programs have been approved by SACS.
 - a. MJ in Energy Law
 - b. MJ in Environmental Law
- 10. BMS: Name change for Biochemistry and Applied Bioinformatics MS program – vote. Motion to approve name change by T. Albrecht, seconded by C. Pealer, all in favor.
- 11. SPHTM Name changes
 - a. Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences is changing its name to Social, Behavioral, and Population Sciences. The MPH concentration will also be changed to match. This is a notification to Grad Council.
 - b. The Dean of SPHTM is trying to increase the focus on the US as well as globally, which is part of the impetus for the name change. SPHTM will still have a substantial global focus, but it will not be exclusive, nor will it give that impression. Health equity is an important focus, and this name may help to more adequately reflect this. The coursework is not changing
 - c. What percentage of your coursework is in your new title’s realm? Key courses are already more focused on these subjects.
 - d. The department would like to change the name of the PhD as well – vote. Motion to approve by L. Dornier, seconded by T. Albrecht. All in favor.
- 12. SoPA 4+1 program proposal – vote
 - a. Allowing undergraduates in general legal studies to move on to complete a MPA program in 1 year after completing their undergraduate degree. Motion to approve by C. Pealer, seconded by A. Childress, all in favor.
- 13. SoPA to establish an emergency management concentration within the MPA. There is a lot of demand for this particular concentration. There is an emergency management certificate already in existence. The certificate can be done independently of a degree. This concentration will be listed in Banner/on the transcript

- a. Process question: an additional certificate within an existing program should come to GC for review. This is for an audit trail for SACS. SACS wants to know that there is faculty governance
 - b. Motion to approve by D. Blake, seconded by C. Pealer, all in favor
14. SoPA to update Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security Studies to increase hours from 30 to 33 and increase required courses from 4 to 7, including a capstone.
- a. Above the university minimum of 30 hours for a master's degree
 - b. Motion to approve by T. Albrecht, seconded by G. Morris, 16 in favor, 1 abstention.
15. SoPA to establish a non-credit concentration in Intelligence in MPS Homeland Security
- a. What is this training students to do? This is based on research conducted by SoPA about what was needed within the homeland securities community. Graduates may be contracting with schools or businesses that are looking to work internationally. Some graduates are already working in this field and are part of an industry board that advises each of the SoPA programs
 - b. Has been approved by SoPA curriculum committee as well as the SoPA council, including the dean of every college, and faculty that teach in these courses
 - c. Is the Department of Defense part of the funding for this? It may have been in the past, but L. Dornier is not aware of DoD funding for this initiative. There is DoD funding for many STEM disciplines, but they are not funding any kind of pipeline program
 - d. Motion to approve by G. Morris, seconded by M. Lewis, 12 in favor, 2 abstentions.
16. When will the calendar be made public? Soon, we understand that the whole community needs to know so that they can prepare
17. Meeting adjourned at 9:39, motioned by L. Dornier, seconded by T. Albrecht

Upcoming Academic Resources and Career Workshops for October 2020

One on One appointments – most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Workshop: What are the basic principles of academic research writing? –

Wednesday, October 14 at 4 pm and 6 pm

Workshop: Diversity Statements – Thursday, October 15 at 2 pm

Academic Support Group Discussion for Master's Students – Tuesday, October 20 at 4 pm

Interview Skills and Preparation – Wednesday, October 21 at 10 am

Workshop: Teaching Statements – Wednesday, October 28 at 2 pm