Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021

G. Morris, J. O'Brien-Brown, J. Clarke, M. Lewis, D. Blake, L. Dornier, A. Childress, A. Reusch, M. Russo, M. Cunningham, B. Mohan, K. Andrinopoulos, C. VanSchoelandt, F. Wietfeldt, T. Cole, T. Fee, L. Lukkarila, T. Albrecht, R. Boehm

1. Approval of January Minutes
   a. Add members present
   b. Minutes are posted on the website (send link to Lanie Dornier)
   c. With changes, M. Lewis moved to approve, F. Wietfeldt seconded
2. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2021
   a. March 10
   b. April 14
   c. We will schedule a meeting for May, but we hope we won't need it
   d. We typically do not meet over the summer
3. Announcements
   a. Deadline for sending in materials for Grad Council review – 1st Wednesday of the month
   b. Change to the Grade Policy university-wide
      i. If an I is resolved, the grade will be changed to just the letter grade
   c. Lagniappe Days for graduate students
      i. Grad students are very tired, so we want to respect those lagniappe days. We strongly recommend that we allow these as mental health days without duties, if possible.
   d. Conference of Southern Graduate Schools/Conference of Historically Black Graduate Schools Virtual Conference (February 23-26); registration is free. For more information and to register, visit: http://www.csgs.org/annual-meeting-2021/
   e. National Postdoctoral Association Conference (April 15-16). Contact OGPS if you want to attend. For more information, visit: https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/page/2021AC
      i. If you or a postdoc in your group wish to attend, let OGPS know
      ii. We hope that maybe we can encourage a chapter of the NPA on campus
      iii. We are working on making sure postdocs and their departments know their differences
      iv. We are considering a certificate for postdocs who complete
   f. Work on the NSF-NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdocs in Science and Engineering is ongoing. Impacted departments have been contacted and OGPS appreciates all assistance in completing this important survey

         i.   Used by AAU to determine grad student and postdoc support

        ii. We want to make sure all the ways we support students, such as tuition waivers, and health insurance are included

4. New specializations in the Master of Business Analytics (MANA) Curriculum – notice
   a. We do not approve programs for the professional schools, but we do notify GC about them so that we can ask questions
5. New MS in Computer Science – vote
   a. Department is pretty new
   b. Has the support of SSE faculty and dean
   c. Will this course be open to PhD students across schools
      i. PhD students can take courses across schools but MS students can't. PhD students would be able to take this if there is room in the course.
   d. We expect it to be a popular program because CS is growing strongly
   e. G. Morris moves to approve, seconded by F. Wietfeldt, all in favor.
6. OGPS Fellows' Projects: Jaclyn Maraldo, Amanda Reusch, and Ashley White
   a. We have three graduate students working with OGPS this year as fellows
   b. They are supporting the office with OGPS projects and their own
   c. Amanda: Working on communications with Jennifer and a 3-year reorientation project
      i. Students are transitioning from consuming to producing knowledge
      ii. It is a challenging transition for many
      iii. Working on a canvas course that will have various resources to reacquaint students with valuable resources
      iv. Focusing on broader issues like imposter syndrome, time management
      v. Want to create small videos of professors talking about how they've overcome imposter syndrome and manage their time
      vi. M. Lewis brought up confidentiality issues to make sure that faculty are confident their videos won't go too far
      vii. We know that students have largely forgotten a great deal of what they learned in orientation.
      viii. Also, there are a lot of practical options about fees and insurance, that have a significant impact on students' lives
      ix. You might want to talk to faculty in SoPA about course development to make it interactive and engaging. For instance, quizzes can become polls
   d. Jaclyn: Researching how OGPS can support PhDs and Postdocs going into non-academic careers. Looking to put together a panel of people who have made that transition successfully
      i. Need to be put into contact with professionals
      ii. This information will be in Canvas

           iii. BMS has an extensive database of alumni with first and second placements that could be shared
- e. Ashley: Online event with four alumni speakers who have agreed to participate
  - i. Students will submit questions prior to the event
  - ii. How COVID has impacted their careers
  - iii. Need other speakers, particularly in SLA
  - iv. There are faculty who haven't gone on a straight path
7. Motion to adjourn, motioned by F. Wietfeldt, seconded by T. Albrecht

Upcoming Workshops

Wednesday, February 10, 3:00-4:00 pm
Resumes and Cover Letters

Thursday, February 25, 3:00-4:00 pm
The PhD Journey from Coursework to Career

Wednesday, March 3, 9:30-11:00 am
Career Considerations for International Grad Students and Postdocs

Friday, March 5, 11:00-12:15 pm
Understanding the Basic Principles of Academic Research Writing