

Graduate Council AY15 Annual Report to the University Senate April 25, 2016

The Graduate Council is a faculty representative body that advises the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS) and the Provost on issues related to graduate education. According to its constitution, the Graduate Council is required to report to the University Senate once per year on its activities. This report fulfills that requirement.

The Graduate Council met seven times during the 2014-15 Academic Year, with an eighth and final meeting scheduled for May 11, 2016. In addition to discussing a number of important issues related to graduate and postdoctoral education and training, we accomplished the following major tasks:

- Reviewed and approved a new Interdisciplinary Masters in Science and Engineering.
- At this time, the Graduate Council is setting up a summer subcommittee to work with SRSS, OIE, and ODS to implement graduate leave of absence and pregnancy guidelines and policies.
- Created and distributed a Graduate Student Evaluation template so that all departments have basic guidelines on how to evaluate their graduate students on a yearly basis, that includes one-on-one review and discussion of their progress.
- Under the guidance of the Graduate Council, the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has implemented changes to increase diversity in graduate recruitment, including attending diversity recruitment fairs and adjusting the terms of the Terminal Degree Marketing Grant to encourage the admittance of minority candidates.
- Currently in the process of creating a Graduate Student Training Handbook for the university.
- Oversaw the fourth set of periodic PhD program reviews. PhD programs reviewed were:
 - Anthropology
 - City, Community, & Culture
 - Economic Analysis & Policy
 - Latin American Studies and Latin American Studies/Art History
- Each program submitted self-study documents that were reviewed by an external panel of experts from peer institutions.
- The Graduate Council met with the External PhD Review Team in March. The review team will have submitted their reviews and recommendations by April 30, 2016. Program heads reviewed reports for factual errors. Reviews will be sent to Graduate Council for discussion at our May 11, 2016 meeting.
- Graduate Council will provide feedback and recommendations to the Provost, reviewed programs, and Deans, respectively.

Minutes of the Graduate Council meetings and copies of the approved policies and procedures outlined above are posted on the OGPS website at <http://tulane.edu/ogps/graduate-council.cfm>.

Members of the Graduate Council for the AY15-16 year can be found here:
<http://tulane.edu/ogps/upload/2015-2016-Graduate-Council-Members.pdf>.