

## Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2024

**M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien-Brown, B. McFadden, G. Morris, A. Cruz, H. Boyd, K. Morris, D. Omerbasic, V. Rodriguez (guest), M. McClure, S. Montes, K. Andrinopoulos, J. Tasker, S. Overstreet, D. Lowell, D. Pociask, X. Geng, L. Lukkarila, D. Khismatullin**

1. Meeting called at 8:33
2. Approval of December Minutes, motioned by B. McFadden, seconded by G. Morris
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2024
  - a. February 14
  - b. March 20
  - c. April 10 (may be impacted by PhD reviews), may move to 4/3
  - d. May 8
  - e. Program proposals and major changes need to be submitted to OGPS by the first Wednesday of the month
4. Announcements
  - a. Holistic admission practices
  - b. GRE optional admissions. We will revisit at the beginning of next academic year. We need departments and schools to bring data to help inform the decision to make this permanent. Keep track of underrepresented students applying to programs to see if this has helped over multiple years. We want to know what departments are using to make decisions in lieu of the GRE
  - c. April 15<sup>th</sup> Resolution. PhD candidates have until 4/15 to decide if they will accept financial offers. Was recently renewed by a 60% vote.
  - d. PhD reviews – Cell Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Neuroscience, Psychology
5. Presentation on Holistic Admissions
  - a. Presentation by Michael Cunningham, will be shared with GC
  - b. Holistic review is mission aligned and reflects institutional aims, taking multiple factors into consideration. GRE, GPA, and other metrics are imperfect and best used as part of an overall plan/rubric
  - c. When creating the rubric, think about what characteristics have your successful students had? How do you define success? What information do you need to understand applicants' cognitive skills? What information do you request to learn about personal attributes such as motivation and resilience?
  - d. The tools schools may use have changed, but we can still work with other tools to create the best cohorts possible
  - e. GRE can indicate preparation for graduate work
6. Revisions to the Unified Graduate Honor Code

- a. The current code was written in 2006, right after Katrina when the Graduate School was closed but OGPS didn't exist.
  - b. The provost has agreed that this should be approved by GC and GAPSA
  - c. Vanessa Rodriguez has been instrumental in these edits
  - d. Nature of the edits:
    - i. We do not have the infrastructure to conduct hearings in quite the way that is dictated in the current code
    - ii. Honor codes are considered contracts between the student and the university and if we don't follow our policy, it can be considered breach of contract and a violation of due process. We've tried to streamline the process and the process for appeal and make it similar to our other codes (such as student conduct) to help reduce mistakes due to differences
    - iii. Howard Boyd can make presentations to schools or departments about legal requirements around dismissals. Big picture is that we have to follow our own rules (which need to be clear) and be fair in the process.
    - iv. Make sure that administrative disposition and honor board decisions sections match
    - v. All grad students need to get feedback at least once per year. Thoughtful and timely feedback is also legally important. Dismissal for failing to succeed can be very litigious, especially if student hasn't had timely feedback over the course of their studies in multiple modalities (written, oral, etc). Loop in multiple leaders. We need to be able to explain our decisions
    - vi. Need to establish which degrees should be carved out
    - vii. Please share this document with your schools
7. New business
- a. How are dissertation research courses handled? How many credits are used?
  - b. How this impacts full-time status. Being enrolled in dissertation hours should mean that students are full-time
  - c. Will be on the agenda for next month
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:46, motioned by G. Morris, seconded by D. Pociask