

## Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

**J. O'Brien-Brown, M. Cunningham, L. Dornier, S. Bernhard, R. Stivers, G. Morris, D. Kulibert, A. Manning, M. Canuto, M. Miller, K. Morris, A. Aganost, L. Lukkarila, D. Khismatulin, A. Chaffee, X. Geng, D. Pociask, K. Andrinopoulos**

1. Meeting called at 8:30
2. Approval of December Minutes, moved by L. Dornier, seconded by G. Morris, all in favor
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2023
  - a. February 1 (in person, with PhD program reviewers). We can try to accommodate virtual participation but it's not a guarantee
  - b. March 8
  - c. April 12
  - d. May 10 (if needed)
4. Announcements
  - a. Scopes of OGPS and Graduate Council. GC approves programs that are research based master's or PhDs, it advises the provost on matters in professional programs.
    - i. OGPS was created two years after Katrina to coordinate graduate matters. OGPS has staff who support students on academic and career advising as well as working on policies and programming.
    - ii. M. Cunningham's role is distinct from OGPS and advises on all graduate and professional programs
  - b. OGPS Sr. Academic and Career Advisor visits to classes
    - i. Available in the first couple weeks of class. Can do quick overview or more in-depth presentations.
    - ii. Needs assessment has started for career services, which will run for approximately a month
  - c. Partnership with LCMC
    - i. Important for clinical enterprise as well as basic research
    - ii. Major push for infrastructure for the downtown campus
    - iii. Significant numbers of graduate and professional students, as well as postdoctoral fellows are based downtown, so we hope that this will help promote graduate and professional education.
    - iv. Opening of Chapter IV in Thirteen15 building
  - d. Council of Southern Graduate Schools annual meeting in Tampa, FL.
    - i. <https://www.csgs.org/annual-meeting>

- ii. Often a good meeting for graduate staff members
  - e. Admissions' season
    - i. Discussions about GRE optional for next year
    - ii. We will need information from schools and departments to make the GRE optional policy permanent. This includes information about the applicant pool, quality of students, completion, if there is any increase in underrepresented populations, etc
    - iii. Have we created standards for this data? Number of applications, demographic qualities, admit rate, yield rate, graduation rates
  - f. April 15<sup>th</sup> resolution for acceptance of financial support
    - i. We're signatories on the CGS April 15<sup>th</sup> resolution. This means that students have until 4/15 to accept a financial offer. After 4/15, if a student wants to change their mind about where they want to go, the institution that they committed to has to release them
    - ii. Applies to all graduate and professional student offers (we believe)
  - g. Orientation Coordination
    - i. Please have professional school coordinators get in touch with Jennifer O'Brien-Brown to join the coordinator group
    - ii. The hope is to help everyone understand what is happening where and better use our space and personnel resources
    - iii. Looking to also create some kind of convocation, probably for Fall 2024
- 5. PhD reviews
  - a. Review will be conducted 1/30-2/1
  - b. PhD programs being reviewed: French and Italian, History, Philosophy, Spanish and Portuguese
    - i. Reviews are formative, not intended to cut programs
    - ii. Part of the process of getting advice and keeping up with best practices
  - c. PhD programs being reviewed in 2023-24: Cell and Molecular Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Neuroscience, Psychology
- 6. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 am, motioned by A. Chaffee, seconded by M. Canuto