

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022

M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien-Brown, G. Morris, M. Lewis, L. Lukkarila, A. Reusch, B. Mohan, A. Manning, K. Haugeberg, L. Dornier, A. Childress, K. Tsubaki, X. Geng, F. Wietfeldt, M. Canuto, K. Andrinopoulos, M. Adams, B. Koplitz, S. Van Bael, D. Khismatullin, A. Chaffee, D. Blake

1. Meeting called at 8:30
2. Approval of November Minutes, motioned by M. Lewis, seconded by L. Dornier, all in favor
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2022
 - a. February 9
 - b. March 9
 - c. April 13 (in person, with PhD review committee)
 - d. May 11
4. Announcements
 - a. Introduction of Amelia Manning
 - b. University calendar for Spring 2022 – no changes from last week. Professional schools may differ from the calendar that has been delayed. Other graduate programs are consistent with the undergraduate calendar. SoPA will be starting on 1/18 because they are completely online. Final exam schedule will be posted later.
 - c. Council of Southern Graduate Schools Meeting, February 17-19
 - i. May be pertinent to many of our partners. Has more benefits for graduate staff. Reach out to Mike and Jennifer if you're interested in attending and we can register with a bulk discount.
 - d. 2022 Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey – launches on January 28. Please encourage your students to complete this survey.
 - e. Changes to policies for events due to COVID – mask mandate is back in effect throughout the city. RSO events will resume the first day of class, departmental events that don't include students can proceed before classes. Food and beverages may not be served at any indoor events. Events must be registered in WaveSync
 - i. Make sure events are registered
 - ii. What is being done to track mental health issues and crises for graduate students?
 1. Reach out to Russell Argenal for help with programming
 - iii. How is this going to affect campus interviews? Visiting prospective students need to provide proof of vaccination or testing, wear masks, etc. Treat

- iv. Documenting stressors that students are experiencing (TSSW graduation in December was cancelled at the last minute)
- v. We may be getting close to a peak, we're hoping to get back to more normal towards spring graduation
- f. OGPS vs. Grad Council Scope
 - i. Set up two years after Katrina as a replacement for the Graduate School. Comprised of three full time staff members and two faculty members. We are not a graduate school and don't have oversight over all graduate education.
 - ii. Grad Council previously had less professional school representation; now every school has a representative. We are the advisory body to the provost on all graduate and professional matters, particularly if the measure requires the provost's signature. Part of GC's role is to make sure that there is not duplication between programs, even for professional programs.
 - iii. Make sure that new programs are sent to OAIR to make sure that we address everything for SACS
 - iv. OGPS does not provide programming for professional students (the P stands for postdoctoral)
 - v. We are a member of the national postdoctoral association but don't have a chapter at Tulane
 - vi. We are starting to support "predoctoral fellows" for fellows in disciplines where the terminal degree is at the master's level (ie, in architecture)
 - vii. Is there any thought of bringing back a graduate school? Not likely in the near future. There are some advantages to not having a graduate school for academic deans in terms of planning.
- g. Dual degree requirements at the university
 - i. No more than 12 credits can count for two master's degrees, 24 credits can be part of the PhD and master's degree
 - ii. May be 25% in some programs, so be mindful of which amount applies; be in contact with the registrar's office.
 - iii. This is similar to the double-counting allowed for 4+1 programs.
- h. Transfer credit requirements at the university
- i. Grad Student travel through Concur
 - i. Concur will just be used as a travel search engine, does not require a Tulane departmental credit card
 - ii. University needs to know where students are, and this helps to make sure that we have a better sense of where students are.
- j. NSF/NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows in Science and Engineering is beginning

5. PhD Reviews
 - a. Scheduled for April 11-13, 2022
 - i. We will do these reviews virtually if we can't hold them in person, rather than delay
 - b. Departments being reviewed have submitted studies
 - c. Departments to be reviewed next year: Spanish and Portuguese, French Studies, Linguistics, History, Philosophy
6. Political Economy: New Master of Arts
 - a. SLA and FSB have been talking about shared courses; students can be accommodated without changing their offerings
 - b. What curriculum committee is approving the courses? How does a course outside of their school get approved? FSB approves a course as good, SLA says that they will accept the course for this degree
 - c. Degree is fiscally housed within SLA, though there are interdisciplinary elements
 - d. Vote: To approve new MA in Political Economy, all in favor, none opposed or abstaining.
 - e. This will need to go to SACS as a new program
7. SPHTM: New Doctor of Public Health program in Leadership, Advocacy, and Equity
 - a. SPHTM already offers a DrPH, so it is not a new program
 - b. Is this a fully online program? Yes, it is fully online. There will be a few points where students will come together in person.
 - c. There is an applied practice experience, but they are not required to be in New Orleans to do that capstone.
 - d. Many students are doing MPH degrees online and have worked online, so SPHTM feels that this is an appropriate modality for their prospective students
 - e. DSW is fully online already
 - f. Have all of the courses been approved by SPHTM curriculum committee? Almost all the coursework is based on existing courses that are being modified for online education. A few courses have not yet been approved, but the program has been approved
 - g. What is the difference between a PhD and DrPH? CEPH has set these out as different degrees. The DrPH is a practice based program, professional degree for mid-level professionals working in the field. Research is a component, but not the primary focus. The PhD is more focused on research and data. The DrPH does not tend to be a degree for people who want to go into academia. The MPH is very applied and not a precursor to the PhD, but does function in that way for the DrPH. The competencies are more for advancing as an administrator and in an applied way.
 - h. This program will be reviewed by CEPH accreditors (as opposed to PhDs which are reviewed by GC)

- i. Vote: To approve new DrPH, 14 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:34, motioned by Brent, seconded by Amy