

## Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019

**M. Cunningham, J. Ruscher, Z. Lateefi, A. Shankar, M. Adams, G. Morris, L. Pratt, L. Dornier, J. O'Brien, A. Fears, T. Albright, J. Jayawickramarajah, E. Sawyer, B. Mohan, V. John, M. Lewis**

1. Meeting called at 8:36
2. Approval of December Minutes, Albrecht moved, Pratt seconded, all approved.
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2019
  - February 6
  - March 13
  - April 10
  - May 8
4. Announcements
  - a. OGPS has moved to Richardson Building 221
    - i. Briana Mohan will remain in Mussafer Hall for the time being
    - ii. Long term goal is to find a space for us to work together
      1. We were denied another position this year
      2. Aiming for a hybrid of the current two positions
      3. Do more outreach for postdocs
  - b. NSF-NIH annual survey work is beginning
    - i. Feeds into IPEDs, feeds into what OAIR collects
  - c. Course catalog
    - i. All electronic, all online
    - ii. Will be university wide under the Registrar's Office, rather than Newcomb-Tulane College
    - iii. PhD students can take courses across schools and so having descriptions up will make things more clear. It will also make courses easier to find.
    - iv. Masters students cannot take courses across the university without explicit permission because those tend to be revenue generating and so they largely cannot take courses outside their program.
  - d. Spring Workshop Schedule
    - i. Schedule will be ready later this week
    - ii. This month, Tuesday 1/22, Intro to Academic Careers at 3:30, Wednesday, 1/30, 9:30 CVs for Academic Jobs
    - iii. Two separate career exploration track workshops for natural sciences and humanities
    - iv. Requests for workshops can be submitted to Briana Mohan

- v. Nationally, 50% of PhD graduates do not go into academia, and we incorporate non-academic career advising into our schedule.
  - 1. Fall workshops tend to be more focused on academic careers, spring on the non-academic careers.
- vi. Could we add networking events? We may not have the capacity currently since those are very work intensive.
- vii. How are the workshops announced? Directly to the students at least once or twice per semester and to the DGSs once a month (*\*WORK ON THE BMS LISTSERV*) (A. Fears is creating a downtown newsletter)
- e. Graduate Career Consortium annual meeting in New Orleans, this June at the Hotel Monteleone
  - i. <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/376376>
  - ii. Organization is nationwide, focused on careers for PhDs and postdocs and would be of interest to people working on career development.
  - iii. Early bird registration (can we maybe subsidize a couple of participants?)
  - iv. Most academic conferences have career workshops. What can we do to make our students more distinctive? Briana already meets one on one with students to prep them for interviews; we have space on campus where students can have phone/Skype interviews in a more professional space. What is helpful for students is direct engagement with someone who can answer their questions and relate to their specific issues. There is no good substitute for human contact (no great online option that could replace it). Faculty can also use things like the 3MT format to push students to talk about their work in a quick, clear, cogent manner.
- 5. Impact of the government shutdown on higher education, general political issues
  - a. Program officers are not meeting, but deadlines still apply.
  - b. Public schools are having issues with international student applications, but private institutions are not having problems (aside from applications/students from banned countries, whose numbers are down).
- 6. Follow up from discussion on embargo on dissertations/theses
  - a. Research that is done here is scholarship and should be archived here.
  - b. John Christie stated last month that he thinks most of the embargoed documents are in STEM and that they know of them due to research days, etc.
  - c. When students apply for graduation, ideally one semester before they intend to graduate, they should talk to the Office of Technology Transfer about whether an embargo will be necessary.
  - d. Embargo happens at the time of upload.
  - e. OTT is the one that manages whether embargos are particularly relevant.

- f. Some students are using data that's owned by another agency. This is like publishing, where students would need to get permission from that agency to publish with a disclaimer.
7. Vote on policy for PhD dissertation and Master's thesis uploads, moved by A. Shankar, seconded by L. Pratt, 15 in favor, one abstention.
8. April 15<sup>th</sup> Resolution. PhD students have until 4/15 to accept an offer. If you have accepted international students, please ask them to consider the immigration issues and respond earlier if possible so we can begin the visa process, but do not pressure them.
9. Online education in graduate programs. Does GC have any oversight?
  - a. We do not currently have much oversight. Online students are considered special students, do not pay normal student fees. As online education increases, oversight and coordination may transfer to something more centralized, but it is currently very department/school specific.
  - b. Where do complaints go? Each school and program should have a grievance procedure. When that has been exhausted, they can still go to Institutional Equity (which is now part of HR), or follow the normal track for academic disputes. We do not have direct approval over professional degrees (such as MSW, DPH). We do have to have the procedure in place for SACS, so Jessica Shedd of OAIR may have more information.
10. Next Donut Day will be downtown!
  - a. January 23, first floor of J. Bennett Johnston Building
11. Meeting adjourned at 9:27