Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2023


1. Meeting called at 8:30
2. Approval of September Minutes, motioned by G. Morris, seconded by B. McFadden.
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2023
   a. November 8
   b. December 13 (if needed)
   c. Program proposals and major changes need to be submitted to OGPS by the first Wednesday of the month
4. Announcements
   a. AAU Graduate Deans’ Meeting Updates
      i. Student unionization is happening across the nation
      ii. STEM fields have some challenges of what is the 20 hours of work for assistantship while still understanding that further work needs to happen for a student’s own research
      iii. SCOTUS decisions
      iv. General Counsel is happy to organize a training regarding the National Labor Relation Act for directors/supervisors/department heads. Tulane doesn’t have a formal position for or against unions, but it can help everyone understand the landscape. Most graduate deans who have been dealing with unions for a long time feel that unions are fine/neutral, but they can be time-consuming to deal with.
   b. Interest in attending CSGS – Greenville, SC in March. This is our regional group of the Council of Graduate Schools, we get a discount if more than four people are attending.
   c. Three Minute Thesis – November 9. Winner will go on to participate in the regional competition at CSGS.
   d. Increased study session opportunities
5. Joint Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Science in River-Coastal Science & Engineering (MLA-MS) - Update
   a. New certificate program created out of existing courses in SPHTM
   b. 14 in favor, 1 abstain
7. Basic process for program approvals, presented by Sarah Montes. We have a new curriculum management system from Courseleaf. It replaces PDF forms for curriculum committees, and use dynamic workflows to route approvals correctly as needed for specific programs.
   a. Some schools have had to add some extra steps outside the official system, which they can then note within documents or comments. This is particularly relevant for schools/departments with other accrediting needs.
   b. It should make work on the catalog much more seamless.
8. DGS-GAO meeting is next Wednesday, October 18 at 8:30 via Zoom. Membership does not completely overlap with GC, but we can invite GC members to attend if they would like.
9. Motion to adjourn at 9:02 by B. McFadden, seconded by J. Tasker.