

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

J. O'Brien-Brown, G. Morris, S. Van Bael, C. Tyner (guest), M. Cunningham, M. Miller, L. Dornier, X. Geng, A. Aganost, K. Morris, J. Tasker, L. Lukkarila, A. Chaffee, D. Khismatulin, S. Bernhard, M. Canuto, K. Andrinopoulos, B. Koplitz, M. Canuto,

1. Meeting called at 8:31
2. Approval of September Minutes, moved by L. Dornier, seconded by X. Geng
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2022
 - a. November 9
 - b. December 14 (tentative)
4. Announcements
 - a. OGPS Sr. Academic and Career Advisor – we start interviews this week and hope to be able announce the new person at the next meeting.
 - b. Recurring cohorts – postdocs, dissertation support, and new graduate students are running currently. Students are starting to reach out for this support. Support is focused on writing process, isolation, and general support.
 - c. Hurricane plans – students are particularly vulnerable in the first few weeks and we are working on better communication about the full options available.
 - i. Postdocs may also be vulnerable
 - d. DGS meeting on 10/26 – larger meeting of more departmental and school-based people. Membership in that meeting is not 100% overlapped with GC.
 - e. OGPS Fellows 2022-2023
 - f. International Student Award – will forward email
 - g. November 15 at 3 pm in the Kendall Cram Ballroom in the LBC – Three Minute Thesis competition
5. STEM designation for MBA proposal
 - a. Have the courses been approved by the curriculum committee? It has been approved by both the MBA committee and the executive committee. It will also be discussed in the school wide faculty meeting for a second reading. The individual courses have been approved by those committees. 26 of 40 credit hours are heavily data driven courses. The federal government recently expanded the number of subjects/fields that are considered STEM. This also has implications for international students who are eligible for OPT if they are graduates of a STEM program. It is less critical for domestic students. Being designated as a STEM program is a prestige issue as well.
 - b. The provost asks us to endorse or not endorse proposals. Professional schools tend to have their own accreditation bodies.

- c. This is a fully in-person program. Revamped curriculum stresses data and analytics. STEM designation is common in other schools' business programs.
 - d. Vote to endorse the proposal: all in favor
- 6. Catherine Tyner, Assistant Dean of Students, focused on graduate and professional students at Tulane
 - a. This summer, the assistant dean of students position was created to have more focus on grad/prof students as well as special populations
 - b. Reminder about Tulane.edu/concerns
 - c. Swipe Out Hunger which is used extensively by grad/prof students to provide meal swipes at the Commons. After the third or fourth application, they are connected to case management.
 - d. Emergency Aid Requests – grants for students. Millions of dollars were awarded last year, particularly following Ida, but these are donor funded and there is some variability in availability.
 - e. 24/7 virtual urgent care, Tulane recovery community, pregnancy and parenting resources
 - f. Further information about emergencies – creating information for incoming students
 - g. Slides will be shared with the group
 - h. Counseling Center offers groups specific to graduate and professional students.
- 7. Meeting adjourned at 9:30