

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2019

M. Lewis, J. Ruscher, D. Blake, L. Dornier, G. Morris, B. Mohan, M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien, T. Albrecht, A. Fears, C. Ducat, L. Pratt, M. Zender, V. John, T. Fee, S. Hassig, C. Pealer, K. Haugeberg

1. Meeting called at 8:31
2. Introductions
 - a. Student representatives Alyssa Fears and Caitlin Ducat
3. Approval of September Minutes with two changes:
 - a. Under introductions: our GC scope we approve “major” changes to professional school programs and Page 3: PhD reviews, the chair must be a graduate dean
 - b. T. Albrecht moved, S. Hassig seconded, all approved
4. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2019
 - o November 13
 - o December 11
5. Announcements
 - a. Three Minute Thesis November 7, 10:30 am
 - i. Deadline to register to compete is Friday, October 4
 - ii. Contact Briana Mohan at bmohan@tulane.edu
 - iii. Winner and “people’s choice” get a cash prize, winner is also sponsored to go to the CSGS meeting
 - iv. T. Albrecht suggested emailing Ann Schumacher to spread the word to SLA students
 - b. October workshops
 - i. Downtown workshop was well attended
 - c. Update from the Association of Graduate Studies meeting (AAU Graduate Deans)
 - i. AAU meeting is a good resource to find out what other schools are doing (there’s a lot of data exchange between people doing similar work)
 - ii. Discussed diversifying graduate education – different paths, such as summer institutes, career pathways, mentoring resources www.nrmnet.net National Research Mentoring Network, funded by NIH
 - iii. Federal policies that are impacting graduate students
 1. More scrutiny on our research than in the past, on international students, especially those from China; non-resident visa applications include social media vetting
 2. Uptick in students with valid visas being denied entry

3. Administration processing wait time is up to 180 days (up from 60-90 days)
 4. Graduate and undergraduates are being treated similarly, the differences tend to be based on country of origin; it is unclear exactly what topics are being subjected to extra scrutiny
 5. Students only get one-year visas now, when they go home to renew it can take a great deal of time, disrupting funding, research, time to degree
 6. We can invite Kristy Magner to our next meeting
 7. About two years ago we tried to put together a gathering to help put students who needed emergency housing due to visa issues but it was not very successful
 8. There is a person in OAIR who works with online programs
 9. The AAU does have a lobbying arm
- iv. AAU membership
1. Only looks at public data, *Uses Carnegie standards*
 2. Stagnating or falling back could be reasons to be put on notice
 3. There is theoretically no magic number of schools that can be in the AAU at the same time
 4. AAU looks at citations and high impact publications. There is a bit of conflict between faster publishing good journals and slower publishing best journals
 5. The definition of Graduate Faculty helps us to make it clear who should be counted for research metrics
 6. Graduate Student Honors are included, but there are no particular metrics for undergraduate students
 7. Faculty input for improvement will come up with our assessment and there will be another Quality Enhancement Plan
- v. Changes in requirements at other AAU institutions about admissions (Princeton dropped the GRE). CA dropped Elsevier (?)
- d. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) communication about private institutions and unions
- i. Administration just put out a proposal that graduate students at private universities are students, not employees
 - ii. Open for comments currently
 - iii. We as GC cannot be for or against the movement to unionize
 - iv. We'll send out the powerpoint from General Counsel
- e. Conference of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting in Nashville Dec. 4-7
- i. Represents all levels of graduate schools, public, private, etc
- f. Meeting with the LA Grad Deans tomorrow and Friday (10/3 and 10/4)

6. SOPA Program proposals
 - a. Has been approved by the SoPA curriculum, graduate, and executive committees
 - b. New graduate certificate in cyber technology
 - c. New MPA
 - i. Completely new, real demand for this in New Orleans
 - d. New graduate certificate in Education Leadership
 - e. Costs roughly \$1024 per credit hour for course work.
 - f. These are post-bac certificates, not necessarily resulting in a graduate degree. They can be stacked to create a graduate degree, if the certificates are approved and a capstone is done
 - g. Will not be generally available to graduate students in the rest of the university. PhD students can take courses in other PhD programs, masters students are paying and can't tend to take courses outside their program
 - h. Will need to be approved by SACS
 - i. Move to vote on all three proposals together, S. Hassig, Seconded by T. Albrecht, All in favor
7. SPH PhD tuition
 - a. Tuition waivers aren't well organized in SPH
 - b. Has created challenges for interdivisional research initiatives
8. Unified Handbook
 - a. Written for PhD and research-based masters students in all schools
 - b. Time to degree for masters students
 - i. Right now, the baseline for PhD students is 7 years, after that, it has to have approval from the dean
 - ii. We're discussing terminal masters degrees, not continuing masters students who were always intended to get a PhD. We don't have "part time" graduate students, so this is aimed at full time students
 - iii. Should we have different policies for 4+1, 1 year masters, 2 year masters?
 - iv. We know there are a few outliers lingering too long, but the data is not great, so we're not sure if there is a lot of trouble
 - v. There have been some problems with joint programs such as moving from a masters program in BMS to a Chem E PhD program
 - vi. Could we have a policy that is very lenient at the Unified level, and then each school can be more strict? Generally, we will need to place a statement at the beginning of the handbook that this provides general guidance but schools or programs can provide more specifics
 - vii. M. Cunningham proposes an outer limit of 3 years for a 1 year program, 4 years for 2 year program and 5 years for a 3 year program. Will make sure it is clear that individual programs can make further requirements

- viii. Motion to approve M. Cunningham's proposal, J. Ruscher, Seconded by M. Lewis, all approved.
- c. Dismissal policy
 - i. This should work with annual feedback. We want students to always be aware of their status, especially if they are on the cusp of being dismissed
 - ii. By the end of the semester prior to dismissal, the student should be informed of the decision
 - iii. This is not about conduct issues
 - iv. There is already an explicit statement that students are on probation if they receive a B- or lower, or less than a 3.0
 - v. What happens with an incomplete? If they were on probation, then they need to know that their readmittance is conditional on the ultimate grade of that incomplete. Similarly, if comps/quals are taken over the summer, then students can be told that their continuing status as a student is based on passing those exams (if that is the case).
 - vi. Should departments have to have a probationary period? No, if, for instance, a student gets 3 Fs, etc in one semester, departments can say that it's clearly not working
 - vii. If a student is international, the dismissal should be coordinated with OISS because once a dismissal is in writing, visas expire within a few days
 - viii. By the end of the semester prior to a student's dismissal, the student needs to be informed. If it is contingent upon completing an Incomplete or passing comps or quals, that needs to be articulated.
- 9. PhD Reviews schedule
 - a. Propose to add Bioinnovation to the 2021-22 schedule
 - b. Check with Dr. Gaver about whether it should be done with BME
- 10. Third year PhD "reorientation" subjects
 - a. Health insurance
 - b. Studying abroad
 - c. CELT refresher for students who will be teaching
 - d. CAPS – uptick on stress and anxiety at dissertation stage, support groups are available
 - e. Title IX
 - f. Faculty could use this information as well
 - g. Should there be a letter given to students with their admission to candidacy with some of this information?
 - h. What will help students get their dissertation done?
 - i. Discussions about authorship, who owns data?
- 11. Meeting adjourned at 10:01