

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2020

J. Clarke, M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien-Brown, L. Dornier, M. Lewis, T. Weiss, A. Childress, A. Reusch, T. Albrecht, C. Pealer, G. Morris, K. Haugeberg, F. Wietfeldt, V. Oliveros, V. John, D. Blake, L. Lukkarila, T. Fee, T. Cole, K. Andrinopoulos, J. Jayawickramarajah

1. Meeting called at 8:30
2. Approval of November Minutes, motioned by L. Dornier, seconded by A. Childress, all in favor.
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2021
 - a. January 13
 - b. February 10
 - c. March 10
 - d. April 14
4. Announcements
 - a. Updates from the Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting
 - i. Virtual, nine people were able to go, we will send out some of the observations from our attendance
 - ii. Good meetings for seeing trends in graduate schools
 - b. 3MT Winners
 - i. Jessica Liddell, City, Culture, and Community (Grand Prize)
 - ii. Austin Jones, Epidemiology (People's Choice)
 - iii. Graduate deans of LA want to have a virtual 3MT competition around the time of graduate days in state legislature
 - c. Spring 2021 Semester reopening
 - i. Onboarding new and returning grad/professional students will be similar to fall reopening. Non-residential students will have to be tested at least one week before classes
 - ii. If students are working in buildings across the winter break, that is fine, but make sure someone knows
 - iii. Downtown testing center will remain open for surveillance testing
 - iv. Tulane has opened up testing to family members for \$50. 24 hour turn around for a PCR test. More information is available on the BMS website
 - v. Update on travel ban and international students
 1. Students are still not allowed to travel without special permission
 2. We do expect new international students to be able to come in the spring

3. If there was an international student who wasn't able to join us in the fall, make sure they get oriented
- vi. COVID entry testing for graduate students – memo from the president. If at any time you want an increase in testing, you can make an appointment and get surveillance testing. If you are symptomatic, students should call student health
- vii. Thanks to Diane for information about the vaccine trials. Currently looking for subjects 60 and older.
- d. Survey for students and postdocs about workshops
 - i. Requesting feedback from master's, PhD, and postdocs about the workshops that they want, how many people accessed resources
 - ii. We will use this information to inform the workshops we provide
 - iii. Can we share the data about the feedback? BMS is getting a new career advisor and it might help them get started
 - iv. We will work on our communication of our programming in ways that faculty and staff can access.
 - v. Is there a way to get formalized feedback from new students about what their experience has been? We do not do an annual survey, but they do have ways to express feedback anonymously or with names through Canvas, which many have done.
5. PhD Student Issues Task Force
 - a. Canvas course is new, OGPS and GSSA have been working on publicizing the resources there
 - b. Don't have graduate housing aside from Deming – we are constantly trying to advocate for graduate and married student housing
6. CELT Proposal for Graduate Student Pedagogy Program – vote
 - a. Three semester course series to prepare students to teach when they graduate.
 - b. Will hopefully help with undergraduate program
 - c. They will earn a small c certificate through CELT. It is a sequence of courses, will show up on their transcript
 - d. In a survey of our peer and aspirant schools, we are one of the only ones who don't have a program of this sort for graduate students
 - e. Not trying to take over efforts from individual schools/departments, but to take advantage of economies of scale. Doesn't make sense for each school to necessarily do this on their own.
 - f. Passed SLA and SSE curriculum committees
 - g. Trying to offer the first class in the spring, will be online
 - h. For students who are past their coursework
 - i. What schools is this open to? It passed SLA and SSE curriculum committees. People weren't sure if public health students would be interested, same for BMS.

It's a credit bearing course so it must be approved by schools' curriculum committees. Get in touch with Toni if you're interested in it for your school.

- j. Will the video consultations be available to students who do this? Will adjuncts be able to do this? Adjuncts are able to take advantage of anything CELT offers, but this particular program is aimed at graduate students. Similarly, this would not be available for postdocs. They don't get transcripts, so it probably wouldn't work for them in particular, nor do they get tuition waivers. Postdocs cannot do this and get a non-transcribed certificate. Postdocs are always welcome at other CELT programming.
- k. CELT would like to get this program up off the ground, and if there is interest, we can offer non-credit opportunities for postdocs or adjuncts
- l. Students who don't have tuition waivers would have to pay for this course because it is credit bearing
- m. PhD students can take PhD classes across schools, master's students cannot because of finance issues
- n. Will be a 7000 level course
- o. Some concern about these credits counting to the degree – are these extra credits? This would not count towards the courses necessary for the PhD, these would be additional credits. Would the programs have to waive the cap on credits for the student to take this course? It would be ok as an extra credit, but not a core credit. Given the leeway in some programs for electives, programs will need to be explicit about what would count – if this will count or not, the program needs to be very clear about this.
- p. Some support for encouraging it to count as an elective towards the 48 credits because it is a valuable part of their training
- q. Motion to approve was unneeded since it came from school committees, all in favor.

7. PhD review plans

- a. We were scheduled to do them last spring and it will not be able to happen this spring, so we will need to adjust the schedule (send out the schedule)
- b. We may want to partner with schools as they review departments
- c. A lot of the material/addenda is duplicative with departmental reviews (faculty resources and productivity, etc)
- d. How are graduate students involved? If it is combined with a departmental review, it is possible that grad students voices would be even more suppressed. There are designated meetings with students in the program, and students are often escorted around campus to have informal conversations. We would need to make sure that students are included however it works
- e. We have not talked to any deans yet, but want to try to do more reviews and speed this up a little bit

- f. Would still include external reviewers. In previous years, we would find a reviewer who was specialized in each department, and one will be a graduate dean who chairs the committee
 - g. Why do we have to do these reviews at all? Would this time be better used trying to be innovative? This is an important part of oversight to make sure that we're doing what we set out to do
 - h. Learning outcomes for master's students are a SACS question
 - i. These reviews are an opportunity to self-reflect. They are not prescriptive
 - j. It will be hard to convince departments that this is not to evaluate them. All of our PhD and masters programs have been reviewed at least once and not one has been cancelled as a result of these reviews. Only one PhD program has been suspended since Katrina.
 - k. Should we push this back at least a year or so to get everyone back to something approaching normal?
 - l. Motion to postpone the reviews by G. Morris, seconded by F. Wietfeldt, all in favor
 - m. We will review next semester what exactly we will do for a review
8. PhD student issue task force.
- a. We are not looking at stipends. We are looking at centralized resources, and how students are experiencing education at Tulane. What are we doing well?
 - b. University invests a lot in PhD students. We will try to take insights from the PhD students to other graduate and professional students
 - c. Want to make sure this gets shared to be shared with student groups (particularly GSSA)
 - d. Want to make sure that we have diverse representation on this task force
9. Change of delivery of Master of Management in Entrepreneurial Hospitality – notice
- a. Currently it is face to face, will change to online
 - b. Was approved by the FSB curriculum committee
10. Change of Anatomy courses' schedule – vote
- a. Reason to move it is because students can't actually gather around cadavers as needed to meet the objectives of the course
 - b. Only concern is that this is a catalog decision. Students must have the option to finish with the method that was in the catalog when they entered, and the program must come up with some kind of alternative if a student objects. Program can strongly recommend. There are some catalog issues, so students and advisors need to know that and make sure that the mechanical issues get worked out.
 - c. No concerns if the student accepts the new set up, but it is an opt-in system
 - d. Hoping that it will be a permanent change
 - e. Vote to allow this change, all in favor
11. Graduate/Professional Student Grade Policy – second reading

- a. Question about the fact that the I remains on the transcript – it seems like a penalty. It is how it is handled on the transcript for undergrads? Yes. Can we talk to the registrar about this? We will talk about whether the I has to remain on the transcript. This might be a bigger issue than just us (might be SACS or Dept of Ed)
- b. Is this going to be that firm? Professional schools are used to more leniency since many grades are typically low (as in studio in architecture). If they want to have a grade below a B- that would count, have your curriculum committee submit a memo to OGPS/GC and we'll review it
- c. It is possible to just not submit a grade?
- d. Please take this back to your schools for further review. We would like to vote on it in January.

12. Meeting adjourned at 10:06, motioned by T. Cole, seconded by F. Wietfeldt.