

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

A. Childress, L. Dornier, A. Shaktar, G. Morris, T. Albrecht, J. Ruscher, M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien, C. Pealer, A. Fears, M. Lewis, L. Pratt, V. John, B. Mohan, M. Adams, V. Oliveros, J. Jayawickramarajah, E. Sawyer

March 13, 2019

1. Meeting called at 8:30
2. Approval of February Minutes; T. Albrecht moved, J. Ruscher seconded. All in favor.
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2019
 - o April 10
 - o May 8
4. Directors of Graduate Studies/Graduate Admissions Officers
 - a. Spring meeting on April 17
 - b. Much larger group
 - c. Hits the general spring admissions cycle
5. Announcements
 - a. Updates from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools
 - i. 3MT – our representative, Sam Kurtz won the regional competition
 - ii. Title IX and Cleary Act
 1. If there is a Title IX violation by a PI or Co-PI on an NSF grant (even just a sanction), it has to be reported to the NSF
 2. Authorized official is in Office of Research, so Title IX officer has to work with that office
 3. NSF can pull those grants, which could impact students who are supported on that grant (whom we have promised support to)
 4. Cleary Act violation fines are going to go up (they're currently at \$53,000)
 - iii. FLSA
 1. Threshold will be around \$32-35,000
 2. We do not have many postdocs under that level, but there's at least one department that may be impacted.
 3. We expect these changes to be made public within the next couple of weeks.
 - iv. Career outcomes data
 1. Over 50% of PhD grads do not go into academia, this has been the case for more than 20 years
 2. Do we change curriculum standards? Current debate nationwide
 3. Levels of satisfaction among PhDs working in non-academic contexts is quite high (though it's substantially higher among those who are further from receiving their degree)

4. We have professional doctorate programs that are producing faculty, and PhD programs with students leaving academia, what's the difference at that point?
- b. OISS F-1 and J-1 Visa default start dates
 - i. August 19 and 20
 - ii. As soon as a student who may be on this visa accepts, get that paperwork going.
 - iii. If you have a student who is starting on a different date, make sure to communicate that to OISS
- c. OGPS Fall Orientation: August 20 and 21
 - i. August 20 new PhD and research-based masters
 - ii. August 21 new TAs
 1. Will get TA orientation information to DGS
- d. Hooding Ceremony on May 17 at 9 am
 - i. Generic black robes available
 - ii. There are emergency funds available through OISS for international/DACA students to help purchase/rent robes (they can apply, it's not guaranteed)
- e. Terminal Degree Marketing Fund
 - i. Designed for marketing PhD programs because we don't have a graduate school. We do require a diversity plan, but monies are very flexible
 - ii. If there are funds left, we can try to accommodate late applications
 - iii. This is meant to be supplemental, not the only source of resources for advertising/recruiting
 - iv. The president and provost are aware that we have been so undergraduate focused for so long and that we need to add resources
- f. April 15th Resolution
 - i. Date students have to accept offers with financial assistance
 - ii. You can encourage them to accept earlier, but you can't pressure them
6. Letter from SoPA regarding full time hours
 - a. SoPA is no longer exclusively part-time students, which is why they wrote this notification
 - b. Full time graduate status within SoPA is 9 credit hours
7. New MS program in Pathology
 - a. Pathologists' Assistant Program
 - b. 3 of the required classes are in Cell and Molecular Biology. Were they consulted? We're not necessarily reciprocal with masters students classes. We would like a letter of support from the chair of CMB since there are courses required outside of the Pathology department
 - c. Has gone through the BMS steering committee

- d. There are 9 similar programs in the entire country
 - e. Grade requirement: GPA requirement is too low, should be 3.0
 - f. Vote on program pending a letter of support from CMB and amendment to the GPA requirement to 3.0 or above with grades of B- or higher (not C).
 - g. Committee recommendation, so it doesn't need a second. All in favor.
8. PhD Reviews
- a. Schedule
 - b. Criteria
 - i. OAIR is starting to track students via LinkedIn, etc, information will be shared with departments being reviewed
 - ii. We changed one requirement regarding career outcomes. The information from OAIR should help to fulfil this requirement.
 - iii. Professional ethics as part of scholarship training (How is professional ethics included in PhD training?)
 - 1. Professional ethics includes but is not limited to research ethics, publication ethics, how coworkers/subordinates/grad students are treated
 - 2. Ethical guidelines for treating people – departments do have to have grievance procedures, but perhaps they can explain this
 - iv. Faculty productivity: 2-page CV is most useful for the reviewers. We will also be able to include Academic Analytics data
 - v. Departments should have access to admissions data/yield through their admissions systems
 - vi. 2.0 student experiences including career exploration/support/discernment, can also include student experiences with advising and if grad students are treated reasonably
 - vii. These are formative reviews, meant to identify best practices and make sure we're doing what we say we are
 - viii. Should we add a section looking forward? The problem is that that can encourage soap boxes. Perhaps a couple of paragraphs of about strategic planning. Apparently in previous review cycles it was used to make/justify cuts to TA lines
 - ix. In enrollment section, we can ask how issues of diversity are handled in student recruitment and retention? How are faculty using university resources to encourage diversity and faculty development?
 - 1. Diversity issues are subjective and it's hard to implement and to measure
 - 2. Maybe we could ask how departments' missions align with the university's mission?
 - 3. Could we set some kind of floor for diversity issues?

- x. Has there been any movement on an ombudsperson for graduate research issues? It's in committee, hopefully to be presented to the University Senate this semester
 - xi. Student issues can go under student experiences, departmental concerns can be under program perceptions
 - c. All external reviewers are experts in their fields, should be familiar with all the national trends within departments. Chair of the committee must be a graduate dean. Departments and Grad Council can suggest members for the committees.
 - d. Vote with the changes, and the schedule. Motion, J. Ruscher, seconded, C. Pealer.
All in favor.
9. Donut Days
- a. March 27 in Gibson 200
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:44.