

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2018

Attendance: M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien, C. Rodning, G. Morris, A. Childress, J. Ruscher, J. Sheuermann, L. Dornier, J. Jayawickramarajah, G. Didier, M. Penn, M. Lewis

1. Meeting called at 8:31
2. Approval of February Minutes
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2018
 - o April 11 – Gil will chair
 - o May 2 if possible. Would be used to do a wrap up.
4. Announcements
 - a. Provost will not sign off on new Master's programs without an assessment plan
 - b. Deadline for PhD students to commit is April 15. If you have students getting pressured by another school, please let us know.
 - c. Emergency fund for international/DACA students – has it been sent out explicitly from OISS
 - d. Cost of PhD regalia. There are a couple of options listed, but not the generic robes. Students can buy a generic robe, partially subsidized, for \$89.
 - e. Work on centralizing data about graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Anyone who works with postdocs in particular needs to work on centralizing data for our reporting needs
 - f. New MPS tracks
 - i. Before it goes to the Provost, it needs an assessment plan
 - ii. Look very specialized
 - iii. Emergency Management, Security Management, Cyber Security
 - iv. Huge interest in industry for these programs
 - v. All online
 - vi. Can there be connections with the similar programs in SSW? They already have Disaster Resilience
 - vii. Vote, all in favor. No nos or abstentions
5. Master's Degree Program Review – Overview of Process
6. Master's Degree Reviews

- a. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology – Rodning
 - b. Biomedical Engineering - Ruscher
 - c. Clinical Research - Childress
 - d. Earth and Environmental Sciences - Didier
 - e. Anatomy – Dornier
 - f. Which reviews could we use as examples for future reports? We will also want to put together the exit survey that is the minimum for students to complete
7. Donut Days
- a. Next one will be 3/15
8. Petition among students about health insurance
- a. Want an increase in the subsidy for health insurance. Basic rule is that half of health insurance premiums are covered. Most of our peers and aspirants cover 100% of student health premiums. Our “economic peers” also tend to cover 100% of premiums. Our package is better than many options. Budget is already set for next year, so it wouldn’t change then, but might be in two years.
 - b. Also pushing for higher stipends. Our average is competitive, but some departments are pretty low.
 - c. Working on fees for students with AR. Students aren’t registering for classes because of this. We’re trying to make sure that late fees don’t get assessed
 - d. Try to get students to enroll by August 16, so their bills are later
 - e. Might also work with departments to make the first check a bit bigger to help cover these bills
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:35.