

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

J. O'Brien-Brown, G. Morris, J. Tasker, M. Cunningham, R. Stivers, A. Manning, A. Chaffee, D. Omerbasic (alternate for SoPA), K. Andrinopoulos, L. Lukkarila, X. Geng, S. Van Bael, M. Miller, D. Pociask, A. Anganost

1. Meeting called at 8:33
2. Approval of February Minutes
 - a. Changes: “students have access to all master’s courses” add “with the approval of the DGS”; students have access to all seminar series, so change the silo comment to “some students are siloed”
 - b. Motion to approve G. Morris, seconded by A. Chaffee, one abstention, all others in favor
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2023
 - a. April 12
 - b. May 10 (if needed)
4. Announcements
 - a. Status of PhD reviews
 - i. Two reports have been submitted, all should be here by the next meeting and OGPS will write an executive summary
 - ii. Next year’s programs are Cell and Molecular Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Neuroscience, Psychology
 1. Please make sure that SSE graduate studies committee is aware
 2. If there are any issues with the published schedule, please let us know immediately
 3. OGPS provides lists of students from the registrar’s office so that programs have a starting point and will send previous self-studies to departments
 4. Departments are welcome to submit recommendations for reviewers, particularly if there are any considerations of specific program types
 - b. April 15th Resolution
 - i. Students who receive financial awards have until 4/15 to make a decision. We cannot apply pressure to choose before that date.
 - ii. If they commit to a university and then change their mind after 4/15, they need to be released from the university they had previously committed to
 - c. BOR-SREB fellowships
 - i. We were awarded 3 \$10k fellowships which can be added to stipends for students who have already been admitted
 - ii. Students become part of the Doctoral Scholars Network

- iii. Program is designed for future faculty, but it's not a hard requirement
- iv. We had 7 very well qualified applications, we hope to make offers by next week
- d. Postdoc Resume Workshop – Thursday, March 9 at 5:30
- e. National Postdoctoral Association – founding a Tulane chapter. First meeting will be on Tuesday, March 21 at 5:30, in person.
- 5. Graduate Handbooks – beginning discussion
 - a. Are handbooks published/readily accessible? Some departments have it, some don't, some are very out of date, some are behind password protection
 - b. Do we need an OGPS handbook that has the general requirements?
 - c. Departments with good handbooks are asked to please send those to OGPS
- 6. BMS Biomedical Informatics concentration in BMS PhD program
 - a. There is no biology focus in this program. The students who are right for this program (have programming and mathematical experience) have struggled in the biological sciences. It is currently being walled off to keep the program afloat, but the question can be revisited.
 - b. Students tend to be very strong in math and biostatistics as well as computer programming and most classes are centered around that. All students accepted to this program have to be vetted by the BMI program as well as BMS
 - c. Why was there dissent in the BMS steering committee vote? Can students in BMI rotate through any lab in BMS or only BMI labs? BMI students will only rotate within BMI labs, which got some pushback from some of the BMS faculty who overlap with bioinformatics
 - d. Vote: 7 in favor, 1 abstention, vote passes
- 7. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 motioned by J. Tasker, seconded by A. Chaffee