

## **Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**

**April 12, 2023**

**J. O'Brien-Brown, M. Cunningham, G. Morris, D. Khismatullin, L. Dornier, M. Canuto, D. Pociask, B. Koplitz, S. Bernhard, C. Weigelt, R. Stivers, L. Lukkarila, A. Chaffee, C. Arcari, A. Childress, X. Geng, E. Cabalfin (guest), J. Tasker, A. Anagost**

1. Meeting called at 8:32
2. Approval of March Minutes, motion to approve G. Morris, seconded by L. Dornier
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2023
  - a. May 10
  - b. First meeting of the fall will be on September 13
  - c. May send an email poll if there is any business to discuss over the summer
4. Announcements
  - a. Status of PhD reviews
    - i. Still waiting on one review, so we plan to discuss at the May meeting
    - ii. Next year's programs are Cell and Molecular Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Neuroscience, Psychology
  - b. Act 767 – Foreign Influence Screening
    - i. May impact graduate students. Mike will give a more complete presentation at DGS meeting next week. The law is being reviewed in the legislative session currently. The first group being impacted would likely be the entering class of Spring 2024
  - c. Commencement (<https://commencement.tulane.edu/>)
    - i. Unified commencement is on Saturday evening
5. Graduate Handbooks
  - a. The provost would like to have a graduate education handbook that is more centralized especially for matters that transcend programs/schools. This would be something that departments could link to. We'll work on that over the summer. We will provide a guide of what is covered in the general handbook versus what schools need to cover.
6. School of Architecture - Motion to add a Graduate Certificate in Public Interest Design, presented by Edson Cabalfin
  - a. Advance public interest design for the benefit of the broader public. The certificate is intended for Tulane School of Architecture grad students but may later expand to other students. We are one of the only programs in the country, and the only certificate at a private university
  - b. This is not a stand-alone program. It can be applied for retroactively for students who have completed the work.
  - c. Professor Cabalfin is advised to return to Grad Council before trying to move towards allowing students in other units to enroll. Courses would be open to

graduate students across campus to take as electives, but the schools that participate would need to create MOUs to handle the tuition questions

- d. The new course and the entire certificate has been approved by the school curriculum committee as well as the school's faculty
  - e. Motion to approve: 13 in favor, 1 abstain
7. School of Business – changes to the MBA curriculum, presented by Carmen Weigelt
- a. Still a 2-year, 61 hour program but changing from a semester program to shorter terms. It is STEM designated due to adding more data literacy courses. For faculty, these are 2+1 courses which allows team teaching in the capstones courses.
  - b. Curriculum will only apply to incoming students, current students will continue in their semester-based program
  - c. What is a 2-2 equivalent load for faculty? Most faculty will teach a 2-credit course with a 1 credit experiential course, thus approximating the standard 3 credits. The 2-credit course will be the lecture, and then the 1-credit course will be applying the knowledge from that in a cross-disciplinary manner. Faculty was very heavily involved in the process.
  - d. How does this work with the university calendar? Anything that differs from the university calendar must be approved by the registrar and the provost
  - e. Is there a pedagogical justification for this change? The beginning of this work was because placements for MBA graduates was around 50%. MBA enrollments have also been down. Curriculum issues, such as a lack of experiential learning and lack of data focus, was cited as a major issue. Meant to both increase experiential learning and make it more cross-disciplinary in keeping with trends in the field and employers' needs. It will be reviewed in their five-year plan.
  - f. Is this the core reason that our program has had problems or is there something else? Business schools live on rankings and placements. We fell from top 50 to 92, we've started climbing back up the rankings.
  - g. Motion to approve change in curriculum for the MBA. All in favor.
8. SoPA
- a. Motion to discontinue the Security Management MPS degree, update the Security Management graduate certificate, and to discontinue the Advanced Security Management Graduate certificate. 11 in favor, 1 abstention.
  - b. MAT received a major award recently. These programs are meant to keep up with state standards, particularly around literacy requirements. Motion to approve changes to the Early Childhood Education and Secondary Education programs. All in favor.
  - c. Motion to approve a Master of Arts in Teaching with a specialization in Elementary Education. All in favor
9. School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

- a. Certificate in public health, comprised of the five core courses for public health students. Can be completed full time or part time, online or in person. For people who want to explore public health but may not have the background. Can be applied to the MPH degree.
  - b. Can be for people external to the university as well as students in other units. It will require MOUs between schools to handle the tuition between schools. SPHTM will check with student's home school if they are doing this.
  - c. Not the first certificate in SPHTM
  - d. Motion to approve, 11 in favor, 1 abstention
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:32, motion by L. Dornier, seconded by J. Tasker