

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024

M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien-Brown, G. Morris, C. Arcari, R. Stivers, L. Lukkarila, D. Omerbasic, S. Bernhard, A. Schumacher, E. Farrer, B. McFadden, R. Chavez, D. Pociask, S. Montes, J. Tasker, S. Overstreet, E. Niconowicz (reviewer), M. Sturge-Apple (reviewer), S. Lanyon (reviewer), J. Schneider (reviewer),

1. Meeting called at 8:35
2. Approval of March Minutes, motioned by B. McFadden, S. Overstreet seconded
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2024
 - a. May 8
 - i. May cancel if we don't have business. Reviews are due 45 days after the visit
 - b. Program proposals and major changes need to be submitted to OGPS by the first Wednesday of the month
 - c. Business across the summer is unlikely, but can be conducted by email if needed
4. Announcements
 - a. History of Graduate Council and OGPS
 - b. Introduction of PhD review team
 - i. On a 5-6 year cycle. In off years, we do a review of master's programs. Reviews are formative.
 - ii. Programs being reviewed are Cell and Molecular Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Neuroscience, Psychology
 - iii. Next year's programs are Anthropology, City, Culture, and Community, Latin American Studies/Latin American Art History. SLA: can we make sure that CCC should be reviewed? They have suspended admissions. Last year, the History department's review wasn't submitted, so we may offer that we can redo their review.
 - c. Discussion of decentralized model at Tulane
 - i. Not having a grad school allows academic deans to tie funding for graduate students to the undergraduate mission
 - ii. Disadvantage is that things can be applied differently to students in different spheres.
 - iii. Neutral is that the dean of the graduate school would be about 80% effort, which wouldn't allow them to be research active.
 - d. SREB fellowship – decisions will be made after April 5
 - i. If you have a good, admitted student who is underrepresented per NSF guidelines, please submit.
 - e. Graduate Hooding and Recognition Ceremony (diploma ceremony for SLA, SSE, BMS) is on May 16 at 3 pm

5. Dissertation, Thesis, and Graduate Research Courses
 - a. How do 9000 level courses work? Impact on time status, use of these courses
 - b. How does a student who is still in courses, but only 3 or 6 hours, stay full time if they can't enroll in a 9000 class?
 - c. Different approaches: SPHTM has two courses; one indicates pre-comps, one indicates post-comps. Psychology – no clear demarcation between when students are in coursework and working on their dissertation
6. New business:
 - a. RCM budget model and grants discussion. Discrepancy between schools (out of scope for grad council). Right now, SSE requires that part of a students' tuition is charged to a grant if they are on a grant. This can become a problem for interdisciplinary programs, which means that students in the same labs can be treated differently. Is the money brought in/saved being used for graduate students?
 - i. Could disincentivize recruiting grad students, make postdocs more attractive.
 - ii. Do we capture grad students' impact? At Rochester, grad students register for ORCID numbers and talk about undergrad mentorship, etc. Can also check downloads of dissertations through ProQuest
 - iii. Departments may need to speak to their deans about how the RCM model works within their school, especially for graduate education.
 - b. Recommendation: policy guidelines that can be shared about how grant funding for students works
 - c. Outside work policy – can we suggest how many hours can be worked?
 - d. Credit hour sharing: accelerated programs versus 4+1 programs have different credit hour sharing rules
 - e. What do we want to count for graduate degrees in terms of transfer credits? Do we still want to allow 24 hours to transfer in for a PhD? We only allow 12 credits to be shared between a master's and a PhD
 - i. There is a vetting process based into the transfer
 - ii. A certain number of credits needs to come from Tulane to reflect that this is a Tulane degree
 - f. If anyone has policies that they believe are needed, please reach out to Jennifer O'Brien-Brown. Many of our policies are based on undergraduate policies, but if you have policies that you see as needed, or where the undergrad policy doesn't work, let us know. We also like success stories.
7. Meeting adjourned at 9:40, motioned by S. Overstreet