

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2023

M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien-Brown, L. Dornier, L. Lukkarila, G. Morris, J. Tasker, R. Stivers, S. Van Bael, D. Pociask, K. Andrinopoulos, X. Geng, D. Khismatullin, M. Canuto, M. Miller, S. Bernhard, A. Chaffee, A. Anagost, M. Jover (guest)

1. Meeting called at 8:32
2. Approval of April Minutes, motioned by L. Dornier, J. Tasker seconded.
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2023
 - a. First meeting of the fall will be on September 13
 - i. May do some electronic votes over the summer
 - b. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month
 - c. Program proposals and major changes need to be submitted to OGPS by the first Wednesday of the month
4. Announcements
 - a. Commencement (<https://commencement.tulane.edu/>)
 - i. Unified Ceremony is on Saturday evening.
 - ii. Hooding Ceremony information went out earlier this week
 - b. Cohorts and career support over the summer
 - i. PhD cohorts that have been running will continue. A new one will begin next week
 - ii. Career workshops will shift to job search and interview techniques.
 - iii. Recent alumni (up to 6 months post graduation) can reach out to Ryan Stivers for extra assistance
 - c. Timeline for new programs
 - i. Catalog gets handled early in the spring semester for the following year, so if you want a program to get into the catalog, you want to have that submitted to Grad Council by December
 - d. Webinar on housing
 - i. We are partnering with Student Affairs to do a webinar for new students
 - ii. It will be recorded so that it can be included in other orientation materials, including for postdocs (OGPS will add a link to our welcome email)
 - e. Updates on postdoctoral fellows
 - i. Postdoctoral Travel Fund
 - ii. National Postdoc Association
5. PhD reviews
 - a. Still waiting on the review of the History PhD program.

- b. Overall connections: no negative commentary about the programs in general. All reviewers were very pleased with the quality of faculty and students
 - c. Need to better integrate EDI work in all elements of the program. This is admission, courses, faculty, everything. It was perceived as important but not well integrated.
 - d. One comment was that many of the cohorts are small and we need to think about how to enhance course offerings so that students can make good progress. This may require creative solutions
 - e. In annual reviews, one comment from students is that they are unsure of program goals. Publishing and keeping handbooks up to date may help.
 - f. Once we have the final report, we will send out a digest
6. School of Science and Engineering
- a. Is this a Master of Science or a Master of Data Science? Some degrees do have just courses, without a thesis or capstone.
 - b. Listed as a 4+1, not a standalone, but it also refers to outside applicants
 - c. Requirement for 33 credits, which would require 16.5 credit hours per semester, which is high. If students can begin as an undergraduate, that may be manageable, but if the student is an external candidate, it may take 1.5 to 2 years
 - i. Program should reach out to Jessica Shedd/OAIR to see if there are too many credits that are shared
 - d. How will this program incorporate internships or placement? How does the program document success? Would this work with the Master of Business Analytics or poach its students?
 - e. Motion to add a Master of Science in Data Science: 12 in favor, 2 abstain, motion passes.
7. School of Architecture – presented by Margarita Jover
- a. Credits at the 3000 and 4000 cannot count towards a graduate degree. Architecture is generally working to disaggregate graduate and undergraduate courses even if they fulfill the same professional needs in order to make sure that graduate courses are fully distinguishable
 - b. Start date of 2024? SACS tends to need 18 months to approve new degrees. TSA has been speaking with OAIR and SACS may move more quickly since there is a professional accrediting body that is also looking at the program.
 - c. How do students complete this degree if they come in with an engineering background versus an architecture background.
 - d. Is there a way to prove that a student has certain competencies based on testing or transcripts? If someone comes in with a strong biology background, is there a plan for waiving those requirements? It would be up to the respective school (SSE or TSA) to determine whether a requirement is met.

- e. Challenges of administering a cross-school program. On a day-to-day level, the program will be administered by TSA, though the engineering courses will be managed by SSE. Division of resources follows the course credits (for revenues). It is a priority within SSE to build competencies in this field.
 - f. Students can take courses across different programs if they are admitted to a joint program
 - g. Motion to approve joint Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Science in Engineering. 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstain. Motion passes.
8. Motion to adjourn A. Chaffee, seconded by J. Tasker at 9:32.