

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2018

G. Morris, B. Mohan, M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien, J. Ruscher, L. Dornier, A. Childress, E. Sawyer, L. Pratt, M. Adams, C. Pealer, A. Fears, Z. Lateefi, V. John

1. Meeting called at 8:31
2. Approval of May Minutes, Pratt moved, Ruscher seconded. All in favor.
3. Future Grad Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2018
 - o October 10
 - o November 14
 - o December 12
4. Announcements
 - a. Student health is hiring a full time person to focus on grad and professional student health. Search is ongoing.
 - b. Downtown gym is in the works. Should be open by the end of the semester. Building will also house TUPD.
 - c. CAPS has added more counselors for downtown.
 - d. Three Minute Thesis Competition on Wednesday, November 14. Winner goes to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools conference, paid for by OGPS.
 - e. Fall Workshop Schedule – will email. Workshops happen roughly once a week.
 - f. Will send information about CSGS conference if faculty are interested in attending.
5. Introduction to Graduate Council
 - a. Members' introductions
 - b. Graduate Council
 - i. We used to have rotating members from professional schools, but we will now have permanent members from those schools
 - ii. Our scope
 1. MA, MFA, MLA, MPS, MS, PhD is what we directly oversee and approve
 2. We do review professional programs in a more informal way
 3. We approve new programs and major curriculum changes
 4. We conduct reviews, such as PhD reviews which will start next year
 - iii. Our processes
 1. We need members to get the word out to their schools
 2. PhD reviews – we'll need to review how we handle them
 - c. Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
 - i. Our scope
 1. We advise GSSA, which is part of GAPSA

2. We supplement GSSA travel, some BMS, and Postdoc travel
 3. Postdocs are very individualized at Tulane, but we oversee them
 - a. Postdocs are now time/term limited since this is supposed to be a training position
 - b. If they want to stay on as a researcher, they need to transfer to that. Postdoc benefits are not as good as staff/faculty benefits.
 4. Briana handles career advising
 5. Student reimbursements are in coordination with Student Affairs
 6. Mike is the PI for NSF graduate fellowship programs
 7. Mike is the PI for the BOR-SREB fellows (OGPS is more directly involved in this)
 8. Terminal Degree Marketing Funds
 - ii. Our processes
6. Terminal Degree Marketing Funds
 - a. For terminal graduate degrees
 - b. Departments that don't include satisfactory diversity plans will only be eligible for 50% of the possible award
 - i. Diversity plans have been a request/requirement for 4 years
 - ii. Next year, if you don't include a diversity plan, you will not receive any funds
 - iii. Diversity plans must add to diversity/outreach in a meaningful way. For instance, in Psychology, you can't say that most of our students are female, thus we are diverse
 - iv. Diversity can be promoted by adding flexibility to 4+1 programs (we have MOUs for some departments with other local schools that their students can enter our 4+1 programs). This can also work with the New Orleans based consortium for classes
7. Goals for the Academic Year
 - a. Schedule PhD reviews for next year (2019-2020)
 - b. Definition of Graduate Faculty
 - i. This will be based on each school's criteria
 - ii. Needed to help populate Graduate Council
 - iii. Needed for academic analytics (make sure that we count people that are doing graduate level work)
 1. Can academic analytic information be disseminated more widely to faculty?
 2. Academic analytics can also be useful for grant applications
 3. We are not penalized in analytics for students that don't go into academia

- iv. Will also be used for the university catalog
 - c. Encouraging and clarifying cross-school collaboration
 - i. Programs must be housed in a school because there is no grad school
 - ii. Where programs are housed is based on their finances
 - iii. Clarify how schools/departments can work with other programs
 - d. Lessons learned from Master's Degree Review Process
 - i. Never do it in one year again
 - ii. Masters programs really need to start tracking outcomes
 - iii. Some programs didn't have separate SACS objectives for the master's program (just used their PhD ones). Each program should have distinct objectives and should measure this.
 - iv. Wide variation in quality of submissions – what can we do to make sure that the PhD reviews are more consistent? Would being more clear about who ought to compile this help?
 - v. There seemed to be three different types of programs – off-ramp for PhDs that needed an out, on-ramp for PhDs, distinct masters programs.
 - vi. We can probably do a lot more with our 4+1 programs without diluting graduate education. Those are revenue generating programs. Recruitment was often totally word of mouth and based on undergraduate advisors.
 - e. Exit survey for graduating students
 - i. All graduating students get a survey from OAIR, but it is uniform across all students (undergrad, grad, prof).
 - ii. How was the experience at Tulane, in your department?
 - iii. How do we follow up with students 2, 5, 10 years on?
8. M. Arch II program termination
- a. Title is being eliminated, will be a Master of Science in Architectural Research
 - b. Based on requirement from the accrediting body for architecture degrees. M. Arch II has always been a little confusing, and was a post M. Arch degree.
9. Architecture will be classified as STEM, with the stipulation that they add a requirement for a full year of calculus
10. Undocumented students/Foreign student issues
- a. Briana Mohan is on an undocumented student support group
 - b. Legal help for undocumented and foreign students will continue through TULAP with attorney Marco Balducci
 - c. Non-citizens are not protected by privacy acts such as FERPA (we have no right to not share information about students if it was requested by the government)
 - d. Schedule for this semester will be requested
 - e. OISS is separate and manages visas for students, staff, and faculty; can't give legal advice

- f. If programs want to make sure that they are considered STEM, they need to work with the Registrar's office to change CIP codes
- 11. School of Architecture is looking in to a more frequent and open feedback process for faculty.
- 12. Feedback for graduate students and postdocs
 - a. We have wanted to put this in place for graduate students
 - b. Students should get something in writing every year
 - c. In course-based programs, grades are part of the paper trail. This is more of a problem for students who are in the research phase
 - d. This is also an issue for postdocs
- 13. First Donut Day on Thursday, September 27 at 9 am.
- 14. Motion to adjourn 9:35