

Graduate Council Meeting Agenda

February 12, 2020

C. Ducat, J. Ruscher, C. Pealer, K. Haugeberg, S. Hassig, G. Morris, M. Lewis, L. Dornier, M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien-Brown, J. Jayawickramarajah, L. Pratt, C. Ducat, A. Fears

1. Meeting called at 8:30
2. Approval of January Minutes. Motioned by K. Haugeberg, second L. Dornier, all in favor.
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2020
 - March 25
 - April 15
 - April 22 – Directors of Graduate Studies/Graduate Admissions Officers
 - May 13
4. Announcements
 - a. PhD Reviewer visit: 3/23-3/25
 - i. Graduate Council Meeting with reviewers on 3/25
 - ii. All outside reviewers have been secured
 - iii. We will send out more information to programs being reviewed within the week
 - iv. Meetings on campus all day 3/24, follow ups can happen on 3/25
 - v. Reviews will be sent back to us within a month
 - vi. What kind of questions may be asked? It could span everything – climate, scholarship, feedback, resources.
 - vii. Previous reviews indicated the need for more graduate career resources, which resulted in a full time position within OGPS.
 - b. PhD and Master's Hooding Ceremony, 5/15, 11 am
 - i. Parking may be a challenge
 - c. BOR-SREB Fellowships
 - i. We received 2 fellowships
 - ii. If a department has admitted an underrepresented student, they can apply for this to help improve their stipend offer
 - d. OGPS website changes
 - i. Prospective students can search for programs by more general subjects/topics
 - ii. In testing phase
 - iii. Point person is Briana Mohan
 - iv. Part of a wider overhaul of the OGPS website
 - e. Pregnancy policy website

- i. Title IX office is working on this
 - ii. There are different policies in different schools and we're trying to reconcile them
 - iii. Some policies are broader than exclusively pregnancy, including adoption and fostering
 - iv. Policies and procedures for professional students are similar to that of undergraduates and so they should get in touch with CMVSS for guidance, if necessary
- f. Next year's PhD reviews:
 - i. Spanish and Portuguese
 - ii. French Studies
 - iii. Linguistics
 - iv. History
 - v. Philosophy
- 5. School of Social Work: MS/MSW Dual Degree and Certificate
 - a. Notification to Grad Council
 - b. We need to verify that they are meeting dual degree requirements, which by our assessment is the case
- 6. School of Science and Engineering: GRE requirement
 - a. Currently, it is a university policy that grad students must take the GRE to be admitted
 - b. The Dean and Faculty of SSE agreed to make it voluntary for their programs
 - c. If we agree, this would make this a university policy
 - d. They are thinking of this in the context of diversity concerns and cost issues
 - e. The GRE does give fee reduction waivers, which additionally provides access to free test prep materials. These can be accessed with a FAFSA, or membership in programs like McNair, LSLAMP, etc
 - f. Many of our peers are not requiring it
 - g. GRE is not a great a predictor of PhD success
 - h. The exam should not be used by itself, but in context with holistic admissions
 - i. Using a cut score, for instance does tend to use it in an exclusive manner
 - i. GPA is not a great indicator, because there are discrepancies between public, prestigious public, and private institutions
 - j. One concern is that we want to make sure that data is being collected to support whichever policy we decide to go with.
 - k. Do we have demographic information for applicants as well as admitted students? This would be good to provide to departments as they do their PhD reviews as part of their assessment
 - l. There is no SACS requirement to require the GRE

- m. If we agree, is there another level of approval? Yes, the provost will make the final decision based on our recommendation.
 - n. SLA's dean has agreed with SSE's recommendation and wishes to be included. It makes the most sense to change the policy for the entire university
 - o. NSF and NIH no longer require the GRE as part of an application for grants
 - p. We don't require it for BOR-SREB fellows, but we do require a mentoring plan
 - q. Motion to accept SSE recommendation that the GRE be optional for the entire university. There is a seven year sunset clause for this policy, and departments must collect data on applicants and admitted students to review the impact of this decision. Moved by J. Ruscher, seconded by C. Pealer. All in favor.
7. Coronavirus updates
- a. We don't expect this to have major implications for Fall 2020, but Summer 2020 admits may need to delay to the fall until we know more
 - b. There is currently no need to change any admissions decisions based on Chinese residency
 - c. GRE and TOEFL testing locations in Mainland China are closed currently, so there may be a backlog for students to take the exam. This might impact admissions for next year
 - d. As soon as we know more, we will pass along the information
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:27