

## **Graduate Council AY15 Annual Report to the University Senate April 28, 2015**

The Graduate Council is a faculty representative body that advises the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS) and the Provost on issues related to graduate education. According to its constitution, the Graduate Council is required to report to the University Senate once per year on its activities. This report fulfills that requirement.

The Graduate Council met six times during the 2014-15 Academic Year, with a seventh and final meeting scheduled for May 13, 2015. In addition to discussing a number of important issues related to graduate and postdoctoral education and training, we accomplished the following major tasks:

- Reviewed and approved a new 4+1 MA program in Spanish and Portuguese.
- Reviewed and approved a new non-thesis 4+1 MS option for the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering program.
- Reviewed and approved 2 new certificate programs (**Law School** - Law and International Development and **School of Social Work** - Family Practice).
- Approved the reinstatement of the Business Administration PhD program.
- Currently in the process of creating a Graduate Student Training Handbook for the university.
- Worked with Financial Aid to develop published Graduate Cost of Attendance guidelines.
- Reviewed and revised the upcoming external Graduate Program Reviews from 9 programs in one year to 5 and 4 programs over the next two years:
  - 2015-2016 – **Social Sciences** (Anthropology , City, Culture and Community [CCC], Latin American Studies, Latin American/Art History, Economic Analysis and Policy)
  - 2016 -2017 – **Business and International Studies** (Finance, Management, International Development, Political Development)
- Added to the program reviews a schedule for Masters programs:
  - 2017-2018 – Begin programs reviews for M.S., M.A., M.F.A, and 4+1 programs
- Oversaw the third set of periodic PhD program reviews. PhD programs reviewed were:
  - Aging Studies
  - Biomedical Sciences
  - Cell and Molecular Biology
  - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
  - Neuroscience
  - Psychology
  - Public Health and Tropical Medicine

- Each program submitted self-study documents that were reviewed by an external panel of experts from peer institutions.
- The Graduate Council met with the External PhD Review Team in March. The review team submitted their reviews and recommendations on April 12, 2015. Program heads reviewed reports for factual errors. Reviews were sent to Graduate Council for discussion at our May 13, 2015 meeting.
- Graduate Council will provide feedback and recommendations to the Provost, reviewed programs, and Deans, respectively.

Minutes of the Graduate Council meetings and copies of the approved policies and procedures outlined above are posted on the OGPS website at <http://tulane.edu/ogps/graduate-council.cfm>.

Members of the Graduate Council for the AY14-15 year can be found here:  
<http://tulane.edu/ogps/upload/2014-15-Graduate-Council-Members.pdf>.