

Graduate Council Agenda January 14, 2015

Present: J. Alm, A. Childress, M. Cunningham, E. Floyd, M. Foa, M. MacPherson, G. Morris, S. Overstreet, F. Rabito, E. Svendsen, M. Vail

Absent: F. Falaky/E. Poe, S. Grayson, M. Herman,

Michael Cunningham, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research and Acting Chair of the Graduate Council, called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes

S. Overstreet moved to approve. All voted in favor; no abstentions.

2. Michael Goodman, Associate VP of Financial Aid – Cost of Attendance

Federal Regulations stipulate what can and cannot be included in cost of attendance, so Financial Aid is working to give graduate students a picture of what their graduate education will cost. They are making their website more user friendly for the graduate & professional student (with an anticipated roll out at end of February). Included in this will be a worksheet that will allow graduate student to customize their own Cost of Attendance based on program and number of credit hours, to give them an idea of the upcoming year's costs.

Cost of Attendance is set up on an academic year basis; it covers tuition and fees, room and board, books, transportation and health insurance over a 9 month period (established by federal law). Cost of Attendance is determined by federal regulations and averages; typically 2-3 years of research goes into determining cost of living, including a comparison of local institutions and cost of 'dorms' (i.e., Deming Pavillion). No matter which university you attend, the cost of living in New Orleans will be the same. On non-research years, Financial Aid applies the yearly inflation rate to the cost.

Summer financial aid opportunities are available; however, summer is based on the duration of time you are enrolled in classes, not the whole tenure of the summer. Students are only eligible for living expenses for the period they are enrolled in classes.

The staff in Financial Aid is willing to set up seminars, workshops, etc. for any department's students.

There are two need-based graduate programs: the Federal Perkins Loan (maximum \$8,000). This program is carefully monitored by Tulane, as the program may cease on October 1st; this may mean that graduate students will receive the maximum amount in anticipation of using up the funding. The second is the Federal Work Study program. There are also two unsubsidized loan options: the Graduate PLUS loan, which is credit-based and has no annual limit, and the Federal Unsubsidized Loan, which offers a maximum of \$20,500.

3. Robert Connor – ESL/EAPP Programs at Tulane University

English for Academic and Professional Purposes (EAPP) is a grammar-based program, featuring content, goal, and task based programs. These programs are available for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

Available programs include:

- A non-credit program. It has an online component, and many graduate students enroll because it offers a flexible schedule.
- A night class at the Tidewater building.
- A spouse program that is more social and less academic.
- During the fall and winter breaks, a 20-hour, week long program that cost approximately \$200. These are generally successful because they do not conflict with classes.
- Online pre-arrival placement program to complete in home country online prior to attending Tulane. This program is mandatory for undergraduates; for graduate students, it is not mandatory. However, departments are encouraged to make it mandatory prior to arrival.
- Intensive English for Graduate Students (Summer): an in-person, 20 hour a week intensive program for that focuses on job interview skills, written responses, presentations. Currently MBA, Law, and SSE Teaching Assistants participate. \$500 for 3 weeks.
- Fall Teaching Assistant for-credit course; it is included with tuition waiver if the student has one. If not, it would be standard cost of a credited class.
- Conversation program: 200 total students match up to talk to one another and practice spoken English.

For an admitted student who has unexpected language issues, what would you recommend? R. Connor would recommend the Non-Credit Continuing Enrichment Program, which is available in both a classroom and online program.

4. OGPS Updates:

OGPS is working closely with the new Associate Provost of International Affairs, Tania Tetlow from the School of Law.

The 2014 PhD Review Dates are March 12-13. We have all departments confirmed except Public Health and Tropical Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Graduate “Stories” – graduate success stories, exceptional work being done around campus.

Hiring new Graduate Sr. Career and Academic Advisor

CSGS Conference – March 5-8th (if anyone is interested in attending). Send out agenda and information for registration. OGPS has contributed \$2000 contribution towards the reception at the WW2 reception.

5. Future PhD Reviews:

M. Cunningham and A. Robison proposed a schedule restructuring; the Graduate Council unanimously voted in favor to extend the 2015-16 program reviews over academic years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Master's Reviews and 4+1 Reviews: these internal reviews will be scheduled in 2017-18 and 2018-2019.

6. Proposal: New Law and International Development Certificate Program

All in favor; M. Herman abstained.

M. Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.