

Graduate Council Meeting Agenda

January 11, 2017

In attendance: J. O'Brien, M. Cunningham, K. Elfer, G. Morris, A. Childress, B. Mohan, C. Rodning, R. Ager, L. Pratt

1. Meeting called at 8:36 am
2. CR had additions to December minutes. The student referred to in the December minutes can take whatever courses make sense and do what he wants to do as an Anthro PhD by coursework. CR had suggested the student do a sequential PhD in EBIO, since it makes sense that a PhD in a particular field would require a dissertation in each field. The question he has is that his program is legitimately pretty interdisciplinary, but how would a student like that form a plan for this? What is the appropriate path? MC: It will be talked about, but basically there isn't anything in place right now for something that crosses schools. CR, another question from the minutes about MAs, in PhDs. Our students like to get a MA because it helps them get necessary permits to do research. MC: That's fine, our only issue is that if they apply for it a year before their PhD and it messes up time to degree.
3. Approval of December Minutes: CR moved, RA seconded.
4. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2017
 - o February 8
 - o March 8
 - o April 12
 - o May 10 (if needed)
 - o Going to have an active semester, so please mark your calendars
5. Announcements
 - a. Professional student rep. We still need a student from the professional schools. We reached out to Nick Fears to nominate someone from GAPSA.
 - b. Overview of upcoming events and OGPS website: BM: Career specific resources. We have the spring schedule for workshops up here month by month. This will stay up all semester and additional events will be added as needed. I will also be

sending around the standard one page version, but this is good to refer people to. I worked with GSSA on content and format. This semester, the workshops will generally be one hour long due to scheduling issues, and most are either morning or later afternoon events. There is more information available since students wanted descriptions before signing up. They also need to register, which gives me some sense of who will come and be able to track attendance. Question: Will this be distributed? Briana: It goes out to the GSSA list and I ask staff in non-GSSA schools to pass on. MC: We can send it to DGS. KE: I always get it if it goes to DGS. BM: Goes to GSSA, and DGS/GAO. MC: Sending things through listserv is not as effective as other routes. KE: Using Facebook right now to post links. BM: Two hour job search is different; it is for people who are actively looking for jobs outside of academia, particularly for people who are about to graduate. Great workshop for those students. At the end of the semester, there is a recommended online conference for students looking at non-academic careers. I did it online last year and was very impressed. Career day for ideas of careers, professional development teaches how to keep up with contacts and develop. MC: It is during Finals, so we can't require or particularly advertise it. BM: Career resources page is a selection of online resources that I have collected and organized by subject. If you're looking for something in those areas to guide students, or refer students to, send them to our website.

6. New programs to consider

- a. Interdisciplinary PhD between schools (opportunities and challenges) MC: Chris brought this up. We have particular trouble when students want to take masters level classes in programs that are revenue generating. Deans are ok with students taking PhD classes and I'm trying to get them to sign a MOU about it. The more challenging bit is for masters students. The provost thinks that as long as one program doesn't depend on another program for classes, it should be ok. If it doesn't require more space, it would be based on professor approval, and if it's a one-off, that should be ok. Is this an idea we should pursue in your opinion? If we had a grad school this wouldn't be a challenge, but because in this tuition model tuition follows the student, but we don't. CR: Model sounds reasonable to me.

From faculty perspective, it's often good to have fuller classes, and one or two students could make the difference for a course making. MC: I want to make sure we don't let students think they can take anything they want. They need prereqs and you have the say-so. I tend to have maybe one Public Health student in my classes each year, and they often add a different perspective. RA: I have had the same experience with different perspectives. MC: I had MSW students, who are paying, but it worked out. I will try to get something written from the deans.

- b. Part-time PhD for staff/faculty?
 - i. Task force to look into the question. MC: for special programs, such as the above interdisciplinary program, as well as the PhD for staff/faculty of interest. Associate deans seem to be ok if programs are ok. Want it to be not just this group, but also people from other schools. (CR volunteered). CR: I think this is important. MC: Probably going to be mostly SLA and SSE. (RA agreed to join) RA: I am on the downtown campus, which can be awkward. MC: If anyone else wants to be on, let me know. Janet Rusher will also be on it.
- c. Unified Honor Code: MC: In the undergrad code, the deans have been given more flexibility for honor code violations. For minor violations, the associate dean can give a lowered grade, rather than having to give a WF in the course. Not every school uses the unified code. AC: I'll go back and see if we're consistent. RA: So we're not on the unified code? We're already doing something like this. MC: Let me say how this work – honor code stuff is done within schools, but the school can draw upon representatives from other schools. CR: In SLA if a grad student receives an F, it's grounds for dismissal, would that apply to a WF? MC: Yes. That or two Cs could be grounds for the school to dismiss. LP: The highlighted part is the only change? I'm ok. MC: This is designed for a first time offense, to give the associate deans some flexibility. I can't make this motion. AC: Motion to approve, RA: seconded. MC: Will go to GSSA.
- d. Back to the Task Force for the Part-Time PhD: AC: We should think about having a staff member on this. GM: how would this affect seven year tenure? MC: We would need to think about the format of this. Are they applying to a program

that's already extent? Interdisciplinary? GM: Is this task force for both interdisciplinary and staff? I'd like to volunteer for the interdisciplinary one, facilitate interaction between schools. I'd recommend that we get someone from SPH who's like minded.

7. Master's Degree Program Reviews

- a. MC: I passed out the guidelines. This is adapted from the PhD guidelines. We don't want to make this too onerous, we want formative feedback.

8. MC: Back to Grad Admissions

- a. Satiya came and this would help us collect the data. Students would come to one portal. This would be helpful for our reporting to NSF, and we have to go to each school individually, some track it, some don't. The program being discussed is Slate. SLA and SSE have already agreed to use it and they will get help to manage. It gives information about how often students are looking at the website, hits, information about demographics that we have to report, might help us with marketing a bit. Right now grad recruitment is very decentralized. We might be able to use this information to buy lists of students we could target, ie MacNair students. It also gives more info about supporting students with disabilities. Right now our disability services office is very undergrad centric and this could give us the information to do better. Satiya will talk to other deans, for schools that have consortia to work with, etc. Could help even those schools with advertising. Would allow us to potentially use undergrad enrollment management resources. Could help us with recruitment from within Tulane, since some of our undergrads go on to exceptional programs. Wouldn't go into place until next year. There may be an additional staff member added to enrollment or to OGPS to manage this. This is an opportunity to centralize advertisement and recruitment in some way. We don't see a grad school coming any time soon, but this might be helpful.
- b. RA: Doesn't seem like there's a downside. MC: Would help track application completion rates. I would like each PhD programs to publish applicant numbers, acceptance rates, and time to degree. BM: Could that include where the graduates went? MC: Yes. We can build it how we want it.

9. Back to masters programs for review

- a. MC: extra documents, one for us reviewing, one for departments. Skills we expect, outcomes. Basically SACS requirements, which many departments are already starting to do. Went through the highlights of the addition to the agenda. For help filling out 5.4, we can go to the registrar to provide departments with a list of students. Is this too much for a review, or too little? AC: Still says PhD. KE: Is there any incentive for departments to report internal movement? We have quite a few students who start in thesis-masters and go to non-thesis-masters. MC: Probably part of student experiences – track changes? These are intended for terminal masters, not for those that are just getting it on way to PhD. AC: Could we call it something other than a terminal masters? It's kind of pejorative. MC: Stand alone masters? AC: I like that. MC: It also distinguishes it from masters in PhDs. What do you see as the point of a masters? AC: Independent scholarship isn't always it. BM: Maybe add that they're also practitioners? MC: How they master the content? AC: How they become independent scholars or productive in their field? GM: Want to know how that sets students up – PhDs, industry? MC: How students meet program objectives? AC: I do hope we keep independent scholars, since that is a goal of many programs. Getting a job isn't the only goal. GM: I want to think this is an intermediate step, not necessarily terminal. MC: But for some it is, this isn't always a stepping stone. The goal is also to give feedback.
- b. MC: Special section for 4+1 time to degree, probably going under 5.4. KE: Can you explain 5th year masters versus 4+1? MC: 4+1 student graduates undergrad then does their masters the next year. 5th year means that they get masters and undergrad at the same time in their 5th year. We're worried about students going in prepared, and able to graduate in a timely fashion. We'll add in 5.4 the +1 time to degree.
- c. Review time guidelines: MC: Done by GC, went through the Charge section. Can we remove the "Quality of Faculty" section since these are mostly in PhD programs? AC: Yes, but it's covered by something else right? MC: Yes, there will be a list of faculty. Generally, why is this program here, what's special about it, which could include faculty.

- d. Schedule: MC: We're hoping to be ambitious and do this semester by semester – this will be a 2-4 page document. May invite departments to meetings to answer questions. JO: We've got 20 programs per semester. I don't think we'll have time to bring them all in. I tried to arrange the schedule so that we could front load the departments who have done PhD programs who might have a better shot at doing this. AC: We need to more fully staff this council. CR: Our 4+1 isn't on here. JO: I didn't know you had one. Everyone, please take a look and make sure that this is complete. CR: Do you notify the relevant departments? MC: Yes, and the deans. The provost is excited. AC: I'm worried about removing quality of faculty altogether since that's an important. JO: That raises the point that some of these programs don't have PhDs so faculty wouldn't have been reviewed. MC: In 5.4 there is a table that would collect a lot of this information that we could evaluate. AC: They could include it in what sets their program apart. Could be very important for programs that haven't been fully vetted. Maybe something in parentheses. MC: Yes, we can add it back in.
10. Donut Days: MC: We didn't do reorientation. We decided to bring speakers to donut days. First person is Shone Stretchings about insurance. That will be on 1/26 at 9.
11. Any other topics?
- a. Kate: We need to send this Donut Days info out in advance because of this change.
 - b. MC: Treats will be in main space, Shone will be in conference space.
12. RA moved to adjourn, LP seconded. 9:44.