

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes November 13, 2013

Present: T. Albrecht, B. Deskin, F. Falaky, S. Grayson, G. Morris, M. Mislove, B. Mitchell, F. Rabito, A. Robison, G. Oldham, E. Svendsen.

Absent: J. Alm, H. Ashbaugh, H. Flora, H. Frost, M. MacPherson, S. Overstreet.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM by Brian Mitchell, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research and Acting Chair of the Graduate Council.

1. Approval of October Minutes

The minutes from the October 9, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Announcements

The PhD Annual Update was disbursed. This is the third year OGPS has produced this document. If you have thoughts, please email B. Mitchell.

Graduate Catalog in Acalog: A. Robison will be working with the departments in the spring to make sure that graduate courses are updated, instructors are accurate, and the catalog is accurate.

3. Minimum Master's Degree Requirements

Residency Requirement: The Graduate Council removed the Residency section of the MS Minimum Requirements, believing that the following sentence in the introductory paragraph sufficed: "... their curricula should not be delivered solely in an online manner."

The Graduate Council would like to approve any Master's program that wants to transition into a solely online course program. This would be added to the new program guidelines in Academic Affairs.

The question was asked about how the university would distinguish between a professional online degree and non-professional in-person degree (especially in regards to the MS)? Right now there is no designation as both would be MS degrees. If the university wants there to be a distinction, it could move into creating degrees like the PSM (Professional Science Master's). Currently, SACS accreditations allow institutions to request a certain percentage of degrees to be given online-only. Tulane is approved for 100% online only programs, and this is not limited to degree type.

The Minimum Credit Hour: Many programs require 24 hours and a thesis, but students are not registering for thesis credit hours. 30 Credit hours is the national standard, and it is reported to SACS that 30 credit hours is the university minimum. B. Mitchell will confirm with Katie Busby on SACS requirements and whether a "thesis" automatically acts as 6 credit hours.

If students are required to register for a minimum of 30 credit hours, the largest impact will be on student fees, as some programs charge on a per credit basis.

Part-Time and Full-Time Status: “In such cases, the department or the program committee can provide no certification that the student is engaged in a full-time academic program.” This language indicates that Tulane University cannot certify, for example for financial aid purposes, that the student is engaged in a full-time program.

Please take this to your programs to confirm about the 24 credit hour/30 credit hour.

4. PhD Program Review Guidelines (External Evaluation) & Self-Study Documents

OGPS asks that you please treat these documents as confidential. B. Mitchell hopes to have the PhD External Review Committee finalized soon.

The programs being reviewed year are: History, French Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Spanish & Portuguese. Some programs are new inter-disciplinary programs, and this is a chance to evaluate where they are.

The on-site visit will be March 10th. The Graduate Council Meeting scheduled for March 12 has been canceled and rescheduled for the morning of March 10th.

Based on last year’s feedback, B. Mitchell has revised the guidelines and created two separate documents: the Self-Study Review Guidelines and the External Evaluator Guidelines.

B. Mitchell motioned to approve the edited PhD Review documents. G. Morris and M. Mislove second the motion. The edits were unanimously approved.

The December meeting has been cancelled; the Minimum MS Degree Requirements will be circulated via email for review and approval in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

The Graduate Council Approved these minutes via email on December 16, 2013.