

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Nov. 9, 2016

Present: Briana Mohan, Jennifer O'Brien, Kate Elfer, Gilbert Morris, Chris Rodning, Michael Herman, Nathan Wendte

1. Report on DGS meeting

J. O'Brien – Payroll issues for student hires were discussed. Focus on the fact that students cannot work if they haven't completed the hiring process.

The new online process will be starting in Jan.

Reporting admission info university-wide in different ways. Recommendation to use Banner because it captures everything that has to be reported. No requirement to use Banner.

Next week she and M. Cunningham will have a meeting with HRL to address housing issues for grad students who have a lot of difficulty arranging housing before arrival.

K. Elfer - question about overlapping any arrangements for short-term, pre-term housing especially for intl students.

J. O'Brien – will raise this with them

B. Mohan - Childbirth and family leave also discussed at DGS

K. Elfer - Q about when going live with this policy.

B. Mohan – not 100% sure about whether or not it has to be approved by the faculty senate.

2. Self-study of Masters programs

G. Morris - Likely recommendation to follow the guidance about PhD self-studies. Somewhat scaled back, though, and learning objectives should be stressed.

M. Herman -- Research-based Masters and 4 + 1s (not research-based). Are we looking at both?

K. Elfer – Clarification that there are also Masters that Aren't 4 + 1s that aren't research-based.

J. O'Brien - Yes, they'd be included and they all need to be studied.

M. Herman - E.G. in Chemistry, we don't really do masters unless people drop out en route

J. O'Brien – What's important is that we want to make sure to catch programs that haven't yet been reviewed as part of other processes. E.g. MFAs

Further discussion - Review programs where students are paying for their degrees. However, MFAs are on stipend, and it's a terminal degree. Masters students in BMS are paying.

K. Elfer -- In BME they have 4 + 1, Masters 1 yr and 2-yr, many move into PhD.

J. O'Brien – looking as BME, we've evaluated the PhD, so we're not looking at it necessarily, but this needs to be addressed and clarified.

M. Herman – all the science depts. are more like chemistry, though a masters in Engineering gets you more.

G. Morris -- We have the list of programs from Mike. Are we supposed to do a timeline? We don't have a quorum, so we can't decide for sure. However, suggestion to have an initial report in Nov. and then reports to Grad Council would be Jan or Feb. Then Grad Council reviews them like external reviewers did for PhDs.

J. O'Brien - For the next meeting, the Grad Council reps from the different schools need to take a look at the list and clarify the various Masters programs. E.g. are these functionally different?

Three categories of types of Masters on the spreadsheet sent out yesterday. Pls review. E.g. French Masters is in French; PhD is in French Studies.

M. Herman – may be something post-Katrina. Starting a NEW program.

G. Morris – Suggestion that tuition-paying or non-tuition paying be the primary distinction. Recommended timeline: final eval by Grad Council in April and submission in May.

G. Morris offers to revise the draft document to make it relevant.

Question: Could the info about faculty all be reported via Digital Measures?

J. O'Brien – Not sure if we as Grad Council have access to that.

C. Rodning and G. Morris – Maybe the info could be summarized from the annual reports from faculty. Or we could just request the annual reports.

G. Morris – Request for all to send him recommendations, and with an eye toward SACS and learning programs and assessment. He will draft something for Grad Council to look at. Once we have something we can circulate, with M. Cunningham's approval, we will do so.

3. Announcements

B. Mohan - 3MT competition today. 9 participants, SSE and SLA represented.

J. O'Brien – Donuts and coffee for grad students next week. Last event, 6 dozen donuts were finished in less than 30 minutes. Held in Richardson 107. Email remindedrs the day before is helpful.

No further questions or announcements. No ability to adjourn b/c no quorum.

M. Herman – Clarification: officially according to Robert's Rules of Order, there is always there is an assumption of a quorum until someone calls for a quorum, whether or not the numbers are there. Can always just email everyone and ask to approve minutes, which is what we will do today.