

## Graduate Council Meeting Agenda

February 8, 2017

**M. Vail, N. Wendte, A. Childress, K. Elfer, B. Mohan, C. Pealer, G. Morris, G. Didier, J. O'Brien, M. Cunningham, C. Rodning (blond woman, black dress from SLA)**

1. Approval of January Minutes M. Vail moved, NW seconded.
2. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2017
  - o March 8
  - o April 12
  - o May 10 (if needed)
3. Announcements
  - a. Emergency DGS/GAO Meeting on Executive Order on February 15
    - i. We don't know what's happening from week to week, so we need to prepare for the worst. Emphasize/share with others that admissions decisions should be made on holistic review, not immigration possible problems.
  - b. Report from OGPS/OISS meeting on Executive Order
    - i. Sent an email to GAPSA students after this, making sure they were aware of the resources available. Met for about 2 hours. An attorney was on hand to answer questions. There will be a rally on Thursday at McAlister.
    - ii. Question: Will the administration be helping provide legal services to faculty and graduate students who are affected? Answer: OISS has been helping connect lawyers. BM: Sanctuary Campus group has been advocating for a consultant to be on staff. CP: Are these paid for? MC: A lot of the work is pro bono, but right now it's just referrals. AC: The Law School may have clinical resources, which Tania Tetlow is aware of. There is an occasional pop-up immigration focused law clinic.
    - iii. We want to protect international students in the summer. We may try to get a group together to have international students board with them if necessary over the summer, so these students don't have to leave the country. Basically looking at ways to facilitate options for students, even

though we can't sponsor this officially. If this meeting will happen, it would be around April.

- iv. At DGS/GAO Satya will be on hand, as he is the expert about admissions policies. He will work with us to advertise graduate programs that aren't part of the professional schools so that we can better meet our goals.
  - c. In meeting with the provost, Mike emphasized that we need more cross-school collaboration. If your graduate committees can help communicate your support to your deans for this, it would be helpful.
  - d. Report from LA Grad Deans' meeting: BOR is talking about changes. Of interest to us is graduate student recruitment. They are talking about eliminating departments applying for BOR graduate fellowships. We have a number of these. What they are suggesting is that faculty that are applying to them for grants should include graduate support for their students. Public comments can be made at <https://web.laregents.org/>
  - e. Advocating for graduate education: CGS document. Tulane students do well quantitatively, but the qualitative evidence is often more compelling for legislators. If you know of exceptional students in your departments, who have innovative projects, let us know so that we can highlight it as part of our advocacy work. Graduates who have done well would be good as well for this. Email any suggestions to Briana Mohan.
  - f. At the recent LA Grad Deans Meeting it was formalized as a group so it can directly petition legislators. The Graduate Dean from ULL, Mary Farmer Kaiser was chosen as the representative.
  - g. Recruitment question: In practice, how are we supposed to handle this? Answer: In 90 days this could be all over. Paperwork will be started immediately to try to take care of this.
4. Report on Student Health Insurance Meeting
- a. Insurance went to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party verifier, which found that almost 1000 undergrad and grad domestic students didn't have adequate coverage. To fix this, we will standardize insurance requirements between domestic and international students

- b. Part time status was a question. It is confusing at best, since grad students can go part time at their dissertation stage, but they may only have 3 hours before then but be full time. Grad students sometimes opt out though to save money, when the computers let them. It is also a financial issue for schools since they pay half of students' insurance.
  - c. One suggestion was to uncouple insurance from other fees.
  - d. More thorough reviews have started in the past year.
  - e. Should status be determined by hours or degree-seeking status? If a student gets a tuition waiver, they are full time, period. If they don't get a tuition waiver, they may or may not be full time. We're pushing for departments to make that determination. There are a lot of different distinctions between funding sources, that may be important. Mike will be sending out emails as questions arise.
5. Childbirth Leave and Planned Educational Leave Policies
- a. Childbirth leave is for childbirth, paternity leave, fostering young children. PELP is for planned leave to maintain access to university facilities. Childbirth leave is roughly 8 weeks, and students don't lose their stipends. Deans are in favor, but the question of who will pay came up.
  - b. Discussion: These are handled on a case by case basis right now. Students need to go to Student Affairs first, due to HIPAA and FERPA issues, since we should not be involved in students' health issues. In SLA, stipends are not attached to individual students, so if the student opts against taking it, we could lose that stipend line. Part of the problem is that there seems to be a rough accounting, rather than strict policies. For childbirth, per federal law, we have to give the student equivalent funding when the student comes back. Many schools don't use their whole stipend budget, so they often have some flexibility. When does this become operative? If we pass it, we give it to the deans and it will start next academic year (July 1). You will be able to tell incoming students that we do have a policy.
  - c. Vote again on policies (clarification changes have been made): CP moved, MV seconded, unanimously passed.
6. Admissions and readmissions of students

- a. Do schools have current readmissions guidelines? Discussion: One department's DGS took a request to the departments graduate committee, and after the decision it was taken to the dean's administration. In more planned situations, how does it work? MV: I think there needs to be a formal procedure. AC: The law school has a formal policy and I'm the chair of the committee. Within a year they're automatically OK, after a year, it's often OK. The problem is if a student just leaves without taking a leave, they have to be readmitted and it's more of a problem. NW: Is there a time limit? AC: Ours is based on the Bar, so the time frame of 5-7 years may not be appropriate to PhDs. BM: Automatic readmission within a year is similar to what the undergraduates have. AC: We find that it gives students a clear goal. MC: Taking a leave is different than a dismissal. AC: It's in the student handbook on the law school's site
  - b. Current issues with admissions? None that have come up.
7. Review self-study document for master's program reviews
    - a. Each program will do a self study, this will be helpful for SACS review. Perceptions – are you part of an association? How do people find out about your program. We will get the basic information from the registrar for current and former students so that departments can just verify. CP: Should we distinguish international students from domestic? We take both GMAT and GRE, so it's hard to come up with a departmental average. MC: We're more worried about truth in advertising, so if it matters to your department, try to include it. NW: Do we want to specify where they come from/where they go? MC: If we get an academic analytics person in the provost's office, then we should be able to get all of that information which is useful for lobbying. KE: change this to terminal not research based masters.
    - b. MC: So this is the document we will use, we will inform deans about this.
  8. Donut/King Cake Day speakers
    - a. 2/16 – Wellness representative or overview of Childbirth Leave and PELP policies (if approved)
  9. Meeting adjourned at 9:30