

## Grad Council Meeting

April 12, 2017

M. Vail; A. Childress, L. Pratt; R. Ager; G. Didier, C. Peale, G. Morris, N. Wendte, M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien, C. Anderson, D. Weinert

1. MC motion to approve minutes, MV seconded.
2. May 10 meeting
3. Interdisciplinary PhD
  - a. Deans are in favor
  - b. Fiscally housed in school of the chair of the committee
  - c. Would be up to the school to say whether they would want to give a tuition waiver
  - d. Discussion: It would be self-designed, just like one-school interdisciplinary PhDs, not likely to be many students, but may be used by staff
  - e. Would say "interdisciplinary studies" without a particular focus
  - f. Motion to approve from MV. Seconded by R. Ager. All in favor
4. Schedule for Master's reviews
  - a. Add M.Arch II to December
  - b. No other additions
5. Student Health Insurance
  - a. Approximately 30% of students' plans didn't meet the requirements
  - b. 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification is finding these students
  - c. Going to encourage students to take SHIP, which is less expensive than the ACA, but helps make sure that we're in compliance with the ACA
  - d. May particularly impact students who are doing research but have stopped taking classes. It used to be based on credit hours, but now it will be based on full time status, and all students will need it.
  - e. Dependent insurance will hopefully be spread out over multiple payments
  - f. Trying to get fees spread out, working with A/R to adjust this
  - g. Students themselves have to pay up front if they don't put it on installments. We're trying to make sure that students are aware that they can have it on an installment plan, rather than having to work out a payment plan with A/R. That is currently not an option at all for dependents.
  - h. Navigating Gallager has been a problem, for at least one person
6. Graduate Assistant Policy
  - a. We'll send it out and work on revising it
  - b. We'll vote on it next meeting
  - c. Need to update it with the new policies and procedures
7. BOR-SREB Fellows

- a. We were dinged on centralized mentoring process for students. We'll try to work out something more systemic in OGPS
  - b. If you have SREB fellows in your area, and you want them to be involved in the coalesced mentoring efforts that we're doing
  - c. Still concerned about the BOR Fellows program, which is not the same (just for outstanding students). Not going to touch the SREB fellows. SREB fellows are not as lucrative as the BOR fellows, which are at \$30k/year. Still unclear how that will work. It might change, the first meeting about it was in March (April)? So we're trying to make sure that we have a graduate dean present. Would not be retroactive, so current BOR fellows would be fine.
8. Aside: Parental leave
- a. Student should go to the Goldman Office of Accessibility
  - b. Goldman will talk to the department to see if there's anything that she could still do
  - c. Then the 8 weeks would kick in when the student needs it
  - d. If there is a need for more than 8 weeks, it would be a PELP, which would stop the stipend
  - e. Can also stop the clock for the deadline for completing a PhD (7 years)
9. Network housing event 4/25
- a. Bring together staff, faculty, and students
  - b. Not a housing service, just bringing people together
  - c. Something similar may need to be done over winter break
10. Donut Day on 4/20
- a. Financial aid
11. Question: After 48 credit hours, a PhD student has to pay for extra courses. You can have a range for Master's degrees. Once you've met your program requirements, you're supposed to be done with that (at least in part to make sure that students aren't taking random courses across the school). Is there a way that the courses could be incorporated into the plan if these are classes that they need to help with their research? Students could take fewer courses one semester if there's a plan that a course that's not offered often will be taken. That does impact time to degree, however.
12. Meeting adjourned at 9:05. MC motioned. JO seconded.