

Graduate Council Agenda
April 8, 2015

Present: R. Adderley, J. Alm, A. Childress, M. Cunningham, F. Falaky, S. Grayson, S. Lantz, M. MacPherson, B. Mohan, G. Morris, S. Overstreet, F. Rabito, A. Robison, M. Vail

Absent: M. Foa, M. Herman, L. Pratt, E. Svendsen

- A. Childress would like to serve next year – talk to Dave Meyer (Dean)

Michael Cunningham, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research and Acting Chair of the Graduate Council, called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes

G. Morris motioned to approve the minutes; S. Overstreet seconded. All voted in favor of approval.

2. Briana Mohan – Senior Academic and Career Advisor

Briana comes to OGPS from the Academic Advising Center, where she worked with Liberal Arts students. She's done advising and career planning for 15 years.

Briana is already seeing students from all programs and backgrounds in MA, MS, MFA, and PhDs programs; please continue to send students her way. She is located in the Career Services Center in the Diboll Complex (on the ground floor). Appointments are available by email, phone call, and online appointments.

3. Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering 4+1

CBE would like to add a non-thesis track 4+1 program; these students will begin their graduate work at the 5th year. The current thesis track has junior/senior level students beginning their dissertation during their undergraduate career; the non-thesis track would begin coursework during the fifth year.

Request is approved; all vote in favor.

4. Psychology/Xavier 4+1 MOU

President Fitts and President Francis have re-signed an MOU between Tulane University and Xavier University allowing undergraduate Xavier Psychology students the opportunity to pursue a 4+1 Master's program.

This opportunity will provide a great model and sample pool to test this programming for other programs, especially in recruiting minority students and keeping them in the graduate pipeline.

5. PhD Reviews

We should receive the reviews from the committee chair on April 15th.

Next year we will request student volunteers to help move the committee members from meeting to meeting.

The external PhD Reviewers recommend flipping the order of the meetings, so that they meet with graduate students and program faculty first, and meet with administration later in the day. This allows them more time for prepared talk with administration.

6. Graduate Student Training Guidelines

This is being built in response to the February meeting and graduate concerns that have come to the attention of OGPS and Student Affairs.

S. Overstreet proposes that all programs have a graduate student handbook that is available online to establish the baselines within the programs/departments. Any Graduate Council created graduate student training guidelines are intended to supplement departmental handbooks.

M. MacPherson recommend the Responsible Graduate Research course (full semester, pass/fail for students), which was taken previously by graduate students and faculty to explore the ways that authorship and research varies between the fields and what is academically honest/dishonest.

S. Grayson recommends a clarification between patent authorship and paper authorship, as graduate students get these confused.

A. Childress recommend a paragraph about human investigation and other ethics reviews. This should be addressed at the beginning of the document.

Recommendation to change "Compensation and Employment Outside the University" should be restructured to specify that these rules are applicable to PhD track students, and during the academic year. Students should be seeking departmental approval to work outside of the department, within the university. The university should address the maximum number of hours that are acceptable to work outside the TA/RA fellowship (10 hours with approval is recommended by the Graduate Council).

F. Rabito recommends that graduate students and advisors sign a written agreement on their progress and expectations at the beginning of a student's career. The work expectations need to be stated within a departmental/program handbook or online prior to the students beginning coursework and being evaluated on their progress.

7. New Graduate Course Catalog

There will be a new course catalog system moving into place and the Newcomb-Tulane College staff will be creating a unified course catalog.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.