

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2014

Present: T. Albrecht, F. Falacky, H. Frost, M. MacPherson, B. Mitchell, M. Mislove, G. Morris, G. Oldham, F. Rabito, E. Svendsen

Absent: J. Alm, H. Ashbaugh, S. Grayson

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. February Meeting Minutes

A. Robison will circulate February Meeting Minutes via email for approval. The April Meeting Minutes will be approved at the May Meeting.

2. Request to approve a graduate certificate program in GESS.

T. Albrecht moves to approve; H. Flora seconds.

The GESS Graduate Certificate is a standing certificate program in SLA. Currently there is a student who has satisfied all the requirements per the website, but a Banner issue resulted in the inability of the student to receive the certificate. We are trying to approve the certificate and ensure that it is transcribed for graduating students.

The SLA Graduate Committee has approved the request for the GESS graduate certificate program.

The SLA Graduate Committee did not know the policies and procedures across the university regarding whether graduate level courses are allowed in programs without graduate programs. Generally, certificate programs, courses, and credits are considered a subset of a standing graduate program. In that sense, GESS does not fit that mold.

The restriction to SSE and SLA is not a university policy; students within other PhD programs are eligible to receive the certificate. This certificate is five courses (which is approximately half a Master's degree), and is available to all graduate students in an MA, MS, MFA, or PhD programs.

M. Macpherson relayed that, among graduate students, there is a great demand and interest in this certification program.

The Graduate Council has voted its approval pending the following updates: the program needs to update courses numbers to the four-digit system, update the list of approved electives, and update the faculty list. Additionally, the program would benefit from some publicity across the schools and departments.

All in favor; no abstentions.

3. Request for Spanish and Portuguese name change

Spanish and Portuguese would like to clarify their major offerings; there are three majors within the department: Spanish, Portuguese, and Spanish and Portuguese.

M. Mitchell motions to approve; T. Albrecht and M. Mislove second the motion.

When the SLA programs went through the PhD reviews, the Spanish and Portuguese review revealed that there is an option for a PhD in Spanish. They would like to institute a PhD in Portuguese.

If these become three majors, then that means there are three majors for review purposes. The other option would be to offer three tracks within a major. The department would like the majors to reflect changes in the job market.

The request will be left on the table; concerns will be addressed with J. Dangler regarding the implications of creating three distinct PhD programs. This will be addressed in the May meeting when the PhD Review Committee program review for Spanish and Portuguese has been received.

Motion to table; all approved.

4. Tracking of PhD students

During a recent University Board meeting, B. Mitchell addressed currently issues facing Tulane graduates. The committee asked that the PhD students be tracked, so that we understand where they are doing post-graduation.

Whose responsibility is it to track students? How do we track it? How do we determine successful careers? A trajectory may not be determined for a long time after their education ends.

OGPS is a great place for a repository, but each department should be responsible for tracking their students post-graduation.

What type of tools would help the departments do this? Epidemiology uses multiple tools to track them: email and social media – particularly LinkedIn and Facebook. This has led to success in tracking the students. They track where they are employed and what their title is. SPHTM tracks what industries the graduates are going into. Some tracking is done and managed through the Development and Alumni Offices.

What information does Tulane want to track: from the graduate program to their first position post-graduation; a 5 year follow-up; and a 10 year follow-up.

5. PhD Review Committee

We are anticipating the PhD External Review Report any day now. OGPS has scheduled a meeting a Graduate Council meeting for May 14th from 8:30 -10 AM in McKeever. The goal is to formulate recommendations and revisit the Spanish and Portuguese request.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.