

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Present: Jim Alm, Brian Deskin, Holly Flora, Heather Frost, Scott Grayson, Maggie MacPherson, Michael Mislove, Brian Mitchell, Gil Morris, Felicia Rabito, and Erik Svedsen.

Absent: Tom Albrecht, Hank Ashbaugh, Faycal Falaky, Stacy Overstreet, and Greg Oldham.

Brian Mitchell, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research and Acting Chair of the Graduate Council, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

1. Review of Graduate Council Constitution:

The Graduate Council Constitution was reviewed for new council members so they know specifically what their duties and role is within the university. The Graduate Council oversees and creates policy for the MA, MFA, MS, and PhD programs at the university. It also approves new graduate programs, major curricular changes, and termination of graduate programs. The Graduate Council initiates reviews of programs when appropriate (such as the upcoming PhD External Review). The Graduate Council Chair provides a report of all Council activities to the University Senate at the end of the academic year.

2. Announcements:

Minutes were previously approved from April's Graduate Council meeting via email in May. Typically minutes will be approved at beginning of the next month's meeting.

OGPS and B. Mitchell, in particular, have taken over as advisor for GSSA. This will allow GSSA and OGPS to work more closely together.

3. Approval of MS in Clinical Anatomy:

B. Mitchell presented the MS in Clinical Anatomy for approval. Last May the Graduate Council approved a one-year MS in Anatomy program, and Biomedical Sciences seeks to create a second major: the MS in Clinical Anatomy, a two-year program that will provide students the information and practice needed to become teachers of anatomy. The MS in Clinical Anatomy is a non-thesis Master's program.

G. Morris moved to approve the MS; M. Mislove seconded the motion.

Some corrections are needed prior to approval: the 2 page description calls it a "baccalaureate program" and it is a "post-baccalaureate program." The number of credits on page 2 does not add up: it lists 24 credits as needed, but should read 22 credits. B. Mitchell accepted these corrections as friendly amendments and assured the Graduate Council that they would be corrected prior to program implementation.

Motion to vote: all in favor – unanimous with one abstention.

4. Master's Minimum Degree Requirements:

The development of Master's Minimum Degree Requirements is for "Non-professional Masters Programs," such as the MA, MFA, and MS programs (excluding those like the MPH and MSPH).

The Graduate Council expressed diverse ideas and opinions on the future of Master's Programs at the University, with regards to:

- What impact will Minimum Degree Requirements have on our 4+1 programs in SSE and SLA? What role will Master's programs have in the future as revenue sources for the schools?
- Do we allow completely online Master's degree programs, and how will this impact residency requirements?

- How do we ensure quality in regards to education, student qualifications, and protect against fraud?

Proposed edits to current Minimum Degree Requirements:

- One semester at bottom under Residency – should be 1 semester not 1 year.
- strike out – 3rd paragraph bottom page 1 – leave out “either”

The policy will be revised and voted on at the next meeting, if appropriate.

Minimum Subsidies for Student Health Insurance –

Per last year’s discussions, the Council will revisit the subsidy to see what improvements can be made to the program in the upcoming year.

Input from Grad Council on Postdoc Hiring Practices –

With the new HCM/Kronos systems, OGPS has the opportunity to carve out a separate postdoc category and the corresponding benefits. Currently, Postdoctoral Fellows are categorized as staff, and Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows are categorized as faculty. While the Graduate Council does not typically oversee the postdoctoral community, OGPS would appreciate the Council’s input.

PhD Program Reviews –

One major revision for this year’s PhD Program Reviews will have to do with the instructions we give to the visiting team. There are 5 programs undergoing review this year: Spanish and Portuguese, French Studies, Linguistics, History, and Philosophy. These departments will submit their self-studies to OGPS in September.

Graduate Catalog Course Descriptions –

SACS requires a catalog of courses for all of the graduate programs. As of right now, the graduate course catalog is not in compliance with SACS requirements. Newcomb-Tulane College maintains the updates for the undergraduate catalog, but not the graduate catalog.

OGPS has taken on the charge of updating course information to Banner, and may be requesting guidance and assistance in conveying to departments and programs the importance of this information and updating it.

Updated Meeting schedule for 2013-14:

October 9

November 13

December 11

February 12

March 10 – The March 12 meeting has been rescheduled to accommodate the PhD external review team.

April 9

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.