

**Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2012**

Present: James Alm, Henry Ashbaugh, Tom Albrecht, Cooper Battle, Diane Blake, Tysheena Charles, Faycal Falaky, Holly Flora, Heather Frost, Frank Jones, Leann Myers, Mike Mislove, Brian Mitchell (acting chair), Gilbert Morris, Greg Oldham, Stacy Overstreet.

Absent: Michael Bernstein

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Brian Mitchell, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research and Acting Chair of the Graduate Council.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 11, 2012 meeting and the May 4, 2012 Special Action of the Graduate Council (GC) were approved.

2. Announcements

All members of the Graduate Council introduced themselves, including the new members: Jim Alm; Faycal Falaky; Leann Myers; Greg Oldham; Stacy Overstreet; Heather Frost.

The FY13 Graduate Council Meeting schedule was announced: Nov. 14, 2012; Jan. 9, 2013; Feb. 13, 2013; Mar. 13, 2013; and Apr. 10, 2013. Rooms will be announced and meetings will be cancelled if there is insufficient business to conduct.

B. Mitchell updated the council on Innovation and Interdisciplinarity in Graduate Education at Tulane which includes the addition of one new interdisciplinary PhD program in Political Development. Students will matriculate into this program in the Fall of 2014. He noted that there will be no new initiatives, but Academic Affairs will entertain discussions on ad-hoc requests for new doctoral programs.

There are two new positions at Tulane relevant to graduate education. There is a new ESL Director, Robert Connor who resides within the Center for Global Education, and a new Career Advisor within Career Services, Merrick Lyons, who will assist in placing doctoral and masters-level students into non-academic positions. D. Blake asked whether this service was available to postdocs as well. B. Mitchell responded that it was.

3. Update on FY13 PhD Program Review

The first round of PhD program reviews will be conducted this year. The external review team is being formulated but not yet finalized.

4. Approval of Certificate Programs

Two graduate-level certificate programs were proposed for approval.

Approved November 14, 2012

The first, a Certificate Program in Technology Commercialization, is proposed for PhD and MD students that includes classes taught by the Schools of Law, Business, Medicine, and Science and Engineering in the areas of entrepreneurship. A total of six courses are proposed, for a total of 21 credits, utilizing existing courses. G. Oldham asked why undergraduate courses in the Business School are being used for a graduate-level certificate program, especially when graduate-level equivalents exist. He submitted a list of these courses and their equivalents, and noted that one course (ACCN 6010) was actually a 2-credit course, not a 3-credit course:

MGMT 4610, MGMT 6240
ACCN 2010, ACCN 6010 (6010 is only a 2-credit course)
FINE 4130, FINE 7130
MGMT 4180, MGMT 7210

Diane Blake noted that there was a great deal of interest in this program amongst the Biochemistry graduate students, and suggested that if a change is made to the curriculum, that these students be grandfathered to allow the undergraduate courses to substitute. Given these questions and concerns, the Graduate Council moved and approved to table action on this item until the next meeting of November 14. B. Mitchell agreed to carry these concerns to the authors and request their presence at the next meeting to address questions.

The second certificate program in Trauma-Focused School Psychology was presented by S. Overstreet. The certificate comprises six specialized courses related to the training objectives within the School Psychology doctoral program. M. Mislove asked if this certificate was the same as a track. S. Overstreet said that there are currently four tracks within the program, and that this certificate constitutes a specialization within the tracks. A motion was made and seconded to approve the certificate program. It was unanimously approved by the Graduate Council.

5. FY13 Graduate Council Goals

B. Mitchell outlined topics to be addressed by this year's Graduate Committee. These topics include: developing policies and guidelines on Postdoctoral Fellows; reviewing proposals for new PhD programs; reviewing recommendations of from the external PhD program review; developing a graduate housing plan; and continue to discuss admissions and degree standards for graduate programs. M. Mislove suggested that clear guidelines on the submission of proposals for new PhD programs, including resolution of conflicting information on a timetable, would be beneficial. He also inquired about whose responsibility it was to promote graduate education more generally, especially in the midst of strategic planning and a capital campaign. B. Mitchell indicated that he felt it was his responsibility, in conjunction with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, to fulfill this function. In addition to establishing OGPS, there will be more visible messaging of graduate education, such as an Annual Report, and proposals for specific development opportunities such as graduate housing.

B. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Approved November 14, 2012