

Graduate Council Meeting
February 17, 2016

Present: R. Ager, M. Cunningham, K. Elfer A. Enami, M. Herman, K. Kwong, B. Mohan, G. Morris, L. Pratt, C. Rodning, M. Vail

Absent: R. Adderley, A. Childress, G. Didier, C. Dunn, S. Grayson, P. Roberts, L. Shi

M. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

1. Approval of January minutes

M. Herman moves to approve; M. Vail seconds the motion. All approve.

2. President's and Weiss Awards

M. Cunningham encouraged the Grad Council to nominate faculty in President's Awards for Excellence in Graduate & Professional Teaching.

3. PhD Reviews

Reviews will take place on Monday, March 28th through Wednesday the 30th. Please see the list of committee members.

The March 9th Graduate Council meeting will be cancelled in favor of the March 30th meeting.

The Graduate Council will officially follow-up with the previously reviewed programs and recommendations. One recommendation was the lack of centralized diversity recruiting; we've addressed this by extending our Terminal Degree Marketing Grant to include diversity plans from the departments applying. In addition, OGPS staff have been attending minority and diversity recruitment fairs.

Do we have a method to track diversity recruitment efforts? There are means across the campus, but they are decentralized between the schools and the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research. OGPS will work with the schools and graduate admissions officers to see if we can get demographic data from the schools in regards to admissions, acceptance, and enrollment data.

We can all promote the resources on campus for our diversity and minority student needs.

4. Postdoctoral Fellow Updates

All postdocs are their own category within HCM; this means they have their own set of benefits. The Fair Labor Standards act currently does not an exemption for postdoctoral fellows at this point; national organizations are working with the Dept. of Labor to make them an exempt group. If FLSA does not exempt them, all postdoctoral fellows making under \$50,000 will have to begin tracking time in Kronos.

All postdocs that are currently hired will be grandfathered into our old policies.

Changes to the post benefits have been matched against the medical residents, as both populations are in training positions to complete their education. They have also been compared to our peer institutions.

All postdoctoral fellows have a term limit of 5 years; after that point, they need to be moved into a Research Scientist position. They will also be on a renewed contract each year, to provide feedback for postdocs as well as support for PIs when evaluating their progress.

There currently is no standardization for postdoc pay. Most use the NIH guidelines, but OGPS is developing guidelines and recommendations. This will address those who are on 9-month contracts in the teaching fellowships, versus those who are 12-month contracts in the research positions.

5. Updates from the Graduate & Professional Student Liaison Meeting

GAPSA and Randy Phillipson are working together to pay for increased lighting on the downtown campus, including more blue light emergency phones. The cost was split with GAPSA. Facilities will also be adding signage and cameras indicate that you're on the Tulane campus.

On February 26th, the "O" will host a social for graduate and professional students downtown. All Graduate Council members are invited to attend. A. Robison will email out information.

Student Affairs is coordinating all orientations across the campus; please send any requests to Jon Nonnamaker, where he will disburse to the appropriate Student Affairs' offices.

Graduate housing: Aron provided international graduate student housing with 70 students; 90% were Business students. There is capacity for up to 150 students (either 75 or 150). Housing & Residential Life does not mix graduate and undergraduate populations in their buildings, and 10- or 12- month leases are available. There will be 25 apartments available for leasing at the Papillion Apartment complex beginning this upcoming year. HRL is building an on-campus housing website to cover the basics of renting in Louisiana and in New Orleans. Students can contact Brian Johnson, the Asst. VP of HRL if they are interested.

Locker rooms in the Reilly center will be closed for renovation.

The LBC Food Court will be closed after graduation for the duration of the summer; the only place remaining is Pickles. The 1834 Club (11:30-2 PM), City Diner (7-5 PM), Food Court Express (7-3 PM), The Drawing Board (8-2 PM), and Bruff Commons (7-7 PM) will all be open to compensate for the Food Court closure.

Graduate Students will have access to a grad student meal plan that is similar to the faculty & staff plan; they will be able to add cash to their splash card and purchase things tax free.

Sodexo/Olive Blue Catering will be offering Express Catering Menus for small groups; this will allow for smaller meetings and immediate pick-up of food orders.

Student Affairs is looking for additional Urgent Care options for all students.

Tech Connect in the LBC does computer repairs in addition to selling technology.

Daytime collaborative space for graduate students; M. Cunningham is meeting with Dean Banush, as well as talking about possibly using the City Diner during the day as graduate space.

M. Cunningham will send out the graduate student checklist to directors/department chairs to ensure that they have a base line for evaluating graduate students.

M. Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:05 AM.