SMU. Moody School of Graduate & Advanced Studies

Minutes of the Graduate Council
April 14, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Ali Beskok, Alan Itkin, Elfi Kraka, Renee McDonald, Volkan Otugen, Dinesh Rajan, Gretchen Smith

Members Not in Attendance:

Kate Carté, Akihito Kamata, Anna Lovatt, Brian Molanphy, Alexandra E. Pavlakis, Anthony Petrosino, Robin Poston

---

Business:

- **Minutes of the March Meeting:** The Council did not have quorum, so no vote was held on this item.

- **Master's Degrees in Passing:** The Council discussed a specific situation where a student wishes to leave their PhD program with a master's degree to recognize they have completed the pre-candidacy phase of the program. However, the student already has a master's degree from another institution in the same field. Dr. Itkin stated that, based on review by Dayna Oscherwitz, Associate Provost for Planning and Effectiveness, it is not a best practice to provide the same qualification a student has earned elsewhere. Council members mentioned that it does sometimes happen that a student, who holds a master's degree from one university, receives the master's in that same field from another university. They suggested that, in this case, it could be left to the discretion of the department to award the master's degree. Other options would be creating a generalist certificate or degree that could be awarded in similar situations. One other complicating factor is that some departments use their terminal master's as a master's degree in passing. Council members recommended pursuing the creation of a separate master's degree in passing in those departments.

- **Provost R1 Investments:** Dr. Itkin described proposals for funding for doctoral students and postdocs that had been shared with the Provost (slides 6-7). $800,000 has been set aside for funding initiatives to increase doctoral conferrals, especially in humanities and social science fields, and $1.05 million has been set aside for initiatives intended to increase the number of science and engineering postdocs. Dr. Itkin explained that one initiative, Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowships, has been launched. The other proposals are still under review in the Provost's Office.

- **Graduate Appeals Policy:** Dr. Itkin informed the Council that the Graduate Appeals Policy had been approved by the EPC and would appear in the Graduate Catalog for 2023-24 (slide 9).

- **PhD Health Insurance Program:** Dr. Itkin went through a proposal for a new process for PhD Health Insurance Awards that would rely on departments to enter awards (slides 11-12). This would

alleviate confusion that arises when awards are assigned late due to changes in RA or TA assignments. The Council discussed this. Dr. Itkin agreed to visit meetings for department administrators in the different schools to discuss this change with them.

- **English Language Proficiency Requirement:** International graduate applicants are required to provide English language proficiency scores unless they have an undergraduate degree from a short list of English-speaking countries. Dr. Itkin explained that there had been complaints about this list. He shared alternative approaches at Vanderbilt University and UT Austin (slides 14-17). Dr. Itkin shared proposed alternate language and an approach that would remove the list of countries from printed and online policies but retain it for automatic processing (slide 18). Dr. McDonald suggested that the proposed language could be simplified and that the checklist item in the Slate application system could clearly indicate the option of requesting a waiver. Drs. Rajan and Otugen suggested working with Claudia Sotomayor Hart in ISSS to make sure that this approach would work for them.

- **Moody Faculty Fellowships:** Dr. Itkin described the goals agreed upon with the Moody Foundation for Moody Faculty Fellowships (slide 19). Funding for this initiative is included in the $100 million gift from the Moody Foundation. Drs. Poston, Itkin, Petrosino, McDonald, Beskok, and Lovatt will meet as a subcommittee to produce proposals for the full Council for how the program would work.

- **Master's Enrollments:** Dr. Itkin went through the latest graduate application funnel report. As he explained, applications and admissions are mostly on pace with previous years. There are some anomalies in the data, but they are mostly due to changes in application review processes. Dr. Itkin also let the Council know that Dr. Poston has been charged with assisting schools and colleges with master's recruitment and increasing master's enrollments.

- **Developing New PhD Programs:** Dr. Itkin explained that one factor that limits SMU's ability to move up in the Carnegie Classification rankings is that doctoral conferrals in social sciences are low and that this is due to the fact that SMU only has two social science doctoral programs (slide 22). Dr. Poston has begun to explore the possibility of launching new doctoral programs in social science fields. Dr. Itkin shared a list of fields that are categorized as social sciences by the ACE Carnegie Foundation (slide 23) and said that Dr. Poston was looking for input and ideas for new doctoral programs that would be in one of the fields on the list.

- **Doctoral Conferrals 2022-23:** Dr. Itkin went through projected doctoral conferrals for the current academic year (slide 25). Conferrals for Spring 2023 are not final, because some students will end up deferring graduation to a later semester. Overall, doctoral conferrals are projected to be up from the last Carnegie year of measure.

- **Student Organizing:** Dr. Itkin asked Council members to let him and Dr. Poston know if they hear about student labor organizing. There does not seem to be much organizing going on at SMU, but, given the current climate at institutions across the US, it would be helpful to know if Council members hear of any conversations among graduate students about this.

- Meeting adjourned.

Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

Graduate Council Meeting

April 14, 2023, 9:30-11:00pm, Ford Hall Conference Room 230

SMU

Meeting Agenda

1. Minutes of the March 24 Meeting

2. Master's Degrees in Passing

3. Provost R1 Investments (Doctoral Students and Postdocs)

4. Graduate Appeals Policy

5. PhD Health Insurance Program

6. English Language Proficiency Exam Requirement

7. Moody Faculty Fellowships

8. Master's Enrollments

9. Developing New PhD Programs

10. Doctoral Conferrals 2022-2023

11. Student Organizing

12. Fulbright Cost Share Agreement

13. Other Items

SMU®

Minutes of the March Meeting

https://smu.box.com/s/km87gpm7292pq33kmeq56brpv2mpamfu

Master's Degree in Passing

Provost R1 Investments

Provost R1 Investments

Proposals for additional doctoral student support for the Road to R1

Funding Initiative	Description	Amount Proposed
Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowship	Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowships are intended to support PhD students in the humanities and social sciences who have performed well in the early stages of their programs and demonstrated strong potential to complete their degrees. They are also intended to expand the pool of funding for humanities and social science PhD programs and to increase the size of those programs and the number of PhD degrees they confer and encourage graduation in R1 year of record.	$595,000
Provost's Research Grant Enhancement Awards	Faculty in social science and humanities departments who secure grant research funding will be eligible to apply for a Provost's Research Grant Enhancement Award.	$70,000
Provost's Discretionary Doctoral Fellowships	Provost's Discretionary Doctoral Fellowships provide faculty in social science and humanities departments the ability to recruit the best and brightest students possible to join SMU with the support of their college/schools' Dean's Office.	$105,000
Provost's Summer Research Grant Awards	Provost's Summer Research Grant Awards accelerate degree completion for PhD students in humanities and social sciences by supporting their dissertation research during the summer. Provost's Summer Research Grant Award provides up to $5,000 per student for summer research support.	$30,000
		$800,000
Additional possibilities		
Provost's Liberal Studies Scholarship	Provost's Liberal Studies Scholarships provide tuition scholarships of $15,000/yr for incoming Doctor of Liberal Studies students who commit to pursue their studies full time and complete the degree within three years. Scholarship funds will be used to staff additional classes needed to increase cohort size.	$60,000
Provost's Religious Studies COVID Delay Return Fund	Provost's Religious Studies COVID Delay Return Funds provide stipends of $20,000/yr and $4,000/yr for health insurance for up to three years for current Doctor of Religious Studies students who were derailed by COVID in making progress toward their degree completion. These funds allow them to return to full time study in the program and complete their degrees.	$48,000

SMU

Provost R1 Investments

Proposals for additional postdoctoral scholar support for the Road to R1

Funding Initiative	Description	# of Postdoc Positions	Amount Proposed
Provost's Science & Engineering Postdoctoral Fellowship Program	Provost's Science & Engineering Postdoctoral Fellowships are intended to support post-doctoral candidates in Science and Engineering fields as measured by the ACE Carnegie Foundation. They are intended to expand the pool of funding for science and engineering research programs and to increase the number of science and engineering postdocs on the SMU campus, with special consideration for their being employed at SMU in the ACE Carnegie R1 year of record.	12	$840,000
Provost's Science & Engineering Research Grant Enhancement Awards	Provost's Science & Engineering Research Grant Enhancement Awards are intended to reward research productive faculty who secure new external funding and support post-doctoral candidates in science and engineering fields as measured by the ACE Carnegie Foundation. They are intended to expand the pool of funding for science and engineering research programs and to increase the number of science and engineering postdocs on the SMU campus, with special consideration for their being employed at SMU in the ACE Carnegie R1 year of record.	3	$210,000
			$1,050,000

SMU

Graduate Appeals Policy

Graduate Appeals Policy

» The graduate grade appeal policy has been approved by the EPC!

» The final draft of the policy is available here:
https://smu.box.com/s/m1tsdalpefeqd2a8qelsv6km7i9e2xpu

SMU

PhD Health Insurance Program

PhD Health Insurance Award Program

» Advantages of the current process:

  » Moody School can ensure that only eligible students are awarded

» Disadvantage of the current process:

  » Multiple steps to assigning awards slows down awards

  » When students are left off lists, they often reach out to the Moody School or the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center, creating additional confirmation steps with departments

  » Collecting lists, reviewing them, following up with departments, assigning awards creates a significant work burden in the Moody School

SMU

PhD Health Insurance Award Program

Proposed new process:

» Provide department administrators with the financial aid item type to assign awards

» Allow department administrators to assign awards, as they currently assign other forms of aid (tuition scholarships, stipends, etc.) for their students

» The Moody School will review petitions for students who do not meet eligibility criteria

» After awards have been assigned, the Moody School will review and determine if any students were awarded who were not eligible

» Schools will be charged the full amount for premiums for any students who were awarded even though they were not eligible

SMU

English Proficiency Requirement

English Proficiency Requirement

Current policy (varies slightly from school to school):

» Applicants who do not speak English as their native language are required to supply scores on the TOEFL English language proficiency test or the IELTS English competency test. The minimum TOEFL score for admission is 80, and the minimum IELTS score is 6.5, unless specified otherwise by a program or department. This requirement is waived for students who have received undergraduate degrees from an English-language institution located in the **United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa only**. **SMU's ETS code is 6660.**

SMU.

English Proficiency Requirement

Vanderbilt Policy (no approved country list, but dedicated graduate application processing):

TOEFL and IELTS

Applicants whose native language is not English must present the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with the application. This requirement may be waived if you have earned a degree from an English-speaking institution. Please contact your program of interest to confirm.

- You may access information regarding the TOEFL including registration and sample tests, at ets.org/toefl.
- The Vanderbilt Institution Code for TOEFL is **1871.**
- The minimum acceptable score on the paper-based TOEFL is **570,** and for the Internet-based test, **88.** Many programs, however, require a considerably higher level of proficiency.
- The TOEFL IBT, TOEFL Home Edition, and TOEFL Essentials (8-9.5 band range) tests are also accepted.

SMU

English Proficiency Requirement

UT Austin Policy:

Qualifying Countries

- American Samoa
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada (except Quebec)
- Dominica
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Grand Cayman
- Guyana
- India
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Liberia
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Singapore
- Trinidad/Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- United Kingdom
- U.S. Pacific Trust

Why isn't my country listed?

For purposes of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) requirement, international applicants are exempt only if they are from a country where English is the sole official language and the primary conversational language of the country. In some countries, English is but one of the officially recognized languages or it is not the primary language used to communicate outside of the classroom.

SMU

English Proficiency Requirement

» Proposed revised language:

> Applicants who do not speak English as their native language are required to supply scores on the TOEFL English language proficiency test, the IELTS English competency test, or the Duolingo English Test. The minimum TOEFL score for admission is 80, the minimum IELTS score is 6.5 and the minimum Duolingo Score is 110, unless specified otherwise by a program or department. **SMU's ETS code is 6660.** This requirement may be waived for students who have earned a degree from an English-speaking institution and who include in their application a transcript that clearly indicates that the degree is from an English-speaking institution.

» We can waive the requirement for students with degrees from an internal country list

» Other applicants will have an unmet checklist item in Slate for "Language Proficiency Exam," if they have not submitted scores

» When they click on that unmet checklist item, it will give them instructions for submitting a request for a waiver of the requirement

» Schools that meet criteria for a waiver can be added to the automatic waiver list in Slate

SMU.

Moody Faculty Fellowships

Moody Faculty Fellowships

» We are planning to have our first class of Faculty Fellows in 2024-2025.

» This is one of the programs proposed to the Moody Foundation in the gift agreement

» Moody Faculty Fellowships "will support outstanding faculty, including visiting faculty, and reward and encourage mentoring of graduate students and the conduct of research."

» They are also intended to contribute to strategic goals, such as increasing conferrals of doctorates to support the Road to R1 and the Strategic Plan.

» A subcommittee (Robin Poston, Alan Itkin, Ali Beskok, Anna Lovatt, Renee McDonald, Tony Petrosino) will meet soon to develop proposals for the Council's review and vote

SMU

Master's Enrollments

https://smu.box.com/s/dju93u9tv9f8vjabd7imo9aif524dcj6

Developing New PhD Programs

Developing New PhD Programs

» The number of doctoral conferrals in the social sciences is a separate factor that counts towards an institution's Carnegie Classification

» According to models run by Peter Moore, increasing the number of social science doctoral conferrals would help SMU advance significantly in the Carnegie rankings

» Currently only two of SMU's doctoral programs are classified as social sciences

» We are already increasing funding for our two social science doctoral programs (Anthropology PhD, Economics PhD)

» Given that those two programs have limited capacity, it will be helpful to explore other ways to increase social science doctoral conferrals

SMU

Developing New PhD Programs

Social science fields (according to the Carnegie Classification):

22.0000	Legal Studies, General.
30.0501	Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.
30.1101	Gerontology.
30.2001	International/Global Studies.
30.2502	Contemplative Studies/Inquiry.
30.2801	Dispute Resolution.
30.4601	History and Political Science.
30.4701	Linguistics and Anthropology.
30.5101	Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.
42.0101	Psychology, General.
42.2701	Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics.
42.2702	Comparative Psychology.
42.2703	Developmental and Child Psychology.
42.2704	Experimental Psychology.
42.2705	Personality Psychology.
42.2707	Social Psychology.
42.2802	Community Psychology.
42.2804	Industrial and Organizational Psychology.
42.2806	Educational Psychology.
42.2808	Environmental Psychology.
45.0101	Social Sciences, General.
45.0102	Research Methodology and Quantitative Methods.
45.0199	Social Sciences, Other.
45.0201	Anthropology.
45.0202	Physical and Biological Anthropology.
45.0203	Medical Anthropology.
45.0204	Cultural Anthropology.

45.0299	Anthropology, Other.
45.0301	Archeology.
45.0401	Criminology.
45.0501	Demography and Population Studies.
45.0502	Applied Demography.
45.0601	Economics, General.
45.0602	Applied Economics.
45.0603	Econometrics and Quantitative Economics.
45.0604	Development Economics and International Development.
45.0605	International Economics.
45.0699	Economics, Other.
45.0701	Geography.
45.0702	Geographic Information Science and Cartography.
45.0799	Geography, Other.
45.0901	International Relations and Affairs.
45.0902	National Security Policy Studies.
45.0999	International Relations and National Security Studies, Other.
45.1001	Political Science and Government, General.
45.1002	American Government and Politics (United States).
45.1004	Political Economy.
45.1099	Political Science and Government, Other.
45.1101	Sociology.
45.1102	Applied/Public Sociology.
45.1103	Rural Sociology.
45.1201	Urban Studies/Affairs.
45.1301	Sociology and Anthropology.
45.1401	Rural Sociology.
45.9999	Social Sciences, Other.

SMU

Doctoral Conferrals 2022-2023

https://smu.box.com/s/snfhp9ubft9rdpx8pyxsxhbw3w4s2vdg

Doctoral Conferrals 2022-2023

Graduate School Spring 2023 Doctoral Graduates
(In Progress)

Carnegie Category	Actual Summer 2022	Actual Fall 2022	In Progress Spring 2023	Current Year Total (Su22, F22, Sp23)	Previous Year Total (Su21, F21, Sp22)	Increase from Previous Year Total
Humanities (5 Programs)	3	5	23	31	21	10
Social Sciences (2 Programs)	0	1	5	6	8	-2
STEM (21 Programs)	7	20	37	64	56	8
Other (7 Programs)	6	7	38	51	41	10
Total	16	33	103	152	126	26
Previous Year	29 (Su21)	30 (F21)	67 (Sp22)		126	
Increase from previous year	-13	3	36	26		26

SMU

Student Organizing

Fulbright Cost Share Agreement

https://smu.box.com/s/94jxsv8mn1fuov9labnm7684ckf6431d

Other Items