Minutes of the Graduate Council ABrian MolanphyAlexandra E. Pavlakishthony

Petrosino,Robin Poston

Business:

- x Minutes of the MarchMeeting: The Council did not have quorum, so vote was held on this item.
- x Master's Degrees in PassingThe Council discussed a specific situation where a stundents to leave their PhD program with master's degree to recognize the have completed the pre candidacy phase of the program. Now evert 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 elewhere. Council members mentioned that it does stimmes happen that a student, who holds a master's degree from university, receives the masterin that same field from another university. They suggested that, in this case util be left to the discretion of the department to award the master degree. Other options would be creating a generalist certificate or degree that could be awared in similar situations. One other complicating fords that some departments use their terminamaster's as a master'degree in passing. Council members recommended pursuing the creation of a separate ster's degree in passing in those departments.
- x Provost R1 InvestmentsDr. Itkin described proposals for funding for doctoral studentsd postdocs that he been shared with the Provostilides 67). \$800,000 has been set aside for funding initiatives to increase doctoral conferrals, especially in humanities and social science fields, an3.1 (Id2.2 (d)2.3 (s)9d)2.3 (-1.9 (ie.19d)2.3 (2- (a) -0.004)-6 2.2 (d)2.3 (s)9 9)2rilli rals, 3 (an)2 (d)1.3154

alleviateconfusion that arises wheatwards are assigned late due theatrages irRA or TA assignments. The Council idcussed this. Dr. Itkin agreed to itvimeetings for department administrators in the different schools to discuss this change with them.

- x EnglishLanguageProficiency Requirement International graduate applicants arrequired to provide English language proficiency scores unless they have an undergraduate degree from a short list of Englishspeaking countries. Dr. Itkinxplained that there had been complaints about this list. He shared alternative approaches at Vanderbilt University and UT Austin (slide). 1Dr. Itkin shared proposed alternate language and an approach that wreenhow the list of countries from printed and online policies but retain it forutomatic processin(slide 18) Dr. McDonald suggested that the proposed language could be splitfied and that the checklist item in the Slate application system couldclearly indicate the option of requesting a waiver. Drs. Rajan and Otugen suggested working withClaudia Sotomayor Hart in ISSS to make sure that this approach worklow them.
- x Moody Faculty Fellowships: Drklh described the goals agreed upon with the Moody Foundation for Moody Faculty Fellowshipslide19). Funding for this initiative is included in the \$100 million gift from the Moody FoundationDrs. Poston, Itkin,Petro. P20 -1.35rt86-0.0-3.3 (s)-4.3 (a)-3..7 (,7)6.3 (F)1.4 (

Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

THE

Graduate Council Meeting

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





Master's Degree in Passing



Provost R1 Investments







PhD Health Insurance 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



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

English Proficiency Requirement



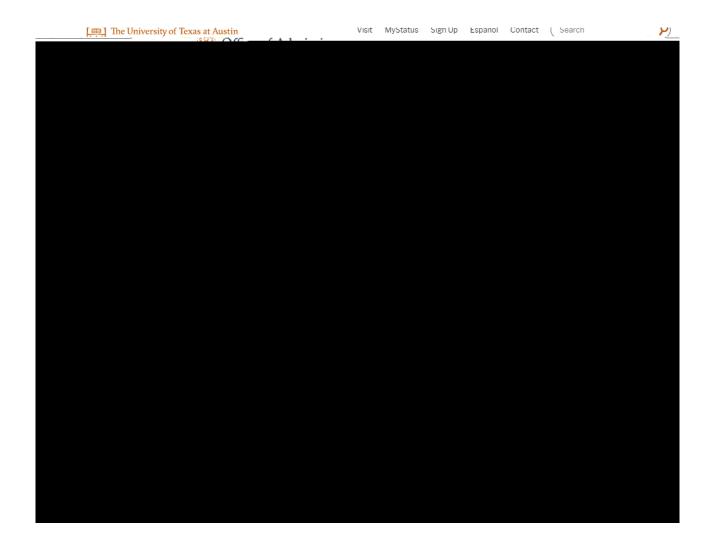
Current policy (varies slightly from school to school):

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English Proficiency Requirement

UT Austin Policy:





English Proficiency Requirement

» Proposed revised language:

- » 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

- » 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

- » 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





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Fulbright Cost Share Agreement



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