Summary of Important Actions by Graduate Council

November 2013
  • The graduate Neuroscience program will be housed and administrated in the Neuroscience Institute.
  • Revision of Program of Study form to delete the statement “Attach an official or unofficial MUSC transcript to show the Program of Study.”
  • The composition of both Masters and PhD Advisory Committees was changed to include at least three members from the student’s major program and at least two from outside the student’s home department.

January 2014
  • Approval of partnership with Proquest for electronic submission of theses/dissertations.

March 2014
  • A Masters revenue sharing system was approved by Dr. Sothmann to be phased in over 3-4 years.

April 2014
  • A Masters application portal was developed and implemented.

May 2014
  • New grading scale was approved and will be implemented Fall 2014 semester.

June 2014
  • The requirement for the chairperson of a thesis advisory committee to be a full member of the graduate faculty was changed to “The chairperson must be a full member of the graduate faculty, or an associate member with a full member as co-mentor.”

August 2014
  • Implementation of masters common handbook to be included in the CGS handbook.
  • Requirement of IDP for all postdocs and trainees was approved.
  • First Year Curriculum Progress Committee disbanded. Any issues with a student’s progress will be addressed by Dr. Smolka and the dean.
  • It was agreed that faculty advisors are to be assigned to first year students based on the student’s interests.
  • The minimum number of faculty members required on a master student’s Advisory Committee was reduced from 5 to 4 with 1, rather than 2, be outside the major department.
  • Master’s students who fail their exam must be re-examined within 1 year.
  • A master’s student must complete all necessary requirements within 5 years.
• Electronic submission of theses/dissertations are required beginning August 18, 2014

September 2014
• Inclusion of graduate coordinator signature on the Dissertation Advisory Committee Member Addition/Replacement form.
• Revision to the flow of signatures on the Appointment of Major Dissertation Advisor form.
• CGS Curriculum Committee charged with reviewing all existing courses in place for 5 years or more.
• PhD stipend increase to $24,000/year approved effective September 1, 2015.
• Effective January 1, 2015, the Provost approved that out-of-pocket health insurance costs for postdocs on fellowships or training grants will be no more than postdocs on payroll.

February 2015
• The addition of rating “quality of research records” was included on the Annual Evaluation form.