

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

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3
4 February 6, 2018

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6 Members Present: C. Belden (NURS), C. Browne (MATH), T. Cline (ARCH), H. Damico (CODI), G. Davis
7 (KNES), M. DeWitt (MUS), S. Duke-Sylvester (BIOL), B. Dye, (GEOL,GSO), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio), K.
8 Ford (BIOL) E. Habib (CIVE), K. Hermann-Turner (COUE), R. Hernandez (CHEE), H. Hurst (NURS), M.
9 Kightley (ENGL), P. Lanier (MGMT), J. Lemoine (NURS) , D. Olivier (EDFL), C. Ratliff (ENGL), C. Richter
10 (GEOL), P. Sheppard (EDCI), A. Stearns (CJUS), G. Stewart (MGMT)

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13 Members Absent: P. Das (ECON), M. Mokhtari (PETE), K. Smith (ARCH), W. Xu (CHEM)

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15 D. Olivier called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

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17 Motion made to accept the December 12, 2017 meeting minutes of the Graduate Council with a minor
18 correction on line twenty-two of the second page. Motion seconded and carried.

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20 **Announcements**

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22 D. Olivier thanked Geoffrey Stewart for accepting her request to serve the remainder of the term of
23 David Stevens (College of Business, Marketing and Hospitality) . The Council also welcomed Brian Dye
24 (MS GEOL) who, as the new president of the Graduate Student Organization, joined the body.

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26 Applicants for candidacy were reviewed by the committee. A motion was made to accept the Applicants
27 to Candidacy Report. Motion seconded and carried. In anticipation of the upcoming annual Doctoral
28 Candidacy Recognition Event, which will recognize those who advanced to candidacy since March 2017,
29 M. Farmer-Kaiser took the opportunity to remind the Council that any doctoral students who have not
30 yet filed for candidacy still have the opportunity to be approved at the next meeting.

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32 **Committee Reports**

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34 Student Appeals - A report from Robert Viguerie noted a total of fifty appeals were considered for the
35 start of the semester. Motion made to accept the Graduate Student Appeals Report. Motion seconded
36 and carried.

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38 Curriculum - Curriculum Committee Report submitted by Heather Stone was approved. Of the
39 seventeen total curriculum forms that were reviewed at the beginning of February, five were approved
40 outright. In addition, there were eleven recommendations for approval with in most cases minor
41 changes; one was declined.

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43 Fellowships – No report.

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45 Graduate Faculty – No report. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that twenty-six graduate faculty applications were
46 submitted and that the spring semester review is always a much lighter load than in the fall. Two faculty
47 reapplied based on the recommendations of the Council last semester.

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1 **Old Business**

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3 Update on Approved Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Admissions-

4 M. Farmer-Kaiser shared a handout with all of the revisions for the committee to review and asked that
5 two changes that were not voted on by the Council be considered. The first was in reference to the bottom
6 of page three “governing the removal of conditional status.” She proposed the language that is used in
7 the Catalog for updating an applicant’s status based on higher GRE scores could be adapted for English
8 language proficiency scores as well. This would better accommodate international applicants who may be
9 able to meet our requirements for regular admission by retaking the exam. This way they would be able
10 to qualify for regular admittance, and thus be eligible for an I-20 and assistantship consideration if able to
11 demonstrate satisfactory language proficiency. H. Hurst motioned to accept the proposed revisions.
12 Motion was seconded and carried. It was asked whether there is a goal to reduce the number of
13 conditional admits for reporting purposes. M. Famer Kaiser answered no and clarified that the Graduate
14 School is admitting less students conditionally across the board because of the change in policy that
15 previously dictated that all international graduate students were admitted in conditional admission status.
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17 M. Farmer-Kaiser also noted that an increasing number applicants to our master’s degree programs
18 have previous graduate coursework, and even previously-earned graduate degrees. At present, it is
19 possible that a student could be qualified for regular admission at the doctoral level, which allows for
20 consideration of previous graduate coursework, but that their undergraduate coursework does not
21 qualify them for admission on the master’s level. She proposed to Christopher Langan that if an
22 applicant has successfully completed a master’s degree or a doctoral degree we have the ability to
23 consider the applicant for regular as opposed to conditional admission. She proposed using the same
24 language for regular admission to a master’s program that is used for regular admission of the doctoral
25 program. After much discussion centered on whether the threshold should be graduate coursework or a
26 graduate degree and the particular GPA threshold (3.3 or 3.0), a motion was made to accept the
27 following passage: “To be eligible for regular admission to a master’s degree program, an applicant
28 must: (a) provide documentation of an undergraduate grade-point average of not less than 2.75 (4.0
29 scale) on all work attempted, or an undergraduate grade-point average of not less than 3.0 (4.0 scale) on
30 the last 60 semester hours or last 90 quarter hours (coursework completed in the United States only), or
31 a graduate grade-point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale) on all previously earned graduate degrees....” Motion
32 was seconded and carried.
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34 The Council then turned to discussion of the decision to make submission of official GRE scores a program,
35 rather than Graduate School, application requirement. It was confirmed that the change at the level of
36 the Graduate School will happen for Fall 2019 applicants and that by next fall all programs will have to
37 decide if they want to require it. D. Olivier added that the Graduate School will require Catalog revisions
38 only from programs that want to continue requiring submission of GRE scores; programs that do not want
39 to continue requiring the GRE need not take any action. Once these changes have been approved by the
40 Provost, the Graduate School will announce and work with the leadership of individual graduate programs
41 to make necessary changes.
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43 Recommendations from the English graduate committee on language requirements-

44 M. Farmer-Kaiser offered a brief update on her meetings on behalf of the Council with leadership of the
45 English Department and the Dean of Liberal Arts. These discussions have resulted in a revision of the
46 request and thus a need to table the agenda item until that revision has been received. She noted that
47 the revised request will come to Council members with the agenda and minutes for the March meeting.
48 M. Kightley inquired whether this delay would impact individual students’ progress toward degree. M.

1 Farmer-Kaiser responded by saying that the graduate program and Dean of Liberal Arts had been
2 agreeable to handling these individual cases through an appeal process rather than policy change.

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4 **New Business**

5 M. Farmer-Kaiser shared with the Council the Graduate School Programming Calendar for Spring 2018
6 and gave an overview of the events and awards that will be offered for Graduate Student Appreciation
7 Week. She also noted that this will be the last semester that the 3MT competition will be held in the spring
8 so that the winners will be able to compete with other universities. In addition, she confirmed that Dr.
9 Wiley Cash, a New York Times bestselling author and alumnus of the university's English PhD program will
10 be the keynote speaker and will spend some time with our students.

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12 Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and carried.

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14 The meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.