

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2
3 March 13, 2018

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

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11 Members Absent: P. Das (ECON), K. Smith (ARCH), W. Xu (CHEM), B. Dye, (GEOL,GSO), R. Hernandez
12 (CHEE), E. Habib (CIVE),

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14 Guest Present: Dean Jordan Kellman

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16 D. Olivier called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.

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18 Motion made to accept the February 2, 2018 meeting minutes of the Graduate Council with a minor
19 correction to the attendance and line 17 of the second page. Motion seconded and carried.

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21 D. Olivier asked that Council move to Old Business so as to allow J. Kellman to address the proposed
22 catalog change for foreign language requirements for master's degrees.

23
24 D. Kellman said that while the policy changes initially seemed reasonable and in keeping with practices
25 elsewhere, he now questioned the practicality of developing policies that would apply to all programs
26 since many have differing approaches to their foreign language requirements. He proposed that rather
27 than attempting to legislate this at a university level, the Graduate Council consider eliminating the
28 policy from the General "Requirements for Master's Degrees" and have language requirements decided
29 by individual departments.

30
31 M. Farmer-Kaiser reviewed the written response provided by her to the Council prior to the meeting,
32 highlighting larger context of foreign language requirements and the history of these requirements at UL
33 Lafayette for PhD and MA degree programs. She noted that after researching the history of the policy,
34 they found that in the 1988-1990 Graduate Bulletin the language requirement was pulled out of the
35 general requirements for the PhD and the individual foreign language requirements were added to each
36 program's curriculum pages. She suggested that the Council was now having a similar discussion in
37 regards to the MA degrees. She emphasized that approving the proposed changes to the general
38 requirements, as resubmitted by the English and Modern Languages departments, would make the
39 policy applicable to all master's and doctoral programs and raises issues with how language competency
40 will be evaluated.

41
42 M. Farmer-Kaiser and J. Kellman asked the Graduate Council to consider a similar revision to what was
43 done in 1988-1990 when the policy governing foreign language requirements changed at the PhD level,
44 alongside Catalog revisions from each impacted program that addressed the requirement at the degree
45 program level.

46
47 After a general discussion of the proposed change focused particularly on whether individual programs
48 would agree to having their students' foreign language proficiency evaluated by outside programs, M.
49 Kightley suggested that a new policy should ensure that Modern Languages, Computing and Informatics,

1 and/or Mathematics be expected to administer these proficiency examinations. Discussion then turned
2 to the request to allow students to use their “mother tongue” to satisfy the language requirement.
3 There was a motion to strike the current Catalog policy language governing requirements for Master’s
4 degrees that reads, “A student may not use a mother tongue to satisfy the language requirement.”
5 Motion was seconded and carried. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that this change will be requested for
6 inclusion in the 2019-2020 University Catalog as the 2018-2019 University Catalogue is already live.
7

8 There was a motion to create an ad hoc committee including J. Kellman, A. Ackleh, and M. Farmer-Kaiser
9 as well as the chair of Modern Languages and others as deemed appropriate to provide a
10 recommendation with the Graduate Council for changes to the 2019-2020 University Catalog to satisfy
11 the goals of the request to revise the other provisions of the foreign language requirements for MA
12 degrees. Motion seconded and carried. M. Farmer Kaiser said that the ad hoc committee would work to
13 provide a report by the end of the academic year.
14

15 **Announcements**

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17 M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that Dr. Danahar has approved the proposed changes of the Ad Hoc
18 Committee on Graduate Admissions and that the Graduate School will formally notify the graduate
19 coordinators of what changes have been approved for implementation with the Fall 2019 admission
20 term (and 2019-2020 University Catalog).
21

22 M. Farmer-Kaiser requested input from the Graduate Council for the upcoming elections, which will be
23 held April 23rd through May 1st. The call for nominations will go out prior to Spring Break. The goal will
24 be to announce the election winners at the annual meeting of the Graduate Faculty on May 7th.
25

26 **Committee Reports**

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28 Student Appeals – No report.
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30 Curriculum – No report. Heather Stone indicated that in March the Curriculum Committee did not receive
31 any requests for course changes.
32

33 Fellowships – M. Kightley presented the committee’s list of recommendations for the University
34 Master’s Fellowships; these recommendations were approved by the Council. He also noted that he
35 hopes to have an additional report next month that includes his committee’s recommendations for
36 revision to how doctoral and master’s fellowships work.
37

38 Graduate Faculty – No report.
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40 **New Business**

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43 The Council then moved to consider a request from the Department of Communicative Disorders to
44 allow a faculty member who is no longer at the University to continue as co-chair and member of a PhD
45 committee. The request noted that the student is expected to finish in Spring 2018. After discussion, a
46 motion was made to grant the request through Spring 2018. Motion seconded and carried.
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48 M. Farmer-Kaiser reminded the Council that Graduate Student Appreciation Week is coming up the week
49 of April 9th and that there is still time to participate in the #ULGradLove social media competition.

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2 Meeting adjourned at 3:40