

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2  
3 April 10, 2018

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5 Members Present: C. Belden (NURS), C. Browne (MATH), T. Cline (ARCH), H. Damico (CODI), G. Davis  
6 (KNES), S. Duke-Sylvester (BIOL), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio), E. Habib (CIVE), K. Hermann-Turner  
7 (COUE), R. Hernandez (CHEE), M. Kightley (ENGL), P. Lanier (MGMT), M. Mokhtari (PETE), D. Olivier  
8 (EDFL), C. Richter (GEOL), A. Stearns (CJUS), G. Stewart (MKHP)

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10 Members Absent: **H. Hurst (NURS), J. Lemoine (NURS), M. DeWitt (MUS), P. Sheppard (EDCI), W. Xu**  
11 **(CHEM), B. Dye, (GEOL,GSO)**, K. Ford (BIOL)

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13 Guest Present: Robert Viguerie

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15 D. Olivier called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.

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17 Motion made to accept the February 2, 2018 meeting minutes of the Graduate Council with two  
18 corrections to the attendance.

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20 D. Olivier asked that Council begin with the new business agenda item: Request to Revise University  
21 Catalog Policy on Graduate Student Appeals. The Council agreed to the revised agenda. R. Viguerie  
22 presented a summary of the proposed revisions, explaining that they seek to clarify the language and  
23 bring it into conformity with how the graduate student appeals work in practice. The proposed revisions  
24 are several and would impact graduate applicants who were denied admission, graduate students who  
25 become ineligible to continue, graduate students seeking additional attempts to pass a program's  
26 comprehensive exam requirement, requests from departments or other campus units seeking  
27 permission to offer an assistantship to a student in conditional admission status, students seeking to  
28 transfer credit from non-U.S. institutions, and students requesting a time extension to complete their  
29 degree. Discussion ensued. In response to a question from the Council, R. Viguerie clarified that the  
30 Graduate Council Standing Committee on Graduate Appeals typically follows the recommendations of  
31 the department when considering appeals for readmission unless there are additional conditions that  
32 would be difficult to address and/or if there are conflicting recommendations from the department. He  
33 noted that while the current catalog requires each department to have its own appeals committee,  
34 many graduate programs do not presently have one. One of the proposed changes would be to  
35 eliminate this requirement. A number of grammatical revisions were proposed and accepted. R. Viguerie  
36 emphasized that any decisions on requirements for college committees take into account the availability  
37 of its members during academic breaks, since it has been difficult in the past to move forward with  
38 appeals during those periods. D. Olivier noted that an updated version would be shared with members  
39 of the Council so that they could share with their individual departments and colleges. She asked that  
40 members of the Council return to the discussion at the May meeting with the plan to vote on the  
41 proposal.

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43 **Announcements**

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45 M. Farmer-Kaiser gave an update on Graduate Student Appreciation Week and thanked those who were  
46 able to participate in the Etiquette Dinner and Lunch and Learn workshop that was held on the previous  
47 day. She reminded the Council that Dr. Wiley Cash's keynote address was later that evening during the  
48 Doctoral Candidacy Recognition event and encouraged them to attend. She also recognized the winners  
49 of the #MostLoved Graduate Program competition and said that over \$5,000 in prize money will be

1 awarded to graduate students on Friday afternoon. She thanked the Office of the Vice President for  
2 Research for making these funds available.

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4 The applications to candidacy were presented and the motion to approve them was seconded and  
5 carried.

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7 M. Farmer Kaiser noted that the request for nominations for Graduate Council elections will go out the  
8 next day. She encouraged Council members to run for re-election and to nominate their colleagues.

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10 **Committee Reports**

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12 Student Appeals – No report.

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14 Curriculum – No report.

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16 Fellowships – M. Kightley thanked his committee for their work finalizing a report with  
17 recommendations for improving the university fellowships programs. He offered a summary of the  
18 report that was distributed to the Council. He said that they identified three main purposes of the  
19 fellowships: advertising, recruiting, and reducing time to degree. The two main obstacles they identified  
20 were the wide variation in the value of fellowships to different degree programs and the loss of BoRSF  
21 fellowships. He further summarized the three primary recommendations that were given in the report  
22 and emphasized that they were not in order of priority and would ideally be treated as a unified set of  
23 recommendations. These recommendations included: (1) establishing a university-level President’s  
24 Doctoral Fellowship Program; (2) replacement of the University Master’s Fellowships Program with  
25 increased funding to department with Master’s programs; and (3) making our part-time graduate tuition  
26 and fee rates competitive with other institutions in the state, including LSU. In addition, he discussed the  
27 following secondary recommendations, including: (1) increased communication between the Graduate  
28 School and Graduate Coordinators about the range for creative ways that programs can use  
29 assistantship and fellowship money; (2) elimination of the requirement that international students need  
30 to have a degree from an American institution; (3) creation of a university-level program or learning  
31 community for fellows to encourage accelerated progress through the degree for fellows; and (4)  
32 further discussion next year by the committee regarding the effect fellowships have on time to degree.  
33 Initial discussion of the recommendations ensued with D. Olivier asking that members of the Council  
34 review the report and recommendations in their individual departments and colleges. The goal, she  
35 indicated, would for the Council to return to the discussion at the May meeting to decide whether to  
36 endorse these recommendations.

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38 Graduate Faculty – Committee report submitted by William Ferguson, not present. The report was  
39 submitted as two parts, with the first (submitted by the Graduate School on behalf of Dr. Ferguson)  
40 including recommendations for appointment of 25 applicants that received unanimous support from  
41 their three college review entities at the level to which they applied (and thus not requiring review by  
42 the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee) and the second, a report from the Committee that  
43 offered recommendations for the four applications it reviewed. Discussion of the two reports ensued,  
44 with particular attention paid to the recommendation by the Committee for the appointment of an  
45 affiliated researcher. Concerns had been expressed by a department head about whether this affiliated  
46 researcher should be permitted to direct theses and thus included a request that stipulations be placed  
47 on the appointment. In recommending a level one appointment on this application with no stipulations,  
48 the Committee took the opportunity to remind the Council and others that: “whether as Affiliated  
49 Researcher or regular University faculty member, Graduate Faculty status does not grant any recipient

1 an automatic right to chair or direct a thesis, it simply makes them eligible to do so; any appointment as  
2 Chair of a thesis, or dissertation, must still be approved in advance by the appropriate administrators  
3 (Graduate Coordinator/Department Head/Dean), in addition to the Graduate School.” Motion made to  
4 approve the recommendations for appointment as presented in the two reports. Motion carried.  
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6 Meeting adjourned at 3:48