

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2
3 September 10, 2019

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5 Members Present: P. Lanier (MGMT), A. Barhorst (MCHE), T. Cline (ARCH), H. Damico (CODI), G. Davis
6 (KNES), F. Del Favero (EDFL), J. Geer (ENGL), A. Ibrahim (MS COUE), S. Kahn (ACCT), Ashlie Latiolais
7 (ARCH), J. Lemoine (NURS), C. Lenahan (NURS), C. Matherne (MGMT), J. Miller (MS PHYS), M. Mokhtari
8 (PETE), C. Parker (HIST), A. Petculescu (PHYS), C. Roche-Wallace (MUS), H. Stone (EDCI), B. Wade
9 (MATH), D. White-Jefferson (NURS), M. Zappi (CHEE), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

10
11 Members Absent: S. Duke-Sylvester (BIOL), Eric Ferré (GEOL), D. Khey (CJUS), R. Mielusel (MODL)

12
13 P. Lanier called the meeting to order at 2:08pm.

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15 Motion made to accept the May 14, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

16
17 **Announcements**

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19 P. Lanier asked that the agenda be changed so that Dr. Calvin Berry could give a brief introduction to the
20 new Statistical Consulting Center. In addition to pointing members to letter and flyer included in their
21 meeting materials, C. Berry encouraged them to have graduate students or faculty contact him directly
22 by email early in the planning stage of research. P. Lanier said that since the new Stats Center is in a
23 feasibility study year, it is especially important that we direct graduate students to these services so that
24 we can make the case for continued support in the future. M. Farmer-Kaiser thanked B. Wade, and also
25 Dean Azmy Ackleh, for their providing the commitment that have facilitated the launch of the Stats
26 Center this semester.

27
28 **Invited Guest: Dr. Jaimie Hebert, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

29 P. Lanier announced that Dr. Hebert was unable to join the Council for this meeting but indicated that
30 she expected he would do so at the October meeting.

31
32 **Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

33 Motion made to accept presentation of applicants to candidacy pending two inquiries, one to confirm
34 that the PhD candidates identified with masters candidates are “masters-along-the-way” students and
35 the other to review the status of a master’s student who was thought to have already graduated.

36 Motion seconded and carried.

37
38 **Committee Reports**

39
40 Student Appeals – Report submitted by the Graduate School on behalf of R. Viguerie for the June
41 meeting and Y. Wu for the August meeting. Motion made to accept report with one change to correct C.
42 Lenahan’s attendance at the June meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

43
44 Curriculum Committee – No report.

45
46 Fellowships Committee – No report.

47
48 Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – No report.

1 **Old Business**

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3 **Request for Regular Admission Appeal for International Applicants**

4 P. Lanier introduced this agenda item as a continuation of a discussion from the end of the Spring
5 semester and asked M. Farmer-Kaiser to recap the request that had been initiated by the graduate
6 coordinators for the new Earth and Energy Science PhD program. M. Farmer-Kaiser explained the
7 challenges faced by international students seeking an F-1 who need an I-20 but who are admitted
8 conditionally or provisionally. She also reminded members of particular examples presented by B.
9 Shubert in May and his argument that these students were essentially being denied the benefit of a
10 portfolio approach to application consideration. Finally, she updated members on one appeal that was
11 presented to the Appeals Committee in June. While the Appeals Committee acted favorably on the
12 graduate program's request to admit without condition a student slightly below the GPA threshold for
13 regular admission at the doctoral level, she reported that it ended up being too late. A general
14 discussion of the request from G. Petculescu continued. General points raised in this discussion included
15 (1) a recognized need for prompt action on such appeals as well as an understanding that the timing
16 does not always align with when the Appeals Committee meets; (2) the expectation that these appeals
17 would be rare; (3) that such appeals should only be initiated by the graduate program and that an
18 applicant should not be able to do so; and (4) that any policy revision should be inclusive of all potential
19 students. Particular focus was paid to the recommendation to allow such appeals to be considered by
20 the graduate dean. M. Zappi suggested that, in addition to the graduate coordinator, the department
21 head should be required to approve any kind of appeal for regular admission. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted
22 that the current appeals process does not specifically require department head approval but rather that
23 appeals are required be vetted by the individual graduate program's "committee charged with
24 responding to any appeal referred to it by the Graduate School." She noted that, while not in sync
25 current practices for handling appeals, the issues raised may be reason for reviewing the appeals
26 process more broadly. A motion was made to ask that G. Petculescu, in consultation with M. Farmer-
27 Kaiser, draft a new policy proposal to allow for an appeal for regular, without condition, admission.
28 Motion seconded and carried.

29
30 **Review of Summer Graduate Council Actions**

31 P. Lanier provided an overview of the written report provided that detailed the actions taken by the
32 Executive Committee on behalf of Graduate Council during the summer. These actions included
33 approval of candidacy applications, continuation of a departing faculty member to be allowed to
34 continue as a co-chair and committee member for several students, and time-sensitive course change
35 requests for the 2019-2020 Catalog.

36
37 **2019-2020 Call for Grand Marshal Nominations**

38 M. Farmer-Kaiser asked members to review the Call for Nominations for Grand Marshal for 2019-2020.
39 She reminded the Council that Dr. Cheryl Lynch will serve in this post for the Fall 2019 commencement
40 general assembly. It was decided that the request be sent out soon but with the deadline extended to
41 November 1 since there was no pressing need to name someone to the post for this Fall.

42
43 **Request for Continuation of Doctoral Committee Chair/Membership for Departing
44 Faculty Member**

45 The Council considered a request for continuation of dissertation committee chair/membership for
46 departing faculty member. A. Barhorst explained that this faculty member had taken a position at
47 another university and thus the department was requesting permission to remain as chair for one
48 student who had recently successfully defended but will not graduate until December. Discussion

1 ensued with several members providing the institutional history of the the different ways that the
2 Council had considered such requests in the past. A motion was made to allow this departing faculty
3 member to continue as chair and as one of the three required graduate faculty members. Motion
4 seconded and carried.

5
6 **Update on Requested Report Graduate Enrollment Rates, Definitions, and Requirements**

7 P. Lanier reported that the Graduate School is still working to complete the data request given to them
8 at the end of the spring semester but that it will be part of the discussion for the next meeting.

9
10 **Graduate Council Goals and Objectives for 2019-2020**

11 P. Lanier offered four goals that she wanted the Graduate Council to focus on over the coming year,
12 including: the development of a fellowship community, the launch of a graduate community climate
13 survey in the spring of 2020 during Graduate Student Appreciation Week, moving forward to develop
14 governing policies for accelerated bachelors to masters programs, and helping to create a formal,
15 university-wide definition of the role of graduate coordinator. She noted that the Provost has pledged to
16 support the climate survey and that they are currently considering capabilities and bids from third-party
17 vendors. M. Farmer-Kaiser offered an update on pending change of a UL System rule that is necessary to
18 support accelerated bachelors to masters programs on our campus. There was a general discussion of
19 the importance of coming to a consensus on the role and responsibilities of graduate coordinators and
20 how they should be supported by the university as a whole, while still supporting the distinct needs of
21 individual colleges and departments.

22
23 Motion made to adjourn at 3:27. Motion seconded and carried.