

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2  
3 April 7, 2020

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5 Members Present: A. Barhorst (MCHE), T. Cline (ARCH), H. Damico (CODI), G. Davis (KNES), F. Del Favero  
6 (EDFL), Eric Ferré (GEOL), J. Geer (ENGL), S. Kahn (ACCT), D. Khey (CJUS), P. Lanier (MGMT, chair), A.  
7 Latiolais (ARCH), J. Lemoine (NURS), C. Lenahan (NURS), R. Mielusel (MODL), C. Parker (HIST), A.  
8 Petculescu (PHYS), C. Roche-Wallace (MUS), H. Stone (EDCI), B. Wade (MATH), D. White-Jefferson  
9 (NURS), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio), P. Byerly (PhD BIOL)

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11 Members Absent: C. Matherne (MGMT), J. Miller (MS PHYS, GSO President), M. Mokhtari (PETE), M.  
12 Zappi (CHEE)

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14 P. Lanier called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

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16 Motion made to accept the March 10, 2020 meeting minutes with corrections. Motion seconded and  
17 carried.

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19 **Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

20 Motion made to accept presentation of applicants to candidacy. Motion seconded and carried.

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22 **Committee Reports**

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24 Student Appeals – No report.

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26 Curriculum Committee – No report.

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28 Fellowships Committee – No report.

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30 Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – No report.

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32 **Old Business**

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34 **Campus Experience Survey Update**

35 P. Lanier reported that the final draft of the survey has been loaded into Qualtrix and that the ad hoc  
36 committee will test soon to ensure that the logic is correct. They are also preparing an IRB application.  
37 Given the COVID-19 disruption, it was agreed that the survey should be launched in the Fall.

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39 **New Business**

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41 **Request for Continuation of Thesis Committee Co-Chair for Departed Faculty Member**

42 P. Lanier presented a request that a faculty member who has departed UL Lafayette to accept a position  
43 at another university be allowed to continue as a co-chair a thesis student expected to graduate in  
44 Spring 2020. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that the graduate coordinator had indicated that the committee  
45 has continued to function and the faculty member has continued to guide the project to completion.  
46 The request is that the departed faculty member be allowed to be co-chair, recognizing that there still  
47 needs to be a faculty on campus to serve as the student’s advocate. For the purposes of completion, the  
48 request also asks that the faculty member be allowed to count as one of the three required members of

1 the graduate faculty for the student's committee. Motion made to approve the request. Motion  
2 seconded and carried.

### 3 4 **Discussion of COVID-19 Disruption and Graduate Education**

#### 5 6 **General Updates**

7 M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that the Graduate School office has received graduate assistant and fellow  
8 continuity plans from all 709 supervisors, and that the president has approved that all GAs and fellows  
9 continue to receive Spring 2020 stipend and tuition/fee waiver benefits regardless of ability to perform  
10 duties. She discussed why graduate level courses were not being included in the Spring 2020 grading  
11 modification option that will be available to undergraduate students. She noted also that, instead of  
12 grades of "pass," graduate students had been pressing more for a broader incomplete grade policy with  
13 extended time to complete courses. Finally, she said that she was working to find funds to cover the  
14 labor, printing, and archival-quality paper for the one copy that is required of all theses, dissertations,  
15 and synthesis projects for those graduating in Spring 2020.

#### 16 17 **Graduate Student Appreciation Week**

18 M. Farmer-Kaiser thanked the Graduate Faculty who sent one-sentence affirmations for Graduate  
19 Student Appreciation Week and said that they are continuing to be shared with social media over the  
20 next week. She also reported that the students who would have been recognized during the doctoral  
21 candidacy ceremony have been mailed their pins. Similarly, coffee mugs will be mailed to the master's  
22 students who have advanced to candidacy. P. de Mahy discussed the programming, including writing  
23 support for graduate students who are working to complete theses, dissertations, or synthesis projects.  
24 He added that there have been online workshops, virtual yoga, and drop-in virtual office hours that  
25 were open to all graduate students.

#### 26 27 **May 2020 Commencement**

28 M. Farmer-Kaiser said that the plan is to go forward with a single university-wide celebration remotely  
29 on May 15. An external company will manage the recording, but they are working on plans for how this  
30 will work with student regalia. She said that her understanding is that in the video that goes out will  
31 have a page that has the doctoral student information on it and there will also be the opportunity for  
32 students to provide some personalized information on the website. C. Parker asked if students would  
33 have the option to participate at a later commencement ceremony, and M. Farmer-Kaiser responded  
34 that it is her understanding that it will be open for students to participate in August or December.

#### 35 36 **Official Test Admission Requirements**

37 M. Farmer-Kaiser requested that the Council authorize her to provide some flexibility to graduate  
38 programs that require the GRE or GMAT as we continue to navigate the disruptions caused by COVID-19.  
39 She explained that ETS has had to close testing sites across the globe due to the pandemic and has now  
40 made available home testing for the GRE (as well as the TOEFL) in all locations where the computer-  
41 delivered tests are normally available, with the exception of Mainland China and Iran. The GMAT will be  
42 available in a similar manner beginning in mid-April. Even with these changes, she explained that many  
43 graduate schools across the nation have made the decision to temporarily suspend the GRE/GMAT  
44 requirement for Summer and Fall 2020 applications. Some have done so out of concern about  
45 applicants' access to testing, while others have done so due to the recognition that even home testing is  
46 not always a reliable option due some applicants' limited access to internet and/or "unstable" internet  
47 connectivity issues; and still others have chosen not to make any alterations to these requirements and  
48 applicants are expected to test and provide official test scores as normal. A general discussion followed

1 concerning the possibility of providing flexibility in light of the COVID disruption. A motion was made to  
2 allow graduate programs that presently require the GRE/GMAT to temporarily suspend this application  
3 requirement for Summer and Fall 2020 applications with the restriction that, if the program makes the  
4 decision to do so, it must do so for all applicants (i.e., not on a case-by-case basis) and it may not decide  
5 to require admitted students to later provide official test scores after admission (i.e., no provisional or  
6 conditional admissions based on the absence of these test scores). Motion accepted and carried.

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8 **Extensions**

9 M. Farmer-Kaiser alerted the Council to developing concerns related to time and fund extensions for  
10 graduate students. She said that the Graduate School would be delaying the annual doctoral progress  
11 report until the end of the semester to allow graduate students to provide information about delays.

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13 **Graduate council elections and the annual meeting of the graduate faculty**

14 P. Lanier requested that the Graduate Council consider postponing the annual meeting of the Graduate  
15 Faculty to September. Members agreed with the recommendation. P. Lanier added that all seven  
16 colleges will still have elections in the coming month for new members of the Council, and that these  
17 elections would be conducted electronically as in years past. In addition, she noted that the Council will  
18 proceed next month to elect the next chair of the Graduate Council.

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20 Motion made to adjourn at 3:13. Motion seconded and carried