

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2
3 March 12, 2019

4
5 Members Present: P. Lanier (MGMT), L. Bourdeau (MODL), H. Damico (CODI), G. Davis (KNES), F. Del
6 Favero (EDFL), E. Habib (CIVE), K. Hermann-Turner (COUE), D. Khey (CJUS), J. Lemoine (NURS), C.
7 Lenahan (NURS), C. Matherne (MGMT), M. Mokhtari (PETE), C. Ratliff (ENGL), C. Roche-Wallace (MUS),
8 H. Stone (EDCI), D. White-Jefferson (NURS), Daniel Odion, (CIVE GRAD), Linda Fairchild, (EDFL GRAD), M.
9 Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio), M. Zappi (CHEE)

10
11 Members Absent: H. Chu (CMIX), T. Cline (ARCH), S. Duke-Sylvester (BIOL), A. Petculescu (PHYS), B.
12 Schubert (GEOL), K. Smith (ARCH), T. Wilson (ACCT)

13
14 P. Lanier called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm

15
16 **Announcements**

17
18 Motion made to accept the February 12, 2019 meeting minutes with corrections. Motion seconded and
19 carried.

20
21 Motion made to accept the applicants to candidacy with the addendum that one applicant be approved
22 pending receipt of the approved doctoral candidacy form that has in departmental mail. Motion
23 seconded and carried.

24
25 P. Lanier welcomed M. Zappi to his first meeting of the Graduate Council as a representative for the
26 Chemical Engineering department in the College of Engineering.

27
28 M. Farmer Kaiser reported that Margaret Daniel has accepted the Council's invitation to serve as Grand
29 Marshal for summer commencement.

30
31 **Committee Reports**

32
33 Student Appeals – No report

34
35 Curriculum Committee – H. Stone reported that, in February, the Curriculum Committee reviewed 29
36 course change forms and that 20 were approved, 8 were recommended for approval with changes, and
37 1 was declined. Motion made to accept report. Motion accepted and carried.

38
39 Fellowships Committee – No report.

40
41 Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – No report.

42
43 **Old Business**

44
45 **Graduate Student Climate Survey Discussion**

46
47 P. Lanier invited members of the Graduate Council to review the charge and membership included in
48 their packet for the ad hoc committee that will work to provide recommendations for the

1 implementation of a graduate student climate survey. The charge states that the committee is specially
2 asked to consider the presence and goals of climate surveys at peer, Louisiana, and peer-aspirant
3 institutions, as well as the best practices, administration, timeline, scope, and use of existing graduate
4 student climate surveys conducted by these institutions. M. Farmer Kaiser added that the deans were
5 consulted and provided additional suggestions for committee membership.
6

7 **Exclusion of Financial Hardship in Official Leave of Absence Policy**

8

9 M. Farmer-Kaiser confirmed that the question of financial hardship in regard to the leave of absence
10 policy was formally returned to the retention committee. She added that they were asked to provide a
11 response as well as recommendations moving forward and that this should be revisited in April or May.
12

13 **New Business**

14

15 With no new business items on the agenda, P. Lanier called for new business from the membership. F.
16 DelFavero discussed the financial pressures faced by ABD doctoral students who have met the
17 dissertation hour requirement for their degrees but are not yet complete; he asked, in particular,
18 whether it was possible for the Council to reconsider the 3 hour minimum requirement for dissertation
19 hours. It was noted that the difference between the cost of one credit hour and three credit hours is
20 minimal (\$53) for all categories of students (i.e., Louisiana resident, out-of-state student, or
21 international student). H. Damico asked how long the policy setting the minimum credit hour threshold
22 at 3 credit hours for thesis and dissertation hours had been in place. M. Farmer Kaiser answered that the
23 Graduate Council debated and approved this universal change to 599, 699, and 999 courses in 2014 for
24 implementation in 2015-2016. She also briefly discussed the considerations that prompted the change,
25 including consideration to the financial impact on both students and the University. L. Bourdeau added
26 to the discussion by connecting the question to requirement that graduate students maintain
27 continuous enrollment. He further noted the connection between these issues and the question posed
28 to the Retention Committee regarding the ability to take an official leave of absence due to financial
29 hardship. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that other universities have policies that diverge from our
30 requirements and that provide alternate registration categories for dissertating students. Several
31 members pointed out the disproportionate impact of these policies on part-time, unfunded graduate
32 students. The discussion continued with a focus largely on questions related to student success and
33 retention. The Council came to a general agreement that in order to evaluate the important questions
34 raised it would need more information, including a better understanding of both how other universities
35 address these questions and how potential changes in policy would impact the university fiscally. A
36 motion was made and seconded requesting that the Graduate School complete the initial research and
37 provide a summary report at first meeting of 2019-2020. Specifically, the Council requested that the
38 report include (1) part-time enrollment data and tuition/fee rates at UL Lafayette, (2) comparison data
39 on part-time tuition/fee rates at Louisiana and peer institutions, (3) continuous graduate enrollment
40 policies and fees at other institutions, (4) policies defining part-time and full-time graduate enrollment
41 status at other institutions, and (5) a revenue-cost analysis of part-time graduate enrollment with
42 particular focus on ABD and ABT student enrollment. Motion seconded and carried. Members of the
43 Council recognized that report might result in the need for an ad hoc committee that would develop
44 recommendations for addressing this issue. F. DelFavro, C. Lenahan, H. Stone, and M. Zappi all
45 volunteered to participate as needed.
46

47 Motion made to adjourn at 3:17. Motion seconded and carried.