

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2
3 February 14, 2017

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5 Members Present: D. Bellar (KNES), Mark DeWitt (MUS), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio
6 member), A. Fekih (ELEE), S. Gawronski (GSO), E. Habib (CIVE), D. Harrington (NURS),
7 K. Hermann (COUE), H. Hurst (NURS), J. Lemoine (NURS), M. Kightley (ENGL), A.
8 Magidin (MATH), K. McClung (ARCH), C. Parker (HIST), C. Richter (GEOL), C. Roche-
9 Wallace (MUS), K. Smith (ARCH), C. Ratliff (ENGL)

10
11 Members Absent: J. Albert (BIOL), D. Baker (MKHP), H. Damico (CODI), P. Das (ECON),
12 R. Hernandez (CHEE), D. Olivier (EDFL), D. Stevens (MGMT), W. Xu (CHEM), M. Young
13 (PhD ALSS)

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15 The meeting was called to order by H. Hurst at 2:05 p.m.

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17 Motion made to approve the December 13, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and
18 carried.

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20 **Announcements:**

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22 M. Farmer-Kaiser provided an update on the call for nominations for Grand Marshal for
23 Spring and Summer 2017. Nominations have been received by the Graduate School and a list
24 of all nominations and their supporting documents will be provided at the next Council
25 meeting.

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27 The list of degree candidates was presented to the Council. Motion made to accept the list of
28 degree candidates. Motion seconded and carried.

29
30 **Committee Reports:**

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32 Student Appeals Committee – Committee report submitted by P. Viguerie, not present.
33 Motion made to accept the report of the Student Appeals Committee. Motion seconded and
34 carried.

35
36 Curriculum Committee – Committee report submitted by J. Lemoine. Motion made to accept
37 the report of the Curriculum Committee. Motion seconded and carried.

38
39 Fellowship Committee – No report. M. Kightley made a request to the Council on behalf of
40 the committee to be able make offers to Master’s fellowship recipients prior to approval from
41 the Grad Council. Making those offers early will help in securing the best students for those
42 fellowships. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that this requested has been granted in the past to use the
43 fellowships as a recruitment tool. A. Magidin suggested that the Council consider making a
44 permanent change to the structure and timeline of the Fellowships committee so the issue
45 would not be recurring. Motion made to approve the request to make early offers for Master’s
46 fellowships. Motion seconded and carried.

1
2 Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – No report
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4 **Old Business:**
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6 M. Farmer-Kaiser provided an overview of the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee
7 on International Student Admissions Policies, presented at the December Graduate Council
8 meeting. She also discussed changes to SEVIS policies that prevent the issuance of I-20s to
9 international students admitted conditionally, though clarifying that individual Universities set
10 their own criteria for regular vs conditional admission. As a result of SEVIS policy, the
11 Committee also recommended moving the minimum TOEFL score from 81 to 79, rather than
12 81 to 80 as originally recommended. In regards to the recommendations, M. Kightley
13 suggested clarification of recommendation #3, which address which international students are
14 not required to submit proof of English proficiency. The Council expressed concern over
15 which Canadian students would be exempt from submitting proof of English proficiency,
16 arguing that the current recommendation is unclear. M. Kightley proposed the following
17 wording to clear up any ambiguity, “Applicants who hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree,
18 with primary instruction in English, from an accredited institution in the United States, United
19 Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), Ireland, Australia, New Zealand,
20 and Canada are not required to demonstrate English proficiency.” Motion made to accept the
21 proposed amendment to wording in recommendation #3. Motion seconded and carried.
22

23 Following acceptance of the Ad Hoc Committee report, M. Farmer-Kaiser requested the
24 creation of an Ad Hoc Committee that would review all Graduate School admissions policies,
25 not just those applicable to international students. The goal of this committee would be to
26 assess admissions expectations while defining more clearly what the Graduate School
27 requires. The Council expressed support for such a committee. Motion made to create an ad
28 hoc committee to review all Graduate School admissions policies for all students. Motion
29 seconded and carried. H. Hurst then asked for volunteers to participate, with D. Bellar,
30 volunteering as chair and K. Smith, J. Lemoine, and K. McClung volunteering as members.
31

32 **New Business:**
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34 H. Hurst asked the Council to consider a request from the Graduate School to create 899
35 Exams Only courses for all departments not yet possessing such a course. M. Farmer-Kaiser
36 explained that in situations where a student has completed all course requirements but has
37 failed comprehensive exams, an Exams Only course is needed for those students to enroll and
38 complete their degree. She then asked that ENVS 899 be included for consideration as it was
39 recently approved by the UL System and the Board of Regents, while H. Hurst asked that
40 NURS 899 be removed as its membership in the Nursing consortium will not allow for
41 creation of a course at just one University. M. Kightley was in favor of approving the request
42 as long as department heads, school directors, and academic deans provided consent, if only
43 electronically, for the creation of these courses. Motion made to accept the request to create
44 899 courses in bulk, with ENVS 899 added and NURS 899 subtracted from the proposed list,
45 provided department heads, school directors, and academic deans provide consent. Motion
46 seconded and carried.

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2 The Council considered a request from the College of Business to waive the graduate faculty
3 membership requirement for graduate coordinators in the college for the Master of
4 Accounting program. The College argued that the current graduate coordinator, while not
5 possessing the terminal degree in Accounting, does possess years of accounting experience, is
6 a licensed CPA, and is a senior instructor in the department, teaching many graduate level
7 courses for the program. M. Farmer-Kaiser explained that the College of Business did not
8 wish to change college criteria for graduate faculty membership but decided to ask for a
9 waiver of their requirements in this instance. M. Dewitt asked if there were any other faculty
10 in the Department of Accounting with the terminal degree. The Council determined that there
11 were a number of Accounting faculty members. The Council debated over whether or not a
12 graduate coordinator needed to be a member of the graduate faculty, with M. Kightley
13 arguing that in terms of mentoring possible future scholars, a role that goes beyond simply
14 professional development. K. Smith was hesitant to grant any exception that might set a
15 precedent for other programs to do the same. She expressed concern that the position of
16 graduate coordinator would be less incentivized. H. Hurst suggested granting the exception to
17 the faculty member alone for this one program and for a set time period, so that a precedent
18 would not be set. D. Bellar wondered though if this exception was the easiest solution for the
19 College of Business and not the best option, arguing that the College could consider another
20 faculty member with graduate faculty membership for graduate coordinator. H. Hurst offered
21 to invite Dean Fontenot to the Council meeting to discuss the request further, to which the
22 Council agreed. The request was thus tabled.

23
24 The Council reviewed a non-thesis degree program request from the College of Business to
25 allow the Master of Accounting program to require only 30 credit hours rather than 33 for
26 degree completion. H. Hurst explained that the College request falls in line with UL System
27 Master's degree requirements but does not comply with UL Lafayette policies, which requires
28 completion of 33 hours for non-thesis Master's programs. M. Farmer-Kaiser explained that
29 the University, UL System, Board of Regents, and SACS approved the creation of the Master
30 of Accounting program at 30 hours, but the University policies outlined in the Catalog
31 required the program to add an additional 3 hours. M. Kightley asked why the 33 hour rule
32 would have come about, with M. Farmer-Kaiser stating that it was most likely instituted
33 decades ago to ensure rigor across programs. A few Council members asked whether 30 hours
34 was common for Accounting programs nationally, to which M. Farmer-Kaiser referred to the
35 materials submitted by the College of Business that confirmed. K. Smith expressed favor for
36 the request if the Council felt that the quality of the Accounting program would not be in
37 question, though she advocated for a review of the Master's non-thesis credit hour
38 requirements. M. Kightley agreed to a review of existing policies but stressed that the Council
39 should only be approving request based on the desired of the faculty, and not because some
40 other administrative body has previously approved something. D. Bellar also advocated for a
41 review of the Master's non-thesis credit hour requirements but asked that the review come in
42 the form of a denial to the request. Motion made to outright deny the request. No second and
43 the motion ended. Motion made to deny the request with an additional request to create an ad
44 hoc committee to review the Master's non-thesis credit hour requirements as set in the
45 Graduate Catalog. Motion seconded. Ten voted to approve the motion, three voted to deny the
46 motion, and one abstained from voting. H. Hurst then asked for volunteers to participate on

1 the newly created ad hoc committee, with K. Hermann and M. Kightley volunteering to
2 participate.

3
4 H. Hurst provided a brief update on the Provost search, stating that of the original 49
5 applications, 13 candidates were selected for live-streaming interviews, and of those 13, 4
6 individuals were selected for on campus interviews. She reviewed briefly the credentials of
7 each of the final candidates.

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9 Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at
10 4:14pm.