

## March 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Members Present: J. Albert, D. Bellar, C. Briggs, A. Brown, K. Evans-Jackson, W. Ferguson, S. Gawronski, R. Gonzales, D. Harrington, R. Hernandez, H. Hurst, M. Kightley, A. Maida, A. Magidin, P. Morton, D. Olivier, C. Roche-Wallace, K. Smith, W. Xu, M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member)

Members Absent: P. Auter, D. Baker, A. Khattab, J. Lemoine, S. McInerny, D. Stevens, C. Taylor

The meeting was called to order by W. Ferguson at 2:01 p.m.

### **Announcements:**

The Council voted to approve the February 9, 2016 meeting minutes.

The list of degree candidates was presented to and accepted by the Council with corrections; the Council asked that the Graduate School review the applications for candidacy of a student listed twice on the report and another who appeared to be identified with the wrong degree type.

H. Hurst and M. Farmer-Kaiser provided updates on the University's first Doctoral Candidacy Recognition Ceremony, hosted by the Graduate School and recommended by the University Committee on Graduate Student Success and Retention. M. Farmer-Kaiser explained that this first event would recognize doctoral students, though including master's students in future events is under consideration. The event will take place the evening of Sunday, April 3, 2016 and will feature Dr. Daniel Jean who will provide the keynote address. The event will serve as the kick-off to Graduate Student Appreciation Week.

### **Committee Reports:**

Student Appeals Committee – Updated committee report submitted by Bob Viguerie, not present, and prepared by the Graduate School, which included appeals considered electronically after the Fall committee meeting absent from the previous report. Motion made to accept the updated Student Appeals Committee report. Motion seconded and carried.

Curriculum Committee – Committee report submitted by Natalia Sidorovskaia, not present. Motion made to accept the report of the Curriculum Committee. Motion seconded and carried.

Fellowship Committee – Committee report submitted by Andrea Loewy, not present. M. Farmer-Kaiser thanked the Council for authorizing the Graduate School to act on the Fellowship Committee's recommendations prior to the March Graduate Council meeting. She reported that offers, with a higher academic-year stipend level of \$11,000 (up from \$9,500), had been made. Motion made to accept the report of the Fellowship Committee. Motion seconded and passed.

Graduate Faculty Membership Review Committee – No report. Spring applications submitted by faculty by Feb 1 deadline are in-process at individual College level at present.

## **Old Business:**

W. Ferguson asked for updates from the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Certificate Rules and Regulations. M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that the recommendations of that committee were approved by the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs for inclusion in the 2016-2017 University Catalog

W. Ferguson asked for updates from the Ad Hoc Committee on International Student Admissions Policies. M. Farmer-Kaiser stated that there was no report as the Committee had not yet met.

W. Ferguson asked for updates from the Ad Hoc Committee on Outside Observers for Thesis and Dissertation Defenses. M. Kightley, co-chair of that committee, provided a summary of the committee's March 7 first meeting, official charge, and continuing timeline for meetings and recommendations. He indicated that he and co-chair J. Lemoine had met twice, and both expected to provide formal recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee for the Council's consideration in April. A. Magidin suggested, with feedback from his College, that the Ad Hoc Committee consider recommending that outside observers be assigned to all students completing new graduate degree programs for a period of time to ensure quality, fairness, and rigor. M. Kightley made note of the suggestion. W. Ferguson thanked M. Kightley and J. Lemoine for their work thus far on the Ad Hoc Committee.

## **New Business:**

The Council considered a request to formally revise the University Guidelines for Graduate Faculty Membership to incorporate clarifications sought by the Graduate Faculty Review Committee in Fall 2015, as debated and approved by the Graduate Council during its November 2015 meeting. W. Ferguson explained that when M. Feist, as current chair of the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee, and M. Farmer-Kaiser, as current Dean, meet to review the Spring 2016 graduate faculty applications the administrative (rather than substantive) nature of this required review should not be left to past minutes of the Graduate Council, but rather should be affirmed in the official policy. As such, a proposal was presented to change item B in the policy's outline of the process used to review graduate faculty applications to read as follows:

*“Upon receipt of recommendations and the related narratives from the three academic college review entities (the College Peer Review Committee, the Department Head, and the Academic Dean), the Dean of the Graduate School and the chairperson of the Committee on Graduate Faculty Membership shall perform an administrative review of all applications along with the college recommendations; they shall forward applications that require review as specified above to the Committee on Graduate Faculty Membership for review. Those applications that do not require review by the Committee on Graduate Faculty Membership shall be submitted directly to the Graduate Council for final University approval.”*

M. Farmer-Kaiser welcomed the Council to make any suggestions to the revised wording. Motion made to accept the revised wording as proposed. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.