

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2
3 November 8, 2016

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5 Members Present: H. Damico (CODI), P. Das (ECON), Mark DeWitt (MUS), M. Farmer-
6 Kaiser (ex-officio member), A. Fekih (ELEE), S. Gawronski (ENGL/GSO), E. Habib (CIVE),
7 D. Harrington (NURS), K. Hermann (COUE), R. Hernandez (CHEE), H. Hurst (NURS), J.
8 Lemoine (NURS), M. Kightley (ENGL), A. Magidin (MATH), K. McClung (ARCH), D.
9 Olivier (EDFL), C. Parker (HIST), C. Richter (GEOL), K. Smith (ARCH), C. Ratliff (ENGL),
10 C. Roche-Wallace (MUS), D. Stevens (MGMT), M. Young (ALSS/GSO)

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12 Members Absent: J. Albert (BIOL), D. Bellar (KNES), D. Baker (MKHP), W. Xu (CHEM)

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

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16 **Announcements:**

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18 The Council voted to approve the October 11, 2016 meeting minutes with a few corrections.
19 D. Olivier provided clarification regarding her comments to Dr. David Danahar. D. Stevens
20 and M. Young were both added to the attendance list from the October meeting. Motion
21 seconded and carried.

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23 The list of degree candidates was presented to and accepted by the Council. Motion made to
24 accept the list of degree candidates. Motion seconded and carried.

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26 **Committee Reports:**

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28 Student Appeals Committee – No report.

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30 Curriculum Committee – Committee report submitted by J. Lemoine. Motion made to accept
31 the report of the Curriculum Committee. Motion seconded and carried.

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33 Fellowship Committee – No report.

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35 Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Committee report submitted by William
36 Ferguson, not present, and the Graduate School on behalf of W. Ferguson. The report from
37 the Graduate School offered recommendations for appointment of 58 applicants who received
38 unanimous support from their three college review entities at the level to which they applied
39 (and thus not requiring review by the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee). The report
40 from W. Ferguson offered recommendations for the 27 applications that required additional
41 review by the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee pursuant to University Guidelines;
42 this report also offered additional policy-related points for discussion and follow-up by the
43 Council and/or the Graduate School.

44
45 Prior to review of those reports, D. Bellar noted that some of the individual college criteria for
46 Graduate Faculty membership are nebulous and require more specificity. M. Farmer-Kaiser

1 stated that she would follow up with academic college leadership on any points of concern
2 raised by the Committee or the Council, while noting that most of the individual college
3 criteria had been recently revised. C. Ratliff asked about what communications are sent to
4 those faculty members who the Committee noted appear to qualify for Level 2 membership
5 though only applied for Level 1, with M. Farmer-Kaiser replying that specific appointment
6 letters are provided to those individuals, encouraging them to consult with their department
7 heads and to consider reapplying for Level 2 membership.
8

9 M. Kightley requested that the Council review each of the four applications that the
10 Committee recommended appointment at a lower level of membership than what was applied
11 for by the applicant. The Council agreed. The Council proceeded to individually review and
12 discuss the CVs and the dean, department, and college peer review committee
13 recommendations for each. For three of the four applications, the Council voted to approve
14 the Committee's recommendation of Graduate Faculty membership at Level 1. For the final
15 application, M. Kightley argued that the application should also be approved at Level 2
16 membership as, in his opinion, counting one of the "invited and submitted" refereed
17 publication in question (alongside the other substantive "Category B" scholarly activities)
18 qualified the faculty member for Level 2 rather than Level 1 membership according to the "in-
19 press and forthcoming" parameters set by the College of Liberal Arts criteria. C. Parker
20 agreed, stating that the process for research and publication in the Humanities demands much
21 time, and thus the work already produced by the faculty member in question was substantive
22 enough for Level 2 membership. Much discussion ensued, which included an initial vote to
23 identify whether the majority of the Council favored appointment at Level 1 or Level 2.
24 Motion made to accept the Committee's recommendation for appointment at Level 1 rather
25 than Level 2 for this applicant. Motion seconded and carried with a majority for and one
26 against.
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28 The Council motioned to accept all other appointments in the Graduate Faculty Membership
29 report at the recommended level. Motion seconded and carried.
30

31 **Old Business:**

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33 H. Hurst asked for a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on International Student Admissions
34 Policies. M. Farmer-Kaiser walked through the provided report, explaining that the
35 Committee reviewed IPED peer and IPED-aspirational-peer institutions and their policies
36 regarding international graduate student admission. Ultimately, the Committee offered three
37 recommendations before the Graduate Council for its consideration:
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- 39 1. That the Graduate School continue the practice of offering in-house foreign credential
40 evaluations to international applicants although it should explicitly reserve the right to
41 require an external credential evaluation (including a course-by-course evaluation) by an
42 approved independent third party at the applicant's expense.
43
- 44 2. That the Graduate Council align the English language proficiency requirements with peer
45 institutions by lowering the TOEFL score requirement for regular graduate admissions

1 from 81 to 80. (The Committee recommends that the current IELTS score requirement of
2 6.5 be retained.)

- 3
4 3. That the Graduate Council revise the Catalog policies that define which applicants are
5 required to demonstrate English language proficiency.
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7 M. Kightley asked why the report proposed that some territories in Canada be required to
8 submit TOEFL scores. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that the committee's recommendation follows
9 peer institution practices by allowing some discretion when it comes to Canadian institutions
10 due to the provincial and institutional variation. She noted that the committee would be open
11 to revision to its recommendation, which presently states: "Applicants who hold a
12 baccalaureate or graduate degree from an accredited institution in the United States, United
13 Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), Ireland, Australia, New Zealand,
14 and some Canadian provinces are not required to demonstrate English proficiency. All other
15 applicants must demonstrate English proficiency by submitting satisfactory Test of English as
16 a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing Services (IELTS)
17 official scores. The Graduate School reserves the right to require proof of English proficiency
18 of other applicants when deemed warranted...." M. Kightley clarified that there are a number
19 of English-speaking Universities in Quebec and thus it may be better to change the report to
20 read "English-speaking institutions" as an exemption for English proficiency scores rather
21 than some Canadian provinces. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted some concern about stating "English-
22 speaking institutions" due to the vast number of English-speaking institutions outside of these
23 defined areas, but again welcomed further consideration and suggestions from the Council. H.
24 Hurst encouraged members of the Council to take the report back to their respective
25 departments and elicit responses and feedback for the December Graduate Council meeting.
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27 **New Business:**
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29 H. Hurst asked M. Farmer-Kaiser to share with the Graduate Council nominations received
30 for the post of Grand Marshal for the Fall 2016 commencement. Additionally, the Council
31 reviewed a list of current retirees that was provided to the Council, as retirees have
32 traditionally been chosen for the post. H. Hurst also called for nominations from the floor.
33 After discussion of the nominations and retirees, motion made to select Dr. Susan Nicassio for
34 the honor. Dr. Nicassio, a professor of History retiring this Fall, was nominated by Dean
35 Jordan Kellman. Motion seconded and carried. The Graduate School will reach out to Dr.
36 Nicassio with the Graduate Council's recognition and invitation.
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38 D. Olivier, Chair of the Provost Search Committee, provided the Council with a current list of
39 the Provost Search Committee for their reference. H. Hurst thanked D. Olivier for her update
40 and welcomed any future updates.
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42 Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at
43 4:02pm.