

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2  
3 December 12, 2017

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5 Members Present: C. Browne (MATH), T. Cline (ARCH), H. Damico (CODI), G. Davis (KNES), M. DeWitt  
6 (MUS), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member), K. Ford (BIOL), E. Habib (CIVE), K. Hermann-Turner  
7 (COUE), R. Hernandez (CHEE), H. Hurst (NURS), J. Lemoine (NURS), M. Mokhtari (PETE), D. Olivier (EDFL),  
8 C. Richter (GEOL), P. Sheppard (EDCI), K. Smith (ARCH), D. Stevens (MGMT), S. Subedi (MATH, GSO),  
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10 Members Absent: C. Belden (NURS), P. Das (ECON), S. Duke-Sylvester (BIOL), M. Kightley (ENGL), P.  
11 Lanier (MGMT), C. Ratliff (ENGL), A. Stearns (CJUS), W. Xu (CHEM)

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13 Guest Present: Heather Stone, Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair

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15 D. Olivier called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

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17 Motion made to accept the November 14, 2017 meeting minutes of the Graduate Council with one  
18 small correction on line 28 of the last page. Motion seconded and carried.

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20 **Announcements**

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22 D. Olivier presented to the Council applicants to candidacy. Motion made to accept the Applicants to  
23 Candidacy report. Motion seconded and carried.

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25 M. Farmer-Kaiser offered an update on the Grand Marshal Invitations, reporting that everyone who was  
26 asked agreed to serve as Grand Marshal. Ellen Cook will serve in Fall 2017, Gail Poirrier will serve in  
27 Spring 2018, and Glen Watson will serve in Summer 2018.

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29 **Committee Reports**

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31 Student Appeals – No report.

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33 Curriculum – Report presented by Heather Stone, present. H. Stone discussed the discrepancies in the  
34 previous month's report and offered to answer any questions about the updated, corrected report. M.  
35 Farmer-Kaiser further reported that, in consultation with and the approval of D. Olivier, four of the  
36 Informatics courses included in this report and recommended for approval by the Curriculum  
37 Committee had already been forwarded for approval by Academic Affairs and creation for Spring 2018  
38 by the Registrar's Office. These courses are critical to the successful launch of the new MS degree  
39 program in Informatics. The Council thanked H. Stone for the Committee's hard work this semester.  
40 Motion made to accept the report. Motion seconded and carried. H. Stone exited the meeting at  
41 2:12pm.

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43 Fellowships – No report.

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45 Graduate Faculty – No report.

46  
47 **Old Business**

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1 The Council discussed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Admissions. M.  
2 Farmer-Kaiser provided a handout with individual graduate program initial, non-binding responses to  
3 the question: "If the GRE/GMAT were made a program-specific requirement, is your program  
4 considering removing the test as an application requirement?" Although incomplete, the list indicated  
5 that 11 were not planning to do so, 5 were considering removing the requirement, two were uncertain  
6 at this time, and the remaining had not responded. She also mentioned that the suggestion of removing  
7 the GRE/GMAT as one of the University thresholds to determine regular versus conditional admission,  
8 though not removing the ability to grant conditional admission, had garnered much discussion and  
9 support from graduate coordinators. H. Hurst asked what the process would be for waiving the  
10 GRE/GMAT if the Council decided to keep the tests as a University admissions requirement. M. Farmer-  
11 Kaiser explained that the process presently requires the Council to consider such requests, that there  
12 are already programs that have been granted this waiver, and finally that the UL System policy does not  
13 require the GRE/GMAT to be included as part of the determination between regular versus conditional  
14 admission. K. Smith mentioned concern over whether removing the GRE/GMAT as a University  
15 requirement would lower the institution's credibility or competitiveness for funding awards. D. Olivier  
16 noted that such consequences would likely be more program specific, as some disciplines do not place  
17 as much weight on test scores. K. Smith was willing to offer more time to the colleges and graduate  
18 programs to provide feedback on whether they would keep the GRE as a program requirement, with P.  
19 Sheppard agreeing as he felt it unwise to vote on such a significant change without more University  
20 input. H. Hurst and D. Stevens countered by stating that programs would still be allowed to require the  
21 GRE/GMAT at a program level, so removing it as a University requirement did not have to affect them if  
22 desired. Others noted that the graduate programs had been asked to provide input throughout the Fall  
23 semester in both the work of the ad hoc committee and via the graduate program leadership meetings.  
24 The Council decided to review the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations and consider each  
25 individually, each with discussion. Motion made to accept "Recommendation D" regarding letters of  
26 recommendation, which recommends continuing the requirement of three letters and discontinuing the  
27 practice of processing an application upon receipt of only two letters. Motion seconded and carried.  
28 Motion made to accept "Recommendation C," which called for the continuation of existing GPA  
29 requirements and thresholds for conditional and regular admission at both the master's and doctoral  
30 levels. Motion seconded and carried. Motion made to accept "Recommendation E" concerning the use  
31 of unofficial transcripts for application review and official transcripts for admission and registration.  
32 Motion seconded and carried with a majority. Motion made to accept "Recommendation A" concerning  
33 the GRE/GMAT as a program specific rather than Graduate School requirement. Motion seconded and  
34 carried with 13 votes in favor and 3 abstentions. The Council then considered whether the GRE/GMAT, if  
35 required by a program, would continue to be used as a threshold to determine regular versus  
36 conditional admission. Motion made to remove GRE/GMAT scores as one of the determinants for  
37 conditional admission by deleting 3b and 4b from the Graduate Catalog section "Qualifications for  
38 Admission" concerning conditional and regular admissions, with a revision to 5e to state, "a strong score  
39 on the GRE if submitted as part of the application." Motion seconded and carried. Finally, motion made  
40 to reject "Recommendation B" concerning conditional admission. Motion seconded and carried.

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42 **New Business**

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44 The Council turned its attention to a request from the English Graduate Committee for a catalog change  
45 to the language requirements for graduate degrees. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that this request affects  
46 more than just English, as it is not a curricular change but rather a degree requirement change. She  
47 further reported initial feedback from the College of Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts, noting that  
48 Dean Jordan Kellman had requested the ability to get more input from the other programs in his college.  
49 Motion made to charge the Dean of the Graduate School with seeking additional information from the

- 1 requesting entity into practices of other peer institutions and endorsements by all programs potentially
- 2 impacted. Motion seconded and carried with a majority.
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- 4 Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and carried.
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- 6 The meeting adjourned at 4:12pm.