

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2  
3 December 11, 2018

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5 Members Present: P. Lanier (MGMT), T. Cline (ARCH), H. Damico (CODI), G. Davis (KNES), F. Del Favero  
6 (EDFL), , E. Habib (CIVE), J. Lemoine (NURS), H. Stone (EDCI), C. Lenahan (NURS), H. Chu (CMIX), L.  
7 Bourdeau (MODL), S. Duke-Sylvester (BIOL), C. Ratliff (ENGL), C. Matherne (MGMT)

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9 Members Absent: A. Petculescu (PHYS), M. Mokhtari (PETE), R. Hernandez (CHEE), D. Khey (CJUS), J.  
10 McManus (GSO), C. Roche-Wallace (MUS), B. Schubert (GEOL), K. Smith (ARCH), T. Wilson (ACCT), D.  
11 White-Jefferson (NURS), J. Martinez (BIOL SREB Fellow), K. Hermann-Turner (COUE)

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13 P. Lanier called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm

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15 **Announcements**

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17 Motion made to accept the November 13, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

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19 Motion made to accept the applicants to candidacy. Motion seconded and carried.

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21 P. Lanier reported that the Provost has approved the proposed changes to the Graduate Council  
22 Handbook Curriculum Standing Committee Guidelines that empower the Curriculum Committee to  
23 approve course proposals and the University Catalog revision that would allow scores from the Pearson  
24 Test of English (PTE) to be used to satisfy the English Language Proficiency graduate application  
25 requirement.

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27 **Committee Reports**

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29 Student Appeals – No report.

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31 Curriculum Committee – Report provided by H. Stone. Motion made to accept report. Motion seconded  
32 and carried

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34 Fellowships Committee – No report.

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36 **Old Business**

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38 **2018-2019 Grand Marshal Invitation**

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40 M. Farmer Kaiser reported that she had extended grand marshal invitations on behalf of the Graduate  
41 Council and the Fall and Spring commencement invitations were accepted. Dr. Jenneke Visser is  
42 confirmed for Fall 2018 Commencement and Dr. Nancye Roussel will be the grand marshal for the Spring  
43 2019 commencement. She added that Dr. Cheryl Lynch is honored to be invited to serve as grand  
44 marshal for the Summer 2019 commencement but that, unfortunately, she may be out of town that  
45 day. M. Farmer-Kaiser thus extended the invitation to her to serve as the grand marshal in December  
46 2019, and she accepted. The Council will select a new faculty member to recognize with this honor in  
47 August at our upcoming meeting in February.

48 **New Business**

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**Graduate Faculty Membership Appointment Appeal**

P. Lanier introduced a departmental appeal for an individual faculty member who was denied appointment to the Graduate Faculty by the Graduate Council and its Graduate Faculty Membership Committee. The justification for denial was based on a lack of a terminal degree. The Council reviewed the letter of appeal and the supplemental documentation provided at the time of the individual faculty member’s hiring justifying acceptance of the degree as a terminal degree. P. Lanier further reported that, in the previous successful application for graduate faculty membership, the individual college peer review committee had noted that the degree was considered a terminal degree. That information was not noted in the current application’s recommendations from the three college review entities. M. Farmer-Kaiser reviewed the appeals process outlined in the guidelines governing graduate faculty appointments. Motion made to support the appeal and to approve appointment at Level Two as requested. Motion seconded and carried.

**New Business**

**Graduate Climate Survey Discussion**

P. Lanier asked the Graduate Council to consider creating an ad hoc task force that would be composed of council members and other members of the graduate faculty and university community who would be interested in developing a Graduate Education Climate Survey. C. Matherne suggested that this would be a helpful way of looking at overlapping projects among different universities and broader communities that could improve student success. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that some of the topics addressed by climate surveys at other institutions are included in the annual mid-master’s survey implemented last year and the exit surveys. Unlike these surveys, a climate survey would go out to all graduate students and would likely not be an annual survey (most are conducted every three years). The need to be cognizant of survey fatigue was discussed. P. Lanier asked members of the Council to review the introductory material provided, including URLs for graduate climate surveys at other institutions, and to share with her potential members for the ad hoc committee.

**Leave of Absence Policy**

C. Ratliff asked that the Council revisit the official leave of absence policy to discuss further its exclusion of financial hardship. Brief discussion ensued with the agreement to continue as an agenda item in the Spring semester.

Motion made to adjourn at 2:55. Motion seconded and carried.