

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2
3 October 8, 2019

4
5 Members Present: A. Barhorst (MCHE), T. Cline (ARCH), H. Damico (CODI), F. Del Favero (EDFL), Eric
6 Ferré (GEOL), J. Geer (ENGL), A. Ibrahim (MS COUE), S. Kahn (ACCT), D. Khey (CJUS), J. Lemoine (NURS),
7 C. Lenahan (NURS), R. Mielusel (MODL), J. Miller (MS PHYS), M. Mokhtari (PETE), C. Parker (HIST), A.
8 Petculescu (PHYS), C. Roche-Wallace (MUS), H. Stone (EDCI), B. Wade (MATH), D. White-Jefferson
9 (NURS), J. Miller (GSO President), A. Ibrahim (MS COUE), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

10
11 Members Absent: P. Lanier (MGMT), G. Davis (KNES), S. Duke-Sylvester (BIOL), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), C.
12 Matherne (MGMT), M. Zappi (CHEE)

13
14 M. Farmer-Kaiser called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

15
16 Motion made to accept the September 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

17
18 **Announcements**

19
20 **Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

21 Motion made to accept presentation of applicants to candidacy. Motion seconded and carried.

22
23 **Update on Statistical Support Center**

24 B. Wade reported that there has been a positive grassroots response from students and faculty but that
25 the Math Department is awaiting promised funds to be able to purchase furniture and computers for
26 the center; promised funds also have not yet been allocated to support two additional graduate
27 teaching assistantships. M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that she had sent a formal announcement to both
28 graduate students and graduate faculty after meeting with the Provost that confirmed commitment of
29 University funds to support the center's pilot year. She added that she will follow up with the Provost
30 regarding the support that has been pledged by the University.

31
32 **Update on Climate Survey**

33 M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that there is a meeting scheduled for the ad-hoc committee next week so
34 there will be updates from P. Lanier at the November meeting of the Graduate Council.

35
36 **Curriculum Reports**

37
38 Appeals Committee – No report.

39
40 Curriculum Committee – A report was submitted to the Graduate School by S. Young stating that in
41 September, the Curriculum Committee reviewed 26 course change forms and that 16 were approved, 3
42 were recommended for approval with changes, and 7 were declined. H. Stone asked why the
43 committee's action sheet listing the courses was not included with the printed materials. P. de Mahy
44 confirmed that they had been sent by S. Young and apologized that it had not been added to the packet.
45 Motion made to accept report. Motion seconded and carried.

46
47 Fellowships Committee – No report.

48

1 Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – No report.

2 M. Farmer reported that the college review process is currently underway, and that department heads,
3 deans, and college peer review committees are completing their reviews, which are due on Monday.
4 The Graduate Faculty Review committee will complete its review in preparation for the November
5 meeting of the Graduate Council.

6
7 **Old Business**

8
9 **Catalog Change: Regular Admission Appeal**

10 M. Farmer-Kaiser introduced the draft of the proposed revision proposal developed with G. Petculescu
11 as requested by the Graduate Council last month. The policy proposal is to allow an individual graduate
12 program to an appeal for regular, without condition, admission for applicants who qualify only for
13 conditional admission. There was a general discussion that on the wording and the greater sentiment to
14 convey that such appeals should be rare. A motion was made to accept the proposal with the following
15 revisions: (1) the word “though” on the second line of section 3 be corrected to read “through”; (2) the
16 third sentence of section 3 be changed to “Strong justification and evidence must be presented to
17 warrant such extraordinary appeals.”; and (3) that the final section of section 6b be revised to remove
18 the following statement: “The final decision concerning removal of conditional admission status rests
19 with the Dean of the Graduate School.” Motion accepted and carried. M. Farmer-Kaiser offered to make
20 the above-noted changes to the draft policy and to send an updated file via email to Graduate Council
21 members. Members agreed that they will review it with their individual colleges and departments and
22 gather feedback so that it can be revisited during our meeting next month. Our hope will be to hold a
23 vote on inclusion of the policy in the 2020-2021 University Catalog in November.

24
25 **Request for Continuation of Masters Committee Chair/Membership for Departing Faculty Member**

26 The Council considered a request for continuation of dissertation committee chair/membership for
27 departing faculty member. A. Barhorst introduced the request, explaining that this faculty member had
28 taken a position at another university and thus the department was requesting permission to allow the
29 faculty member to remain as chair for two masters students who are on track to complete the degree in
30 2020. There was general discussion of the potential need for a co-chair from the department to ensure
31 that the students have an on-campus advocate to support them in their degree completion. A motion
32 was made to approve the request to allow the departing faculty member to remain as chair for the
33 student set to complete the degree in Spring 2020. Motion seconded and carried. A second motion was
34 made to approve the student set to complete the degree in Summer 2020, pending successful
35 reapplication, to continue with the departing faculty member to continue as co-chair along with a co-
36 chair from the department. Motion seconded and carried.

37
38 **Report on Graduate Part-Time and Continuous Enrollment Rates, Definitions, and Requirements**

39 M. Farmer Kaiser introduced the results of the research requested by the Graduate Council in Spring
40 2019 to inform its consideration of change to the leave of absence policy and ongoing discussions
41 related to the enrollment of part-time doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy. The first
42 section gave current and and historic data on the number of full-time and part-time graduates showing
43 significant growth at the doctoral level in addition to the part-time masters level. The following
44 comparison of full-time and part-time tuition/fee rates as well as online rates shows that the University
45 has high part-time tuition/fee rates for our graduate students compared to other institutions in the
46 state. She noted that while the University does not have a formal continuous enrollment requirement,
47 she pointed out the Catalog policies that show an indirect expectation that students remain
48 continuously enrolled once they have been admitted to graduate studies. She noted that in the review

1 of other institutional policies it became clear that, while both peer and in-state institutions have such
2 policies, some of the most complete and representative policies were not among this list of institutions
3 and thus policies from outside this pool have been included. The comparison of definitions of full-time
4 and part-time enrollment provided, however, were largely from the state of Louisiana because these are
5 operating under the same governing systems. While the Graduate Council had requested examples of
6 reduced tuition policies for ABD students, she reported that while such policies are more rare these
7 days, especially among public state institutions, representative policies are included. She asked
8 members of Council to let her know if their graduate institution had a reduced tuition rate for ABD
9 students so that she could reach out to their dean to see if they still offer it. M. Farmer-Kaiser added
10 that one request is still pending—the revenue cost analysis of part-time graduate enrollment with a
11 focus on ABD and ABT student enrollment. The information gathered as part of this report shall be
12 distributed to members of the Graduate Council electronically so that it can be shared and discussed
13 with their departments and colleges. After some preliminary discussion, M. Farmer-Kaiser suggested
14 that, since the information had not been provided in advance of the meeting, the Graduate Council take
15 the opportunity to review the material so that there can be a conversation about next steps in
16 November.

17
18 Motion made to adjourn at 3:42. Motion seconded and carried