

1 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

2
3 December 10, 2019

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5 Members Present: P. Lanier (MGMT), A. Barhorst (MCHE), T. Cline (ARCH), G. Davis (KNES), F. Del Favero
6 (EDFL), J. Geer (ENGL), J. Lemoine (NURS), C. Lenahan (NURS), R. Mielusel (MODL), C. Parker (HIST), H.
7 Stone (EDCI), B. Wade (MATH), D. White-Jefferson (NURS), M. Zappi (CHEE), J. Miller (MS PHYS), A.
8 Ibrahim (MS COUE), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

9
10 Members Absent: H. Damico (CODI), Eric Ferré (GEOL), S. Kahn (ACCT), D. Khey (CJUS), A. Latiolais
11 (ARCH), C. Matherne (MGMT), M. Mokhtari (PETE), A. Petculescu (PHYS), C. Roche-Wallace (MUS),

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

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15 Motion made to accept the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

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17 **Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

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

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20 **Provost Approval of Catalogue Change: Regular Admissions Appeals**

21 P. Lanier reported that the policy on regular admissions appeals has been approved to go in the
22 upcoming University Catalog and was made effective upon approval.

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24 **Committee Reports**

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26 Student Appeals – No report.

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28 Curriculum Committee – A report, with action sheet, was submitted to the Graduate School by S. Young
29 stating that in November, the Curriculum Committee reviewed two course change requests and both
30 were approved. Motion made to accept the report. Motion seconded and carried.

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32 Fellowships Committee – No report. M. Farmer Kaiser noted that S. France had indicated the committee
33 is moving forward with discussions related to the creation of a fellows community. Our hope is to bring
34 together all current and past fellows who are still students to discuss the initiative in the Spring
35 semester.

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37 Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – No report.

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39 **Old Business**

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41 **2020 Grand Marshal Nominations**

42 M. Farmer-Kaiser and P. Lanier reported that both nominees accepted the invitation to participate in
43 upcoming commencement ceremonies. P. Lanier will thank faculty who sent nomination letters as well
44 as those who were nominated.

45
46 **Report from Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Community Campus Experience**

47 P. Lanier reported that the committee met weekly this semester to develop the survey and had their last
48 Fall meeting today. In it, they agreed tentatively to a timeline that would promote the survey during

1 Graduate Student Appreciation Week with the aim of launching the survey the following week with it
2 remaining open through April.

3
4 M. Farmer-Kaiser said that she had just returned from the annual Council of Graduate School
5 conference and that several sessions centered on graduate student wellness. She proposed that the
6 concept of wellness was a helpful framework for thinking about the Campus Experience Survey because
7 it addresses mental health and other concerns holistically in the context all the factors that impact
8 graduate students' ability to succeed in their programs.

9
10 **Continuing Discussion of Graduate Part-time and Continuous Enrollment Rates, Definitions, and**
11 **Requirements**

12 M. Farmer Kaiser said that now that the data has been collected the next step is to decide what we want
13 to do with it. She suggested the possibility of forming another ad hoc committee or requesting that the
14 Retention Committee review the data and make recommendations back to the Graduate Council.

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16 A motion was made to refer the data to the Retention Committee for review so that they can make
17 recommendations back to the Council. Motion seconded and carried.

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20 **New Business**

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22 **University Catalog Revision Policies for Awarding Credit**

23 The Council considered a request to include the following passage in the policy governing the awarding of
24 graduate credit.

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26 For purposes of the application of this policy and in accord with federal regulations, a credit hour is
27 an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student
28 achievement of outcomes that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably
29 approximates:

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1. Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of
out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or
trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent
amount of work over a different amount of time, or
 2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined in item 1 above for other academic
activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio
work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

38 J. Geer asked how this revision would practically change implementation. J. Hebert clarified that this
39 would not change anything in practice but that it would ensure that the university is in compliance with
40 how are policies are documented.

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42 Motion made to accept with two corrections to spelling. Motion seconded and carried.

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44 **Invited Guest: Dr. Jamie Hebert**

45 J. Hebert reported that he had just returned from a visit with the SACS the team that will lead the onsite
46 visit in February and that the university came out well in the offsite review. He added that the need to
47 continue to invest in research and graduate studies has come up in virtually every one of his department
48 discussions. He indicated that the University's ability to recruit out of state and international students

1 will be based on the institution's academic reputation, which is strongly connected to the reputation of
2 faculty and graduate programs.

3
4 M. Zappi asked about breaking away from our standard marketing practices in order to get more
5 national visibility for strong programs. J. Hebert agreed that improving the communication and
6 marketing plan over the next five years will be critical, especially now that the University has the ability
7 to offer in-state tuition to anyone outside the state of Louisiana including students from other countries.

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9 A general discussion followed about the advantages and challenges of focusing more recruiting efforts in
10 Texas, including the need to develop the infrastructure required to effectively matriculate and complete
11 larger cohorts while improving retention rates. J. Hebert noted that since all of the retirement payments
12 were moved back to the universities under the Jindal administration, there has been a significant gap in
13 funding that remains unfilled. He added that his hope is that the current administration will be able to
14 follow through with an increase in support to the University, which would allow for us to invest even
15 more in the infrastructure needed to support the University's academic excellence.

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17 Motion made to adjourn at 3:43. Motion seconded and carried