

**Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council  
March 9, 2021**

Members Present: Jennifer Lemoine (Chair NURS), James Albert (BIOL), Alan Barhorst (MCHE), Brian Bolton (ECON), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Brittany Grissom (SREB, PhD BIOL), Sarfraz Khan (ACCT), David Khey (CJUS), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Manyu Li (PSYC), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Chad Parker (HIST), Andi Petculescu (PHYS), Roger Rholdon (NURS), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), David Squires (ENGL), Heather Stone (EDCI), Michael Totaro (CMIX), Bruce Wade (MATH), Benjamin Yates (MUS), Sarah Smith (GSO, PhD MODL), Mark Zappi (CHEE), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Joshua Bendickson (MGMT), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Eric Ferré (GEOL)

J. Lemoine called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

**Approvals**

Motion made to accept the February 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

**Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

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

**Committee Reports**

**Student Appeals** – No report.

**Curriculum Committee** – No report.

**Fellowships Committee** – No report.

**Graduate Faculty Membership Committee** – C. Ratliff provided an update on the recommended inclusion of mentorship criteria for Graduate Faculty membership and how it inform revisions to the university guidelines. J. Lemoine reminded the committee that, although this report has refined suggested criteria, colleges will still be the entities that undertake inclusion into their individual college criteria in a way that aligns best for working successfully with graduate students in their fields of study. She also reported that the discussion should continue in new business.

**Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – No report.

**Old Business**

**Graduate Faculty Membership COVID-19 Term Extension Request**

J. Lemoine reported that she and M. Farmer-Kaiser had the opportunity to discuss the request to extend Graduate Faculty membership with the Provost and that he wholeheartedly supported the recommendation. In addition, the Faculty Senate had also inquired about whether an extension was being considered; members of that body were appreciative that this issue was being addressed. To follow up on the motion passed during the previous meeting, J. Lemoine asked the Graduate Council to clarify how this extension would apply to those who are currently under review. After discussion, a

1 motion was made to extend the same one-year extension to faculty appointed/reappointed to  
2 membership during the Spring 2021 review; motion included recommendation that faculty members  
3 whose application for reappointment is denied in the Spring 2021 have their current terms extended for  
4 one year. Motion seconded and carried.

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6 **New Business**

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8 **Joint Letter to the Academic Deans regarding Graduate Faculty College Criteria Updates**

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10 J. Lemoine introduced the letter that she and M. Farmer-Kaiser submitted to the academic deans asking  
11 them to review and update their college criteria as required and with a focus on the commitments made  
12 in the Statement of Solidarity. In particular, the letter requested criteria for Graduate Faculty  
13 membership require faculty members to demonstrate an ability to work constructively with all graduate  
14 students, including students from underrepresented communities. A discussion followed on what steps  
15 should be taken by the Graduate Council given that individual colleges will be required to develop  
16 objectives for measuring faculty effectiveness in this area. M. Zappi suggested that the Council see what  
17 the individual departments develop and then offer guidance to change the University Guidelines based  
18 on their feedback. It was suggested that the Graduate Council review the recommended changes to the  
19 University Guidelines in a policy markup at the next meeting. It also was highlighted that the timing for  
20 working through these changes was opportune given the one-year extensions being provided to all  
21 members of the Graduate Faculty at this time. Members were asked to review the policy markup and to  
22 discuss with those in their colleges and departments.

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24 **Commencement Grand Marshal Discussion**

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26 J. Lemoine reported that the spring graduation ceremony will be held again as a separate Graduate  
27 School ceremony at Cajun Field at 6pm on May 15. She added that since the Graduate Council previously  
28 has invited faculty members to serve as the Grand Marshal in November 2019 (before social distancing  
29 impacted plans for a general assembly) that the upcoming spring ceremony would be an opportunity to  
30 revisit their participation and recognition. A. Latiolais asked if the Graduate School specific ceremony  
31 would continue in the future and expressed her appreciation for an event that was distinct from the  
32 general assembly. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that in years past graduate students participated in a  
33 Graduate School commencement ceremony and there was no general assembly; she also reported that  
34 it remains unclear what decisions will be made about the general assembly ceremony moving forward.  
35 After discussion, it was concluded that an invitation would be extended to those faculty who had  
36 originally been asked to serve as Grand Marshals so that they could elect to participate or not.

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38 Motion made to adjourn at 3:05 Motion seconded and carried.