

**Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council  
September 8, 2020**

Members Present: Jennifer Lemoine (Chair NURS), James Albert (BIOL), Alan Barhorst (MCHE), Joshua Bendickson (MGMT), Brian Bolton (ECON), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), 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), Mark Zappi (CHEE), Sarah Smith (GSO, PhD MODL), Brittany Grissom (SREB, PhD BIOL), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Eric Ferré (GEOL)

Guests Present: Jamie Hebert (Provost), T. Mallery (Campus Diversity), and M. Kightley (ENGL)

J. Lemoine called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

**Invited Guest**

J. Lemoine welcomed the new members of the Graduate Council and invited Provost Hebert to address the Council and to discuss new initiatives from his office.

J. Hebert outlined nine major Academic Affairs priorities for the 2020-2021 academic year: reorganizing the administrative offices of Academic Affairs into two sides focusing on internal institutional review and external outreach initiatives, revising the university committee structure, developing program-specific academic marketing plans, revising assessment planning and assessment processes, launching a university-wide research program as part of the new quality enhancement plan, implementing a platform for the faculty load and compensation process, establishing equity and marketability baselines for faculty salaries, demonstrating the commitment of Academic Affairs to diversity and inclusion priorities more effectively, and developing more data informed measures for evaluating student success.

A. Petculescu asked if there would be updates on what equipment the faculty at McNeese will need in order to reopen after the hurricane. J. Hebert confirmed that he has been in contact with the provost at McNeese and that they agreed it would be essential for the faculty to communicate department-to-department about how to best provide the support that they need.

J. Lemoine asked the provost to clarify the University's commitment to providing statistical support to graduate students. J. Hebert confirmed that the demand has been clearly established and indicated that he was working with the deans of Sciences and the Graduate School on how best to support a director position moving forward.

**Approvals**

Motion made to accept the May 12, 2020 meeting minutes with corrections. Motion seconded and carried.

**Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

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

**Committee Reports**

1 **Student Appeals** – A report was submitted by Y. Wu that provided information on the June and August  
2 2021 meetings. The report further requested the creation of ad hoc committee to be charged with  
3 (1) researching options for reviewing the appeals procedure and communications and (2)  
4 proposing updates to the graduate appeals committee (and, if policy changes are  
5 recommended, the Graduate Council) for consideration. I will chair this committee, and it is my  
6 hope to make an open call to all members of the appeals committee and also to appoint other  
7 members of the graduate faculty who have already demonstrated a strong sense of the current  
8 issues under consideration. . M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that last year was the first year the committee  
9 had a new chair in over a decade, and that it was a year of transition and much new discussion within  
10 the committee. Motion made to accept student appeal report and request to form ad hoc committee.  
11 Motion seconded and carried.

12  
13 **Curriculum Committee** – No report.

14 J. Lemoine notified the Council that the committee will be co-chaired this year by Dr. Sarah Young and  
15 Dr. Chris Giroir.

16  
17 **Fellowships Committee** – No report.

18 J. Lemoine notified the Council that the committee will be chaired this year by Dr. Scott France.

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20 **Graduate Faculty Membership Committee** – No report.

21 J. Lemoine notified the Council that the committee will continue to be chaired by Dr. Clancy Ratliff.

22  
23 **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – M. Kightley thanked the Council for creating the committee in such  
24 a timely way. He reported that the committee has met once so far and has established five working  
25 groups. T. Mallery reported that the working groups aligned with imperatives outlined in the Strategic  
26 Plan for Inclusive Excellence, including cultivating the success of the SREB doctoral fellows program,  
27 assuming leadership for the James Jackson community of scholars, working to review existing policies to  
28 ensure they are in line with the university’s approach to diversity and inclusion, and also to consider  
29 community engagement efforts. M. Kightley thanked the Council for its commitment that all new  
30 policies would be reviewed by the Diversity and Inclusion committee.

31  
32 **Old Business**

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34 **COVID-19 Updates**

35 M. Farmer-Kaiser updated the Council on the financial commitments made by the University this  
36 support to support remote teaching. In total, the University supported graduate teaching assistants  
37 funding them with stipends and tuition waivers that totaled an additional commitment of some  
38 \$235,000. She added that the University also stepped up where we had the ability to offer classes  
39 remotely in Fall 2020 to allow international students unable to return and/or secure F-1 visas to begin  
40 their graduate studies from abroad. She reported that there were no significant issues welcoming new  
41 international students transferring from other institutions in the United States; issuing initial I-20s and  
42 visas were a challenge. Finally, she commended P. de Mahy for his leadership in transitioning the new  
43 grad student orientation to a virtual orientation offered via moodle. She also thanked members of the  
44 Council for being a part of that important initiative.

45  
46 **Retention Committee Recommendations**

47 J. Lemoine summarized the Retention Committee’s recommendations, which were originally submitted

1 in May 2020, to the Graduate Council including: continuation of the Statistical Support Center, a  
2 recommendation of revisions to the leave of absence policy, facilitation of graduate student access to  
3 university data and research resources, and the expected need for time and funding extensions due to  
4 COVID-19.

## 5 6 **New Business**

### 7 8 **Review of Statement of Solidarity to the UL Lafayette Graduate Community**

9 J. Lemoine reported that the statement of solidarity was sent to all members of the Graduate Council on  
10 June 19 and thanked Michael Kightley, Dianne Olivier, Mary Farmer-Kaiser, and Patricia Lanier for their  
11 contributions. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that commitments included the addition of an expectation that  
12 members of the graduate faculty will need to demonstrate their ability to work productively with  
13 graduate students as part of their graduate faculty application and renewal processes. The Graduate  
14 Faculty Membership Standing Committee and individual colleges will be asked to start thinking about  
15 how that fits within their existing guidelines/criterion. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will  
16 necessarily need to be involved in these updates as well.

### 17 18 **Report on Summer Graduate Council Executive Committee Actions**

19 J. Lemoine reported that the executive committee approved three candidacy forms, two masters and  
20 one PhD, as well as three course change requests over the summer.

### 21 22 **2020-2021 Commencement Grand Marshal Updates and Call for Nominations**

23 J. Lemoine said that typically the Council asks three faculty to serve so that there is one available for the  
24 ceremony each semester. However, there have already been two nominated grand marshals who have  
25 not had chance to serve due to the Covid-19 disruption. She requested that this year the discussion of  
26 grand marshal be deferred until there is a better sense of what commencement in December will entail.

### 27 28 **Requests for Continuation of Committee Chair/Membership 29 for Departing Faculty Members**

30 J. Lemoine introduced a request for continuation of a departing faculty member to continue as  
31 chair/member on four separate student committees. After a discussion, a motion was made to approve  
32 all four cases for two years. Motion seconded and carried.

### 33 34 **Graduate Council Goals and Objectives for 2020-2021**

35 J. Lemoine stated that the work of the Graduate Council for 2020-2021 will include completing  
36 objectives from the previous year, including the work of the Fellowship Committee and moving forward  
37 with the postponed graduate climate survey. In addition, she said that new objectives, including working  
38 to fulfill the promises made in the joint solidarity statement, garnering support as well as personnel to  
39 continue the Statistical Consulting Center, develop an ad hoc committee to review the graduate appeals  
40 process at the department and university levels and communication channels of said process to  
41 students, and creating governing policies for accelerated bachelors to masters programs will be a  
42 priority for the year.

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44 It was requested that the goals be for the year be made available for review by the Graduate Council. J.  
45 Lemoine agreed and said that they would be made available for reference on the Moodle site.

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47 Motion made to adjourn at 4:05. Motion seconded and carried