

1 **Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council**
2 **November 10, 2020**

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4 Members Present: Jennifer Lemoine (Chair NURS) Alan Barhorst (MCHE), Joshua Bendickson (MGMT),
5 Brian Bolton (ECON), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Frank Del Favero (EDFL) , David Khey (CJUS), Ashlie
6 Latiolais (ARCH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Many Li (PSYC), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Chad
7 Parker (HIST), Andi Petculescu (PHYS), Roger Rholdon (NURS), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), David
8 Squires (ENGL), Heather Stone (EDCI), Michael Totaro (CMIX), Bruce Wade (MATH), Benjamin Yates
9 (MUS), Sarah Smith (GSO, PhD MODL), Brittany Grissom (SREB, PhD BIOL), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

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11 Members Absent: James Albert (BIOL), Eric Ferré (GEOL), Sarfraz Khan (ACCT), Mark Zappi (CHEE),

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13 J. Lemoine called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

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15 **Approvals**

16 Motion made to accept the October 13, 2020 meeting minutes with corrections. Motion seconded and
17 carried.

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19 **Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

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

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22 **Committee Reports**

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24 **Student Appeals** – No report.

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26 **Curriculum Committee** – No report.

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28 **Fellowships Committee** – No report.

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30 **Graduate Faculty Membership Committee** – Two reports were provided by C. Ratliff, not present. The
31 first report detailed those graduate faculty applications that did not require Committee review as all
32 three independent review entities (College Dean, Department Head, and College Peer Review
33 Committee) were in agreement with recommendation for appointment at the level requested by the
34 individual applicants. The second report detailed those graduate faculty applications that required
35 review by the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee.

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37 Of the 72 total graduate faculty applications submitted this cycle, 55 required no further review per
38 University policy, and thus were recommended appointment to the Graduate Faculty at the
39 membership level applied for by the individual applicants and as recommended by their respective
40 colleges. The remaining 17 applications were forwarded to this Committee for further review.

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42 Of the 17 applications forwarded to the Committee, 13 applications were missing only one
43 recommendation from the three college review entities and the review was a straightforward matter.
44 The committee voted unanimously to approve these appointments in accordance with that requested
45 on their applications and as recommended by the college recommendations received. Review of the
46 remaining four applications required more involved discussion of two applications that received
47 differing college recommendations, interpretation of the meaning of “substantive articles” in one
48 instance and whether book review qualified as such, and affirmation of a Level II appointment for a

1 faculty member who mistakenly applied for Level I membership.

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3 In addition to making recommendations for appointment to the Graduate Faculty, the Committee also
4 reported that, since the time has come to complete a required review of the University guidelines, it has
5 begun to discuss how to incorporate into this review the commitments made in the Statement of
6 Solidarity to the UL Lafayette Graduate Committee on June 19, 2020. More specifically, it noted a focus
7 on the following promises: “Requiring applications for Graduate Faculty membership to demonstrate an
8 ability to work constructively with all graduate students, including students from underrepresented
9 communities. Moreover, offering leadership, guidance, and professional training to help faculty improve
10 and demonstrate their mentorship and advising abilities.” The Committee added that it also has sought
11 input from other campus bodies including the Office of Diversity, the Graduate Council standing
12 committee for Diversity and Inclusion, the English Department’s Diversity and Graduate Faculty
13 committees, the Faculty Senate. The committee welcomed input also from individual faculty members.
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15 Finally, the Committee report included a copy of an email written to Dean Farmer-Kaiser registering “the
16 committee’s response to this semester’s work reviewing applications.” This notification reported
17 continued frustration with the now-regular occurrence of a college dean submitting no review of
18 applications from their college. The Committee asked formally that “deans make it a priority to review
19 graduate faculty status applications unless a sudden, major emergency prevents their doing so” and that
20 the Committee’s “primary is to review applications when there is disagreement among those evaluating
21 it or when the applicants themselves are deans or department heads and cannot evaluate their own
22 work.”
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24 Motion made to accept the two reports submitted. Motion seconded and carried.
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26 **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – J. Lemoine reported that while neither T. Mallery nor M. Kightley
27 were able to attend this meeting that they had confirmed plans to update the Council at its the
28 December meeting. M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that their sub-committees have been busy moving
29 forward and the co-chairs had been in touch with her with specific questions and objectives over the
30 past month.
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32 **Old Business**

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34 **Appeals Ad Hoc Committee Update** Y. Wu provided a report on behalf of the Graduate Appeals Ad Hoc
35 Committee outlining the goals that the committee has identified thus far, including (1) to research the
36 Graduate School’s current policies regarding appeals and how they are communicated to graduate
37 programs across campus, (2) to research appeals policies at peer institutions, (3) to research
38 ombudsmen positions at peer institutions, (4) to ask UL graduate coordinators for their feedback
39 regarding appeals, and finally, on the basis of these items (and/or more as they emerge), (5) to discuss
40 the possibility of revising graduate appeals here at UL. J. Lemoine thanked the committee for taking the
41 time to develop these objectives.
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43 **New Business**

44 **Fall Graduation**

45 M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that graduation is scheduled for the December 9 at 6pm at Cajun Field and
46 that the Graduate School is currently working through the program. She added that the five faculty
47 members recognized as the 2020 Outstanding Master’s Mentors will be recognized at commencement,
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1 that we will proceed with doctoral hooding, and that the plan will to be to delay recognition of our
2 Grand Marshals until we can do so at a general assembly.

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4 **Additional Time for Graduate Faculty Review**

5 C. Parker suggested that the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee consider adding an additional
6 year for all Graduate Faculty terms in response to challenges that they have had with their research
7 because of COVID-19. J. Lemoine added that there had been a similar discussion related to tenure
8 extensions for faculty. M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that the deans had recently discussed this possibility
9 and agreed that it would be worthwhile to pursue this conversation with the Graduate Faculty
10 Membership Committee. J. Lemoine agreed to discuss the possibility with C. Ratliff so that it can be
11 considered by the committee.

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13 **Three-Minute Thesis**

14 P. de Mahy thanked the faculty who volunteered to serve as judges for the Three-Minute Thesis
15 preliminary rounds of competition. He also invited members of the Graduate Council to attend and to
16 encourage their students to attend as well.

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18 Motion made to adjourn at 2:49. Motion seconded and carried.