

**Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council
December 3, 2020**

Members Present: Jennifer Lemoine (Chair NURS), Brian Bolton (ECON), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Eric Ferré (GEOL), Sarfraz Khan (ACCT), David Khey (CJUS), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Manyu Li (PSYC), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Chad Parker (HIST), Roger Rholdon (NURS), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), David Squires (ENGL), Heather Stone (EDCI), Michael Totaro (CMIX), Benjamin Yates (MUS), Mark Zappi (CHEE), Sarah Smith (GSO, PhD MODL), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

Members Absent: James Albert (BIOL), Alan Barhorst (MCHE), Joshua Bendickson (MGMT), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Brittany Grissom (SREB, PhD BIOL), Andi Petculescu (PHYS), Bruce Wade (MATH)

Guests Present: M. Kightley (Diversity and Inclusion), T. Mallery (Diversity and Inclusion), Yung-Hsing Wu (Student Appeals)

J. Lemoine called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

Approvals

Motion made to accept the November 10, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy

Motion made to accept presentation of applicants to candidacy and to allow the executive committee to approve later submissions to meet the deadline for fall graduation. Motion seconded and carried.

Committee Reports

Student Appeals – Y. Wu discussed the progress of the ad hoc student appeals committee and its review of current appeals policies and procedures. She reported that the committee is continuing its research phase of review and will be asking for feedback from graduate coordinators at the beginning of the spring semester. This information will be used to inform a set of proposed revisions for the appeals policies to be reviewed in the Spring semester to be approved in the fall semester.

Curriculum Committee – No report.

Fellowships Committee – No report.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – C. Ratliff provided an overview and update on the Graduate Faculty Membership committee based on the report that she shared with the Graduate Council in November. She discussed her committee's efforts to review membership criteria, including those in response to a commitment made in the Graduate School's Statement of Solidarity to require applicants for graduate faculty membership to demonstrate their ability to work constructively with all graduate students, including those from underrepresented backgrounds. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted communications with the academic deans to initiate review of college criteria and the need for applicants to provide additional information that may not typically be included in their CV.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee – No written report. M. Kightley discussed the progress of the committee's working groups and reported that they are moving from the initial planning stage to collectively developing a list of action items for the upcoming semester. He also thanked the Graduate

1 Council for sending the committee new policy proposals so that they can provide feedback from a
2 diversity and inclusion perspective. M. Zappi asked if the required Holistic Admissions Workshops that
3 the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is hosting with the Graduate School will be recorded so that they
4 can be reviewed in the future. M. Farmer-Kaiser confirmed that, at least at this time, the intention is to
5 host live meetings so that the workshop can benefit from questions and discussion among the graduate
6 faculty. She added that the vision for these workshops is that they will be held every semester and be
7 made readily available to all faculty who are involved in decisions related to graduate student admission
8 and funding.

9 10 **New Business**

11 **Fall 2020 Graduation Update**

12 M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that the graduation ceremony is expected to continue as announced. She
13 added that the deans have expressed concern from their faculty that the event is still being held despite
14 the recent resurgence of COVID-19 but that she has not received any notification that there will be a
15 cancellation at this time. C. Parker expressed his disappointment that the graduate ceremony has not
16 been cancelled even after these concerns had been raised by faculty. A general discussion followed and
17 it was concluded that in addition to the added risk to faculty who attend the event, students and their
18 families would be more likely to gather after graduation and increase risk to the Lafayette area. A
19 motion was made to draft a resolution for expressing these sentiments to be quickly sent to the Provost
20 and President's office. Motion accepted and carried. C. Parker, E. Ferre, J. Lemoine, and M. Farmer-
21 Kaiser agreed to work together to craft the statement.

22 23 24 **Upcoming Programming Update**

25
26 M. Farmer-Kaiser reiterated the goals of the Holistic Admissions Training and encouraged members to
27 participate and remind faculty involved in graduate admission and funding decision making of the need
28 to attend.

29
30 S. Smith, president of the Graduate Student Organization, discussed a new speaker series initiative
31 aimed at supporting graduate students during the long semester break. M. Farmer-Kaiser thanked S.
32 Smith for working with the Graduate School to organize this "Grad Gather and Grow" speaker series.
33 They reported that the virtual series will run from December 14th to December 16th and is open to all
34 graduate students and graduate faculty. All workshops will be guest speakers and will focus on skills for
35 working in a university community in a remote context, with an emphasis on best practices for mental
36 wellness and effective engagement in virtual/remote settings.

37
38 J. Lemoine asked the Graduate Council to encourage their students and colleagues to take the time to
39 support the Three-Minute Thesis Finals remotely on December 17th at 2:00pm. P. de Mahy thanked the
40 members of the Council who volunteered to participate as judges in the preliminary rounds as well as
41 those who provided feedback for the 10 finalists to improve their presentations before the competition.

42
43 Motion made to adjourn at 3:14. Motion seconded and carried.