

**Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council  
February 8, 2021**

Members Present: Chad Parker (Chair HIST), James Albert (BIOL), Amy Brown (PSYC), Raphaël Gottardi (GEOL), Deedra Harrington (NURS), Sarfraz Khan (ACCT), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), Jennifer Lemoine (NURS), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), David Squires (ENGL), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Michael Totaro (CMIX), Colleen Wolverton (MGMT), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Gabby Atkinson (SREB Fellow, PhD BIOL), Alan Barhorst (MCHE), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Eric Ferré, Roger Rholdon (NURS), Patricia Hunt (GSO, PhD ALSS), Natalie Keefer (EDCI), Heather Stone (EDCI), Benjamin Yates (MUS), Mark Zappi (CHEE)

C. Parker called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

**Approvals**

Motion made to accept the December 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

**Presentations of Applicants to Candidacy**

Motion made to accept applications to candidacy. Motion seconded and carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Student Appeals**

No report. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that the Appeals Committee had met on January 17. She relayed that the meeting docket included the largest agenda to date and that it would be reconvening in February to complete its work by reviewing international transfer credit requests. She offered appreciation for the members of the committee who provided significant time and careful consideration of what was a full and complicated agenda. She noted that the Graduate School would submit a formal report on behalf of Dr. Wu and the Appeals Committee for the March meeting.

**Fellowships Committee**

No report.

**Graduate Faculty Membership Committee**

No report.

**Old Business**

**Review of Graduate Council Handbook Updates: Revised Process for Appointment of Standing Committee Membership**

The Council reviewed revisions to the Graduate Council Handbook related to changes approved at the December meeting. In addition to the new IDEA standing committee description, these changes included addition of a call for interest in serving on the standing committees to be issued to all members of the graduate faculty and simultaneous to the call for nominations for election to the Graduate Council; the change from one-year appointments to the standing committees to use of rotating terms of three year; the addition of language that would permit the inclusion of non-graduate faculty members, including graduate students on the IDEA committee, on standing

1 committees; and the clarification that committee members be formally appointed by the in-  
2 coming chairperson of the Graduate Council in consultation with the out-going chairperson and  
3 Dean of the Graduate School during the summer months.  
4

5 **New Business**

6 **R1 Status Recognition**

7 In reference to the University's recent achievement of R1 status, C. Parker made a motion to recognize  
8 the essential role played by Dean Farmer-Kaiser and the entire staff of the Graduate School and to thank  
9 them for their contribution realizing this goal. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.  
10

11 **Grand Marshal for Spring 2022 & Summer 2022 Commencement Exercises**

12 M. Farmer-Kaiser shared with the Council that the Provost had informed her that, beginning in Fall 2022,  
13 graduate degrees will be awarded at the academic college commencement ceremonies. There will be no  
14 general assembly and no separate Graduate School ceremony. She asked for Council approval to  
15 proceed with a call for nominations for the post of Grand Marshal for the Spring and Summer 2022  
16 commencement ceremonies. Members of the Council agreed. March 15 was identified as the deadline  
17 for nominations. The Council will review nominations and be prepared to select two candidates to serve  
18 in this honorary role during the April meeting.  
19

20 **Outstanding Masters Mentor Awards and Doctoral Recognition Award**

21 M. Farmer-Kaiser alerted Council members to the upcoming call for nominations for the Outstanding  
22 Master's Mentor Award. She described the requirements for the nomination packet (a nomination  
23 letter, a one-page statement of graduate mentorship philosophy, a CV highlighting mentorship activities,  
24 and a letter of support from the nominated faculty member's department head and or academic dean).  
25 She proposed that the Graduate Council consider alignment of this award's nomination packet with the  
26 Council of Southern Graduate School Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award. Such alignment would ensure  
27 that the University could more easily make an institutional nomination for this prestigious external  
28 award. She also added that a proposal will be forthcoming to create a doctoral mentor recognition  
29 award that similarly aligns with the CSGS award.  
30

31 Motion made to adjourn at 2:35. Motion seconded and carried.