

1 **Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council**
2 **October 11, 2022**

3
4 **Members Present:** Chad Parker (Chair HIST), Marietta Adams (EDCI), Brian Bolton (ECON), Elena
5 Babatsouli (CODI), Amy Brown (PSYC), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Deedra Harrington (NURS), Christy
6 Lenahan (NURS), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECON), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Frances Stueben (NURS),
7 Peng Yin (MCHE), Clement Okolo (MS CMIX), LaToya Roberts (PhD ALSS), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)
8

9 **Members Absent:** James Albert (BIOL), Beenish Chaudhry (CMIX), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Raphaël
10 Gottardi (GEOL), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), David Squires (ENGL), Colleen
11 Wolverton (MGMT), Lauren Van Gerwen (CMCN), Benjamin Yates (MUS), Mark Zappi (CHEE)
12

13 **Graduate Council Moodle Page and Meeting Materials**

14 C. Parker opened the meeting by introducing himself and thanking A. Mayeaux for leading the
15 September meeting on his behalf. He then proceeded, with the support of Council members present, to
16 reorder the agenda to accommodate our invited guest.
17

18 **Invited Guest: Dr. Jaimie Hebert, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

19 J. Hebert thanked the Council for its recent resolution on building access for graduate students, saying
20 the topic was important and the resolution was a contribution to moving the discussion forward. He
21 further noted that the end goal is to have card swipe access points in all buildings but that, in the
22 meantime, we need to ensure appropriate access to graduate students. He also thanked the Council for
23 its continued advocacy for the Statistical Support Center and reported the good news that the vacancy
24 announcement for a director had been posted and is now open for applications. He then went on to
25 discuss his continued efforts with the deans on a faculty hiring request. Finally, J. Hebert provided an
26 update on where we are with University strategic planning focusing largely on the recent gathering and
27 work of 10 cross-functional teams. A general discussion followed about the progress of creating the new
28 University strategic plan, enrollment concerns, and budget considerations. J. Hebert thanked the
29 members of the Council for their work and added that he continues to appreciate the regular meetings
30 with C. Parker and M. Farmer-Kaiser on behalf of graduate education. He encouraged members to use
31 these regular meetings to bring issues forward and advocate for graduate students, faculty, and
32 graduate education.
33

34 **Approvals**

35 Motion made to accept the September 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.
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37 **Committee Reports**

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39 **Curriculum Committee**

40 No report.
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42 **Student Appeals**

43 No report.
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45 **Fellowships Committee**

46 No report.
47

48 **IDEA Committee**

1 No report.

2

3 **Graduate Faculty Membership Committee**

4 No Report.

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6 **Old Business**

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8 **Graduate Student Key Access**

9 C. Parker shared with the Council the response received from Scott Hebert, Director of Facility
10 Management, to its resolution on graduate student building key access. This response focused on the
11 position that “nothing in our policy has changed in regard to the key checkout procedure for Faculty,
12 Staff, Graduate Students, etc.” and that, rather, those in his area “are simply enforcing the rules to the
13 existing policy.” The response went on to state: “The only thing that has been modified somewhat is
14 that an emailed justification is necessary when requesting the building entrance keys ... as to why an
15 individual needs these keys. If the justification is valid and the necessary paperwork has been filled out
16 with all the signatures, then a key is issued and scheduled for pick up. If the justification is not valid then
17 a message is sent to the individual letting them know more details or approvals are needed.” S. Hebert
18 added: “It is worth noting that a number of buildings on campus have card access systems that can
19 easily be programmed to allow individuals into the buildings in the approved time slots....” The response
20 concluded with the assurance that “it is not our intent to create a roadblock for academic or research
21 success as this is of the utmost importance to our Department and the University.” General discussion
22 followed with the Council asking C. Parker to follow up asking for clarification on three questions: 1.
23 What defines valid justification? 2. Who now determines what is valid? And why has the who changed
24 so that department heads and school directors are no longer the entrusted to make this determination?
25 C. Parker reported that he would pose these follow-up questions to S. Hebert and report back to the
26 Council.

27

28 **Review of 2021-2022 Annual Reports and Recommendations and Discussion of Priorities**

29 C. Parker asked about members’ review of annual reports and committee recommendations and a
30 broader discussion followed placing them in context of University strategic planning efforts.

31

32 **New Business**

33 **UL System Policy Change Requiring Catalog Revision**

34 M. Farmer-Kaiser introduced a proposed catalog revision prompted by actions taken by the Board of
35 Supervisors for the UL System in June 2022. The UL System adjusted the bylaws regarding admission to
36 graduate study to accommodate applicants who are in specialized programs that do not award or delay
37 awarding the bachelor’s degree (e.g., PharmD programs and some concurrent bachelor-to-master’s
38 degree programs). The revision to our University Catalog proposed the following change (in italics) to
39 the first section of “Qualifications for Admission” to graduate study: “To be admissible to Graduate
40 School, an applicant must satisfy general requirements for admission to the University and must hold a
41 baccalaureate or a master's degree from a regionally-accredited institution *except for special approved*
42 *programs that require only a specific set of pre-requisite courses and/or award the baccalaureate and*
43 *master’s degrees simultaneously.” Motion made to accept the proposed revision seconded and carried.*

44 **University Strategic Planning and Graduate Education**

45 The Council reviewed (1) the responses and discussion points from the Fall 2021 Graduate Council and
46 (2) the University Strategic Planning cross-functional team descriptions and membership. C. Parker

- 1 invited members who are part of these teams to discuss their experiences during the strategic planning
- 2 kick off meeting and to provide updates from on-going meetings. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that if anyone
- 3 needed data or other information that would be helpful, the Graduate School can provide it.
- 4
- 5 Motion made to adjourn at 3:24. Motion seconded and carried.