

**Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council  
November 8, 2022**

**Members Present:** Chad Parker (Chair HIST), Marietta Adams (EDCI), Brian Bolton (ECON), Elena Babatsouli (CODI), Amy Brown (PSYC), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Raphaël Gottardi (GEOL), Deedra Harrington (NURS), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECON), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Frances Stueben (NURS), Peng Yin (MCHE), Clement Okolo (MS CMIX), LaToya Roberts (PhD ALSS), David Squires (ENGL), Lauren Van Gerwen (CMCN), Mark Zappi (CHEE), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)

**Members Absent:** James Albert (BIOL), Beenish Chaudhry (CMIX), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Colleen Wolverton (MGMT), Benjamin Yates (MUS)

**Graduate School Programming**

P. de Mahy asked the Graduate Council to encourage their graduate students to participate in an event that the Graduate School is hosting downtown in partnership with Acadiana Center for the Arts as well as the next iteration of the Money Matters series where B. Bolton will be helping graduate students set up a Roth IRA. He also noted that the registration deadline for the 3 Minute Thesis<sup>®</sup> competition will be at the end of the week. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that the Graduate School will be hosting an event as part of the Office of Campus Diversity's First Gen Week initiative. She also reported that the University Fellow's Community will be holding an event on Friday and that Dr. Jim Henderson, President of the UL System, will be participating as a speaker along with other members of university's academic affairs leadership.

**Approvals**

Motion made to accept the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Curriculum Committee**

No report.

**Student Appeals**

No report.

**Fellowships Committee**

No report.

**IDEA Committee**

No report.

**Graduate Faculty Membership Committee**

Two reports were submitted by M. Sandoz, not present, from the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee. The first report detailed graduate faculty applications that did not require Committee review as all three independent review entities (College Dean, Department Head, and College Peer Review Committee) were in agreement with recommendation for appointment at the level requested by the individual applicants. The second report detailed graduate faculty applications that required review by the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee. In addition, the report noted inconsistency in how the

1 new requirement regarding inclusion of mentorship activities was attended to and interpreted by  
2 applicants and at previous levels of review. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that she has met with M. Sandoz to  
3 discuss how to continue to refine this aspect of the process while honoring the changes made by the  
4 Graduate Council and the recommendations of the colleges in future application cycles. After finding  
5 several discrepancies in the second report, a motion made to accept the first report as presented and  
6 request that the second report be clarified by the committee to be submitted at a future meeting of the  
7 Graduate Council. Motion seconded and carried.

## 8 9 **Old Business**

### 10 11 **Graduate Student Key Access Updates**

12 C. Parker reported that after meeting with S. Hebert it has been confirmed that student access to keys  
13 will continue to require a request approved by the relevant department head or dean. M. Farmer-Kaiser  
14 noted the positive impact that the resolution had from the perspective of the Council of Deans and  
15 Provost and encouraged the Graduate Council to continue the conversation with the S. Hebert and  
16 perhaps also other members of the University administration. After a general discussion, C. Parker  
17 agreed to submit an updated resolution to the Dean's Council communicating what has been articulated  
18 by Facilities Management.

### 19 20 **University Strategic Planning and Graduate Education**

21 C. Parker asked invited members to discuss how the work of their strategic planning cross-functional  
22 committees has progressed in relation to the objectives of the Graduate Council. B. Bolton and C. Okolo  
23 both shared their experiences and a discussion followed about the importance of more inclusive support  
24 for graduate students. C. Parker also invited members to request any additional data from the Graduate  
25 School that would be helpful for the work of these strategic planning committees.

## 26 27 **New Business**

### 28 **Graduate Council Commencement Message and Representatives**

29 C. Parker asked for volunteers to serve as representatives of the Graduate Council to deliver a consistent  
30 message at the individual college commencement ceremonies at the end of the fall semester. M.  
31 Farmer-Kaiser said that this is an opportunity to continue to highlight graduate education and to convey  
32 the support to graduate students. Volunteers were selected as representatives to each college.

### 33 **Proposed Catalog Revisions: Doctoral Candidacy**

34 M. Farmer-Kaiser introduced proposed Catalog revisions by noting that the degree completion timeline  
35 for doctoral students now begins at the time of advancement to candidacy, which is currently triggered  
36 by the submission of a doctoral candidacy form. She explained that all of the proposed revisions are  
37 designed to update the process of advancing to candidacy by instead determining candidacy based on  
38 milestones reported by the department to the Graduate School. A motion was made to accept the  
39 proposed revisions with edits to reflect updated graduate faculty membership levels and to ensure  
40 complete change of references to "all application and admission to candidacy" are updated to  
41 "advancement to candidacy." Motion seconded and carried.

42  
43 Motion made to adjourn at 3:24. Motion seconded and carried.