

1 **Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council**  
2 **February 14, 2022**

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4 **Members Present:** Marietta Adams (EDCI), James Albert (BIOL), Brian Bolton (ECON), Elena Babatsouli  
5 (CODI), Amy Brown (PSYC), Beenish Chaudhry (CMIX), Raphaël Gottardi (GEOL), Deedra Harrington  
6 (NURS), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECON), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), Frances Stueben (NURS), Peng Yin  
7 (MCHE), Clement Okolo (MS CMIX), LaToya Roberts (PhD ALSS), David Squires (ENGL), Lauren Van  
8 Gerwen (CMCN), M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio), Nathan Roberts (EDFL, guest)

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10 **Members Absent:** Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), Christy  
11 Lenahan (NURS), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Chad Parker (Chair HIST), Colleen Wolverton  
12 (MGMT), Benjamin Yates (MUS), Mark Zappi (CHEE)

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15 **Approval of the December 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

16 Motion made to accept the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes with revisions to attendance. Motion  
17 seconded and carried.

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20 **Committee Reports**

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22 **Curriculum Committee**

23 No report. N. Roberts was introduced as the new chair of the committee, and he stated that they are  
24 planning to meet this semester to revise the role and direction of the committee in light of changes to  
25 the curriculum and course revision processes. He added that they will be developing a new committee  
26 description to be reviewed by the Graduate Council by the end of the semester.

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28 **Student Appeals**

29 No report.

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31 **Fellowships Committee**

32 No report.

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34 **IDEA Committee**

35 No report.

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37 **Graduate Faculty Membership Committee**

38 No report.

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40 **Spring 2023 Programming**

41 P. de Mahy reviewed upcoming events for the semester and thanked the Department of Biology for  
42 collaborating with the Graduate School to bring Dr. Sara Bombaci from Colorado State University to  
43 discuss writing and evaluating diversity statements. He added that another collaboration with graduate  
44 students in the Math department is underway to bring a guest speaker to talk about supporting mental  
45 health in graduate school. He discussed events planned for Graduate Student Appreciation Week and  
46 asked that members of the Graduate Council encourage their students to participate in the research  
47 showcase at the end of March.

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1 **Old Business**

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3 **Commencement: Doctoral Hooding, Graduate Council Message, Recommendations**

4 M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that the feedback for the hooding ceremony from graduate faculty and  
5 administrators, as well as graduate students and their families, was overwhelmingly positive. She added  
6 that the president expressed his appreciation for the event as well. She said that the ceremony will take  
7 place again in the spring semester but that the location will change to the convention center downstairs.  
8 She also reported that in there was greater opportunity to recognize graduate students, particularly  
9 doctoral students, in some of the college commencement exercises. Council members also discussed  
10 ways to improve the uniform message from the Graduate Council that is delivered at all ceremonies.  
11 Members agreed that the message should be shared with all members each semester so as to ensure  
12 any member could deliver. Farmer-Kaiser noted that she also will encourage including the shared  
13 message in the individual ceremony scripts.

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15 **New Business**

16 **GSO Advocacy Report**

17 C. Okolo reviewed the Graduate Student Association’s advocacy report for the year to the Graduate  
18 Council. The report included a review of advocacy efforts, initiatives and events that were supported by  
19 the GSO in collaboration with the Graduate School, as well as a table listing all GSO funding requests in  
20 Fall 2022 organized by department. C. Okolo noted that the total funds graduate students applied for  
21 compared to their initial budget of \$16,000, is almost twice the initial budget curated with GSO student  
22 fees alone. M. Farmer-Kaiser thanked C. Okolo for the report and commended the GSO leadership for  
23 their work. L. Van Gerwen thanked V. Okolo as well, noting that the GSO experienced similar challenges  
24 when she served as president 12 years prior.

25 **Graduate Faculty Appeal**

26 M. Farmer-Kaiser introduced a graduate faculty appeal from a college requesting that a faculty  
27 member’s appointment as a Full Member of the Graduate Faculty be revised to an Associate Level  
28 Membership. After a general discussion a motion was made to accept the appeal according to the  
29 rational given. Motion seconded and carried.

30 **Grand Marshal**

31 M. Farmer-Kaiser reviewed past Graduate Council discussions that had resulted in the decision to no  
32 longer select a Grand Marshal since the general assembly is no longer held. (She added that several  
33 academic colleges have started to include that role in their own ceremonies.) As a result of several  
34 external conversations, including with C. Parker as well as President Savoie and the deans, she  
35 suggested that a Grand Marshal be selected by the Graduate Council for the Summer Commencement  
36 as well as for the Doctoral Hooding ceremony as a way to continue to recognizing members of the  
37 faculty who have made outstanding contributions to graduate education. D. Squires agreed with the  
38 suggestion and concluded that nominated faculty would not necessarily have to belong to departments  
39 with doctoral programs. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that nominations would have to be in by mid-March in  
40 order to select a Grand Marshal for the spring semester. After a general discussion, a motion was made  
41 to institute a call for nominations and selection of Grand Marshals for the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.  
42 Motion seconded and carried.

43 Motion made to adjourn at 3:20. Motion seconded and carried.