

April 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Members Present: P. Auter, R. Cheek, S. France, D. Linton, A. Magidin, S. McInerny, A. Loewy, P. Sheppard (chair), M. Teutsch, D. Wadsworth, Yi Weng, D. Zhao, M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member)

Guests: Dr. Michele Feist, Dr. Martin Ball, Dr. Nicole Müller

1. Call to order by P. Sheppard at 2:05 p.m.
2. Approval of March 11, 2014 meeting minutes
3. Announcements:
 - A. The list of March degree candidates was presented.
4. Old Business:
 - A. Drs. Martin Ball and Nicole Müller were present to support further and to answer questions about their individual requests (submitted in writing) to continue to lead the committees of several Applied Language and Speech Sciences doctoral students after their imminent departure from the University. Upon completing their remarks Ball and Müller left further discussions to the Council. As discussion opened, the members of the Graduate Council took care to acknowledge formally and to applaud Müller and Ball for their willingness to continue to mentor and to guide these eight students. M. Farmer-Kaiser read the policy from the Graduate Catalog stipulating that committee chairs must be members of the UL Lafayette Graduate Faculty. Members of the Graduate Council then determined that each student's case should be considered individually rather than by making a blanket motion.

Concerning Ball's students: motion made to deny Ball's request to serve as chair or co-chair for K. Kuecher while encouraging Ball to participate as an outside member of the committee. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. Motion made to deny Ball's request to serve as chair or co-chair for S. Lockenvitz while encouraging Ball to participate as an outside member of the committee. Motion seconded and passed with a majority vote. Given that these students have not yet completed their coursework, comprehensive exams, or dissertation proposals, the members of the Council concluded that they would be best served by having a committee chair who is a continuing member of the graduate faculty at UL Lafayette actively engaged in the University's ALSS doctoral program; this decision complies with University policy governing the composition of Ph.D. dissertation committees.

Concerning Müller's students: motion made to allow Müller to continue on the committee of Granese, a more advanced student, with the stipulations that continuation be limited to the duration of her current term of appointment to the UL Lafayette Graduate Faculty and that her membership on the committee be limited to

the capacity of co-chair. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to allow Müller to continue on the committee of Torres, another more advanced student, with the stipulations that continuation be limited to the duration of her current term of appointment to the UL Lafayette Graduate Faculty and that her membership on the committee be limited to the capacity of co-chair. Motion seconded and passed. Consideration of the students who have not yet completed their coursework, comprehensive exams, and/or dissertation proposals proceeded as follows. Motion made to deny Müller's request to serve as chair or co-chair for Archer while encouraging Müller to participate as an outside member of the committee. Motion seconded and passed with a majority vote. Motion made to deny Müller's request to serve as chair or co-chair for Honegger while encouraging Müller to participate as an outside member of the committee. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to deny Müller's request to serve as chair or co-chair for Madix while encouraging Müller to participate as an outside member of the committee. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to deny Müller's request to serve as chair or co-chair for Li while encouraging Müller to participate as an outside member of the committee. Motion seconded and passed. The members of the Council concluded that these students would be best served by having a committee chair who is a continuing member of the graduate faculty at UL Lafayette actively engaged in the University's ALSS doctoral program. This decision complies with University policy governing the composition of Ph.D. dissertation committees.

Request from Christine DeVine (not present, request submitted) considered regarding the continued service of Dr. Martha Reed, who is no longer employed at the University, on four ENGL students' committees. DeVine requests that, because of the advanced status of this student, M. Reed be allowed to continue to serve on the committee of E. Capettini in the capacity of co-chair and voting member and that she be identified as "Independent Scholar" on the dissertation approval page. DeVine further indicated that for students not as far in their studies (A. Lucik, C. Carrier, J. Bruce Fuller) she would advise them to seek a new committee chair and encourage Reed to continue to serve as an outside, fourth member of the committee. Motion made to grant Devine's request for E. Capettini and to support her plan for A. Lucik, C. Carrier, J. Bruce Fuller. Motion seconded and passed.

5. Committee reports:
 - A. Student Appeals: No report.
 - B. Curriculum: Report prepared by Helen Hurst, not present, submitted. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council
 - C. Fellowships: No report.
 - D. Graduate Faculty: Michele Feist presented the Faculty Review Committee's report from its April 2, 2014 meeting. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council. The Committee considered 22 graduate faculty applications, with 11 of the applicants

requesting appointment at Level II status and 11 requesting appointment at Level I status. Of the 11 applications for Level II appointments, 9 applications were unanimously recommended for appointment, 1 application was recommended by majority for appointment, and 1 application was deemed incomplete by the Committee and not acted on as a result. Of the 11 applications for Level I appointments, 10 applications were unanimously recommended for appointment, with the Committee noting that the accomplishments of 3 of these applicants appeared to meet the College criteria for Level II status. The Committee noted significant discussion regarding whether it should consider one application for Level I appointment and, by a majority vote, requested clarification of the “Note” at the end of this College’s criteria; on this application, should it be determined that the Committee should consider it, the Committee recommends Level I appointment by a majority vote. The Committee requested additional clarification from the Graduate Council concerning faculty who qualify for a higher level than what was applied for. And, finally, the Committee offered seven recommendations with regard to the recommendations of the University Task Force on Graduate Education Governance and an additional recommendation that the Graduate Council consider redefining Level I and Level II statuses.

M. Feist elaborated on the Graduate Faculty Standing Committee’s review of the University Task Force on Graduate Education Governance Recommendations regarding the Graduate Faculty review process. The Committee offered the following recommendations for refining the Graduate Faculty review process: 1) that the University guidelines for Graduate Faculty status assume a level of engagement consistent with professional standards as defined by peer institutions and that College criteria for Graduate Faculty status be justified based on the norms of peer institutions and professional organizations; 2) that the terms of membership within the Graduate Faculty be standardized at the University level and that permanent appointments be disallowed; 3) that all applications for Graduate Faculty appointment continue to be reviewed by the Committee on Graduate Faculty Membership; 4) that each College Peer Review committee include one member of the Committee on Graduate Faculty as an ex-officio member who serves as an observer to the College-level discussion and who is thus able to bring that discussion into the deliberations of the Committee on Graduate Faculty Membership; 5) that the University implement a more rigorous criteria for membership on the Graduate Faculty status and that membership entail a tangible reward, administered and awarded by the Graduate School; 6) that Level II membership on the Graduate Faculty be a prerequisite for membership on the Graduate Council; and 7) that the Committee on Graduate Faculty should include two members from each College, with the provision that quorum requires the presence of at least one member from each College. M. Feist concluded with the notation of the Committee’s continued issues with the Level I/Level II distinction as defined in the current policy. After much discussion, the committee recommends a redefinition of Level I and Level II whereby Level I would qualify a faculty member to serve only within their own College, while Level II would qualify service at the University level.

Motion made to accept the 11 recommendations for Level II status. Motion seconded

and passed. Motion made to defer action on the application deemed incomplete and to request that the faculty member reapply in the Fall with a complete application. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to accept the 10 recommendations for Level I status. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to allow the Graduate Council to invite the applicants approved at Level I but identified by the Committee as appearing to qualify for Level II status to apply in the Fall for the higher level of membership. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to notify these applicants of decisions and to table the discussion of one application until the next meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

6. New Business:

A. M. Farmer-Kaiser presented the proposal (submitted in writing) to implement the University Task Force on Graduate Education Governance recommendations to achieve a Graduate Council that is a larger, more representative body with staggered appointments/elections. Motion made to accept the proposed strategy for implementation. Motion seconded and passed.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.