

1 **Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council**

2 **Date:** December 9, 2025

3 **Location:** FG Mouton Room 207

4

5 **Members Present**

6 Wesley Bradford (MUS, Chair), Julius Austin (COUE), Philip Auter (CMCN), Sandy Brack (Grad Student
7 Representative, PhD ENGL), Amanda Mayeaux (EDFL), Nathan Rabalais (MODL), Laurel Ryan (ENGL),
8 Jennifer Sittig (NURS), Scott Sittig (HLSI), Abby South (MUS), Frances Stueben (NURS), Mehmet Tozal
9 (INFX), Amy Veprauskas (MATH), and Mary Farmer-Kaiser (Graduate School, ex-officio).

10

11 **Members Absent**

12 Ignatius Cahyanto (MGMT), Natalie Douglas (CODI), Farzad Ferdowsi (EECE), William Ferguson (ECFN),
13 Natalie Keefer (EDCI), Nicholas Kooyers (BIOL), Erika LeBlanc (COUE), Eddie Metrejean (ACCT), Clement
14 Okolo (GSO President, PhD CMPS), Jonathan Rausch (MCHE), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), Mark
15 Zappi (CHEE), and Rui Zhang (GEOS).

16

17 **I. Call to Order**

18 The meeting was called to order by Wesley Bradford, chair, at 2:02PM.

19

20 **II. Announcements and Approvals**

21 **Provost Meeting Recap/Update**

22 Bradford shared a recap of his meeting with Provost Jaimie Hebert and Dean Farmer-Kaiser, which
23 provided an overview of the work of the Graduate Council during the Fall. Bradford and Farmer-
24 Kaiser also reviewed with him catalog change and other requests, including rationale, submitted to
25 him and awaiting final approvals. Hebert acknowledged and thanked the Graduate Council for the
26 amount of work that had been completed in the Fall semester and acknowledged the importance of
27 the work.

28

29 **November 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes:**

30 Motion made by A. Mayeaux to approve the November meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by L.
31 Ryan and carried.

32

33 **Update on Pending Provost Approvals**

34 Bradford shared that several catalog change requests were submitted this semester to the Provost's
35 Office. The following catalog policy changes have been approved by the Provost and submitted for
36 inclusion in the 2026-2027 Academic Catalog: 1) update to EdD transfer credit policy; 2) addition of the
37 Institutional Repository requirement for all manuscripts; 3) change of the GA to GSA classification type;
38 and 4) fee increase for the manuscript binding fee. They noted that the manuscript binding fee will require
39 additional approvals before implementation. The Revised Graduate Council Handbook Curriculum
40 Committee description is still under review by the Provost.

41

42 **3MT Competition Update**

43 Farmer-Kaiser encouraged members to attend the upcoming 3MT finals on Wednesday, December
44 10 at 11:00 am at the LITE Center.

1 **Spring Grad Council Dates**

2 Bradford reviewed the Spring 2026 Grad Council meeting dates: February 10, March 10, April 14,
3 and May 12.

4
5 **III. Standing Committee Reports**

6 **Appeals – Heather Stone:**

7 No report.

8
9 **Curriculum – Dr. Amy Brown:**

10 No report. Bradford shared that A. Brown has agreed to return as Chair of the Curriculum committee.
11 Bradford is currently finalizing the list of curriculum committee members with Dean Farmer-Kaiser.
12 Farmer-Kaiser also shared that it was discussed with the Provost and recommended by the Academic
13 Affairs office that, as we relaunch this committee, members of this committee be former/current
14 Department Heads and Graduate Coordinators who have had experience in curriculum creation/revision.
15

16 **Fellowships and Awards – Ryan Nelson:**

17 No report. Bradford shared that the Fellowships and Awards committee met on December 8. The
18 committee outlined the review process and timeline for the new Dissertation Completion Fellowship
19 applications.
20

21 **Graduate Faculty Membership – Frances Stueben:**

22 Bradford shared two reports submitted by F. Stueben on behalf of the Graduate Faculty
23 Membership Committee Chair. The first report detailed 38 graduate faculty applications that did not
24 require Committee review as all three independent review entities (College Dean, Department
25 Head, and College Peer Review Committee) were in agreement with recommendation for
26 appointment at the level requested by the individual applicants. A motion was made by L. Ryan to
27 accept all recommendations for appointment included in the first report. The motion was
28 seconded by A. Mayeaux, and the motion carried unanimously. The second report detailed 14
29 graduate faculty applications that required review by the Graduate Faculty Membership
30 Committee. The Council reviewed the report and its recommendations to appoint 11 applicants to
31 the Graduate Faculty in accordance with the membership level requested on the applications and
32 in alignment with the recommendations of the various college review entities; to appoint one
33 applicant to the Graduate Faculty at a different level than applied for; and to deny appointment to
34 two applicants who do not yet meet the criteria for the college through which they applied for
35 membership to the Graduate Faculty. In addition to discussion, the Council noted one correction
36 needed to update the spelling of an individual's name. Considered in two parts, a motion to
37 approve the first set of recommendations included in the second report was made by A. Mayeaux
38 and seconded by L. Ryan. The motion carried unanimously. After discussion of the
39 recommendation to appoint at a different level and to deny appointment, a motion was made to
40 accept the remaining recommendations by the committee by P. Auter and seconded by A.
41 Mayeaux. The motion carried unanimously.
42

43 It was also recommended that the Graduate School prepare a Report 3 each semester identifying
44 all new tenured/tenure-track faculty members who were automatically appointed as a result of hire.
45

46 **IV. Old Business**

1 **Creation of Ad Hoc Committee on Committees**

2 Bradford shared that the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Committees is almost complete. L. Ryan
3 has agreed to chair the committee. The Ad Hoc Committee on Committees is charged with reviewing the
4 need for additional Graduate Council standing committees and recommending additions necessary to
5 support the evolving priorities of graduate education and its governance at the University. Bradford shared
6 that the committee will be finalized very soon so the committee can start meeting in the Spring semester.

7

8 **University Fiscal Health and Graduate Education Updates**

9 Farmer-Kaiser shared an update on the University's fiscal health as it relates to graduate education. Like
10 other areas in Academic Affairs, the Graduate School was tasked with working toward a 5% reduction this
11 fiscal year. With the recent appointment of Interim President Ramesh Kolluru, Farmer-Kaiser met with Dr.
12 Kolluru, Provost Jaimie Hebert, Associate Vice President Dianne Olivier, and Vice President Edwin Litolff to
13 discuss graduate assistantship budgets. They also discussed a request to increase the Graduate School
14 application fee. This meeting resulted the following broad agreements: 1) continued commitment to Spring
15 2026 assistantship funding with limited reductions; 2) commitment to working toward a flat, rather than
16 reduced, assistantship and fellowship budget for the Graduate School in 2026-2027; 3) continued
17 commitment to offering in-house credential evaluations rather than adoption of an external credential
18 evaluation requirement for international applications; and 4) internal transfer of a staff member to the
19 Graduate School office to support admissions operations.

20 **V. New Business**

21 **Request for Continued Graduate Faculty Membership for Departing Faculty Member**

22 Bradford reviewed a request previously reviewed by the Graduate Council to allow a departing
23 faculty member to continue on three doctoral student committees. In the original request
24 considered one student's name had mistakenly been left off of the departmental support letter. The
25 Council reviewed the request, noting that the department and faculty member had arranged for co-
26 chairs from continuing graduate faculty to ensure on-campus advocacy. After discussion, P. Auter
27 motioned to allow the faculty member to continue on the three identified committees as requested and
28 continue to count as one of the required graduate faculty member on each. A. Mayeaux seconded. Motion
29 carried unanimously.

30

31 **Good of the Order**

32 Farmer-Kaiser shared that Gaetan Brulotte and Mary Neiheisel will serve as Grand Marshals at the
33 upcoming Fall 2025 Commencement ceremonies.

34

35 **VI. Adjournment**

36 Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:08pm. The motion was seconded and carried.