

Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council
October 10, 2023

Members Present: Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (Chair, EDFL), Marietta Adams (EDCI), Elena Babatsouli (CODI), Ashlie Boelkins (ARCH), Amy Brown, (PSYC), Ignatius Cahyanto (MKTG), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Farzard Ferdowsi (EECE), Raju Gottumukkala (MCHE), Robin Koytcheff (MATH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECON), Nathan Rabalais (MODL), Kelly Robinson (BIOL), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), Frances Stueben (NURS), Colleen Wolverton (MGMT), Peng Yin (MCHE), Mark Zappi (CHEE)

Members Absent: Wesley Bradford (MUS) (EDCI), Beenish Chaudhry (CMIX), Deedra Harrington (NURS), Clement Okolo (Ph.D. CS, GSO), LaToya Roberts (PhD ALSS, GSO)

Approval of the September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to accept the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes with edits. Motion seconded and carried.

Invited Guest: Stats Lab Update

Dr. Phillip Whitman, Director of the Statistical Consulting Center, was invited by A. Mayeaux to introduce himself and update the Graduate Council on the progress of the Center. He shared his own background and gave an overview of the support that is now available for graduate students. He emphasized that statistical consulting in the early phases of a research project can save students time and trouble but that they were available to support projects for doctoral students at any stage. He also added that he was available to meet with individual programs and departments to talk more about how students can benefit from the support that Statistical Support Center offers.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee

No report.

Student Appeals:

Dr. Yung-Hsing Wu summarized the committee report and discussed the reasons for a recommendation for Probationary Status Policy that would create a one-semester probationary period without requiring an appeal for graduate students who become ineligible after having earned less than 12 graduate credit hours. Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion seconded and carried.

Fellowships Committee

No report.

IDEA Committee

No report.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee

No report.

Committee Updates

1 **Old Business**

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3 **Graduate Student Key Access**

4 After revisiting issues related to graduate student key access, a motion was made that members of the
5 Graduate Council share feedback from faculty and students in their programs who are experiencing
6 challenges accessing rooms required for their teaching or research. Motion seconded and carried

7
8 **Review of Temporary Acceptance of Duolingo and TOEFL Essentials English Language Proficiency**
9 **Exams**

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11 A. Mayeaux introduced a report that reviewed temporary acceptance of Duolingo and TOEFL Essentials
12 that included benchmarking from peer institutions. Motion made to accept the report. Motion seconded
13 and carried.

14
15 **Graduate Council Goals and Objectives for 2023-2024**

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17 A. Mayeaux led a discussion on the goals and objectives for the Graduate Council, focusing on
18 alignments with the new strategic plan. Based on the conversation that followed, M. Zappi proposed
19 that the Graduate Council focus on increasing the number of doctoral graduates, increasing the number
20 of doctoral programs, enhance research facilities and equipment, and increasing the number of
21 graduate faculty.

22
23 **New Business**

24
25 **Request(s) for Continued Graduate Faculty Chair/Membership for Departing Faculty Member(s)**

26
27 A. Mayeaux introduced two requests that had been submitted by Dr. Paul Leberg on behalf of the
28 Department of Biology and Dr. Martin Margala on behalf of the School of Computing and Informatics to
29 the Graduate Council that two faculty members who have accepted positions at other universities
30 continue as chairs and also count as required members of the UL Graduate Faculty on several student
31 committees. Motion made to accept the request. Motion seconded and carried.

32
33 **Request to Change the Ph.D. Credit Hour Requirements + Timing of Comprehensive Exams/Candidacy**

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35 A motion was made to form an ad hoc committee to examine the minimum hours required for doctoral
36 programs in peer and aspirational peer institutions. A general discussion followed on the timeline and N.
37 Rabalais was asked to chair the committee. He agreed and said that the committee would share its
38 feedback at the next Graduate Council meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

39
40 Motion made to adjourn at 3:29. Motion seconded and carried.