

Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council
November 14, 2023

Members Present: Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (Chair, EDFL), Ashlie Boelkins (ARCH), Wesley Bradford (MUS), Amy Brown, (PSYC), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Farzard Ferdowsi (EECE), Raju Gottumukkala (MCHE), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECON), Robin Koytcheff (MATH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Nathan Rabalais (MODL), Kelly Robinson (BIOL), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), Frances Stueben (NURS), Beenish Chaudhry (CMIX), Deedra Harrington (NURS), Clement Okolo (Ph.D. CMPS, GSO), Colleen Wolverton (MGMT), Peng Yin (MCHE), Mark Zappi (CHEE)

Members Absent: Marietta Adams (EDCI), Elena Babatsouli (CODI), Ignatius Cahyanto (MKTG), Kalimuthu Krishnamoorthy (MATH), LaToya Roberts (PhD ALSS, SREB)

Approval of the October 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to accept the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes with edits. Motion seconded and carried.

Call for Judges – 3MT Preliminary Rounds of Competition

P. de Mahy announced that the preliminary rounds for the Three-Minute Thesis Competition this semester would take place on November 21-22 and that the Graduate School is still in need of graduate faculty to serve as volunteer judges. He also added that graduate students who were interested in participating in the competition could still register by the end of the week.

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 P. Lanier (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 college review entities (College Dean, Department Head, and College Peer Review Committee) agreed with the 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. Before assessing the second report, a motion made to accept the first report. Motion seconded and carried. Members reviewed the second report with added attention focused on the recommendations from the committee to deny five applications for appointment. Motion made to accept the second report and its recommendations except for the five recommended denials of appointment, which would be voted on separately. Motion seconded and approved. After discussion, motion made to accept the recommendation of the Committee to deny

1 appointment for three applications from applicants with temporary, non-tenured/tenure-track
2 individuals and, for the remaining two, to appoint at the Associate Membership level in alignment with
3 the recommendations of the College Dean and the Department Head with the encouragement to
4 reapply for Full Membership with additional scholarly activity.

5 6 **Old Business**

7 8 **Ad Hoc Committee on Ph.D. Credit Hour Requirements Report**

9 N. Rabalais introduced a report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Ph.D. Credit Hour Requirements,
10 thanking A. Mayeaux, the Graduate School, and the Committee for their work. He noted that, while it
11 was not unanimous, the committee reached a majority consensus to recommend that the Graduate
12 Council consider lowering the minimum number of credits required for coursework from 48 hours to 42
13 hours of coursework. He added that, because one of the main drivers of this need to review benchmarks
14 was to provide increased flexibility, the committee found that raising the number of dissertation hours
15 would function counter to that principle. And that, therefore, it was the committee's recommendation
16 to maintain the status quo regarding the minimum of 24 hours of dissertation and that the total
17 minimum number of hours for the PhD would thus be 66 hours. He added that, since these
18 recommendations serve only as a minimum, and programs are free to maintain their current
19 requirements or require more. After a discussion from both the ad hoc committee and the Graduate
20 Council, M. Zappi shared findings from his department and asked that it be considered that the
21 minimum required coursework be lowered to 39 hours while keeping the total at 66. A. Mayeux thanked
22 M. Zappi and the committee for their work and said that this would be revisited by the Graduate Council
23 in the December meeting.

24 25 **Review of Temporary Acceptance of Duolingo and TOEFL Essentials English Language Proficiency** 26 **Exams**

27
28 M. Farmer-Kaiser asked the committee to review proposed catalog revisions based on the discussion
29 from the previous meeting of the Graduate Council on making permanent the acceptance of Duolingo
30 and TOEFL Essentials for applicants required to demonstrate English language proficiency. Motion made
31 to accept the revisions. Motion seconded and carried.

32 33 **New Business**

34 35 **Request(s) for Continued Graduate Faculty Chair/Membership for Departing Faculty Member(s)**

36
37 A. Mayeaux introduced a request that had been submitted by Dr. Amy Brown on behalf of the
38 Department of Psychology to the Graduate Council that a faculty member who has accepted a position
39 at another university be allowed to continue on the five graduate student thesis committees and count
40 as one of the three required UL Graduate Faculty. Motion made to accept the request. Motion seconded
41 and carried.

42 43 **Proposed Graduate Admissions Policy Change Prompted by UL System Changes**

44
45 M. Farmer-Kaiser introduced proposed catalog changes for review that would allow the Graduate School
46 admissions policy to implement more flexibility in alignment with changes the UL System has made to
47 required documentation for admission. She noted that, currently, in order to calculate an overall GPA on
48 all coursework attempted, the policy requires the Graduate School to require transcripts from every

1 institution an applicant has ever attended. She added that this would not change existing regular or
2 conditional admission expectations. This change would require official transcripts from all degree
3 granting institutions and all institutions where graduate coursework has been attempted. The Graduate
4 Council agreed to review these proposed changes for the next meeting.
5

6 **Grand Marshal**

7 After a discussion of the Grand Marshal nominations, the Graduate Council voted to select three faculty
8 members to be invited to serve in the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 doctoral hooding ceremonies and the
9 Summer 2024 commencement ceremony. M. Farmer-Kaiser agreed to extend the invitations from the
10 Graduate Council and report back in December.
11

12 Motion made to adjourn at 3:51. Motion seconded and carried.