

Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council
February 6, 2024

Members Present: Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (Chair, EDFL), Marietta Adams (EDCI), Elena Babatsouli (CODI), Ashlie Boelkins (ARCH), Wesley Bradford (MUS), Ignatius Cahyanto (MKTG), Amy Brown, (PSYC), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Deedra Harrington (NURS), Robin Koytcheff (MATH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECON), Raju Gottumukkala (MCHE), Kelly Robinson (BIOL), Leah Orr (ENG), Nathan Rabalais (MODL), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS), Frances Stueben (NURS), Clement Okolo (Ph.D. CS, GSO), Colleen Wolverton (MGMT), Peng Yin (MCHE), Mark Zappi (CHEE)

Members Absent: Beenish Chaudhry (CMIX), Farzard Ferdowsi (EECE), LaToya Roberts (PhD ALSS, GSO)

Invited Guests Dr. Michael Kightley

M. Kightley presented a request submitted by the English Department's Graduate Committee, asking that graduate students be permitted to use the name of their choice in their theses and dissertations. Specifically, that anywhere their name appears within, on the cover of, or otherwise related to the document, the name be of the student's choice. The request also asked that students not be required to include their legal name anywhere in their theses or dissertations, granting that there may need to be identifying information that maps the manuscript onto the graduate student's academic record using the students' ULID number. M. Farmer-Kaiser confirmed that this was increasingly a best practice at other universities and that academics are given the right to publish under whatever name they choose. P. de Mahy confirmed that the current guidelines does not include the student's ULID but that this information could be added to the front matter of manuscripts with adaptations to the Graduate School Guidelines for Thesis, Dissertations, and Synthesis Projects. After a general discussion, the Graduate Council concluded that a proposal in response to this request would be considered in next meeting.

Approval of the December 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Graduate Student Programming Update: 3-Minute Thesis Winners and Sustainable Development Grants and Graduate Student Appreciation Week Dates

P. de Mahy reported that the Graduate Student Sustainable Development Awards application process was a success, with 97 graduate students applying across 26 programs. He added that Graduate Student Appreciation Week will be held the week of March 18th and that he will be reaching out to members of the Graduate Council to assist with judging for the Research Showcase. He also reported that Bibi Aseeya Mohamed won this year's 3-Minute Thesis competition and will be representing the university at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in March.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee

No report.

Student Appeals:

A report was submitted by the Graduate School on behalf of Y. Wu stating that the committee met on January 5, 2024 and considered petitions from graduate student appeals concerning admissions,

1 reinstatement, and use of transfer credit from an international institution. M. Farmer-Kaiser reminded
2 the Graduate Council that it had passed a new policy last year that created a probationary status for
3 students under 12 hours who became ineligible, and that the MBA director is currently out on medical
4 leave. She said that the Graduate School asked Y. Wu to pilot implementation of the policy with MBA
5 appeals specifically. A. Brown asked for clarification in the report on which students were impacted by
6 the implementation of this pilot and M. Farmer-Kaiser said that an updated report with this information
7 would be provided to the Graduate Council for the next meeting in March

8 9 **Fellowships Committee**

10 No report.

11 12 **IDEA Committee**

13 No report.

14 15 **New Business**

16 17 **GSO Advocacy Report**

18 C. Okolo presented updates to the Graduate Student Organization Advocacy Report that includes data
19 from the spring and summer semesters on funding application. Noting the decreased number of funded
20 applications, the report stated that in lieu of funding exclusively through graduate fees, additional
21 funding resources like those offered through the research office for doctorate students provide an
22 opportunity for the GSO to expand the range of services offered by our organization. M. Farmer-Kaiser
23 added that the awarded funds in the report were in part made up of reserves that had been tapped into
24 from the period during COVID when students were not able to travel to conferences. Se also noted that
25 the state legislature's law that requires that Graduate Assistants no longer pay additional fees means
26 that the funds supporting GSO are now coming from the University but that the next step is for all
27 graduate students, including online graduate students, to be included in this count.

28 29 **Doctoral Research Grant Awards**

30 M. Farmer-Kaiser introduce the new Doctoral Research and Travel Grant Program Guidelines, noting
31 that these grants are intended to defray costs associated with conducting and disseminating clearly
32 defined research projects and creative works directly connected to the dissertation or synthesis project.
33 The guidelines stated that pre-candidacy doctoral students are eligible for grants up to \$1,500. Doctoral
34 candidates are eligible for grants up to \$2,500. Doctoral students may receive one Doctoral Research
35 Grant per academic year and may be awarded no more than three grants during their doctoral studies.
36 She said that the initial investment for this initiative is \$50,000 for the spring semester and that
37 applicants will be considered over two rounds over the next couple of months. After reviewing the
38 details of the application process and timeline, M. Farmer-Kaiser asked the members of the Graduate
39 Council if they would consider serving on the selection committee for the Doctoral Research awards this
40 semester.

41 42 43 **Graduate Faculty Membership: Emeritus/Retired Faculty and Non-Tenured/Tenure Track Temporary 44 UL Employees**

45 A. Mayeaux re-introduced the question from the end of the fall semester concerning the possibility of
46 new categories for Graduate Faculty membership, which would include both emeritus and non-tenured
47 temporary employees of the university. She added that this would also determine who was able to
48 direct graduate student research and who was able to serve on committees. F. Del Favero stated that he

1 did not feel comfortable with non-tenured faculty directing student research or counting as one of the
2 required members of a committee. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that each college has its own criteria for
3 graduate faculty that sets the parameters for who is considered and that they are allowed to be more
4 rigorous than the graduate policies. After a general discussion it was concluded that the graduate faculty
5 committee would look into this matter further in consultation with the deans and department heads
6 across programs.

7
8 Motion made to adjourn at 3:51. Motion seconded and carried.