

Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Date: September 10, 2024

Location: Alumni Center Board Room

Members Present:

Nathan Rabalais (MODL - Chair), Ashlie Boelkins (ARCH), Brian Bolton (ECFN), Wesley Bradford (MUSC), Beenish Chaudhry (CMIX), Farzad Ferdowsi (EECE), Raju Gottumukkala (MCHE), Nicholas Kooyers (BIOL), Robin Koytcheff (MATH), Christy Lenahan (NURS), Amanda Mayeaux (EDFL), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECFN), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUSC), Laurel Ryan (ENGL), Meng-Ru Shih (CJUS), Scott Sittig (HLSI), Frances Stueben (NURS), Peng Yin (MCHE), Gracie Babineaux (Grad Student Rep, PhD EESC), and Mary Farmer-Kaiser (Graduate School, ex-officio).

Members Absent:

Marietta Adams (EDCI), Elena Babatsouli (CODI), Ignatius Cahyanto (MGMT), Natalie Keefer (EDCI), Mark Zappi (CHEE), Rui Zhang (GEOS), and Clement Okolo (GSO President, PhD CMPS).

I. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Nathan Rabalais, chair, at 2:04 PM. He welcomed council members to the 2024-2025 academic year. Each member introduced themselves.

II. Invited Guest: Dr. Jaimie Hebert

J. Hebert, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, addressed the council. He thanked the members for their service and acknowledged the importance of the council's work. Hebert discussed the university's investment in graduate education, especially at the doctoral level, and emphasized the goal of achieving SREB 1 classification by 2029. He noted that while the institution has reached R1 status, further efforts are required to align policies and processes with those of a true R1 institution. Hebert invited questions from the council, leading to a discussion on the metrics for R1 vs. SREB classifications, maintaining the quality of graduate education during program expansion, and the importance of conducting a faculty salary study.

III. Announcements and Approvals

Graduate Council Moodle Page and Meeting Materials:

N. Rabalais introduced the Graduate Council Moodle site and discussed where members can access meeting materials. The Council expressed their approval to use the Moodle page as the primary means for email communication and document storage/sharing.

May 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the May 7 meeting minutes was made by Frances Stueben and seconded by Amanda Mayeaux. The motion carried. (After the meeting, Javier Portillo-Elias reported to Nathan Rabalais that he was present at the May 7 meeting, contrary to the minutes' recording of his absence. This was noted after the minutes had already been approved.)

IV. Standing Committee Reports

1 **Appeals – Yung-Hsing Wu:**

2 The Graduate School submitted a report on behalf of Yung-Hsing Wu detailing the May and August
3 Appeals Committee meetings. Nic Kooyers moved to accept the report, with Ashlie Boelkins
4 seconding. Motion carried.

6 **Curriculum – Amy Brown:**

7 No report.

9 **Fellowships – Ryan Nelson:**

10 No report.

12 **Graduate Faculty Membership – Patricia Lanier:**

13 No report.

15 **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access – Davide Oppo:**

16 No report.

18 **V. Old Business**

19 **Review of 2023-2024 Annual Reports and Recommendations:**

20 N. Rabalais and M. Farmer-Kaiser urged members to review the University Committee on Graduate
21 Student Success and Retention report to familiarize themselves with the committee's 2023-2024
22 outcomes and as a foundation for the 2024-2025 academic year.

24 **Graduate Student Key Access:**

25 M. Farmer-Kaiser updated the council on ongoing difficulties securing after-hours building access
26 for graduate students. She explained that while the university is moving toward electronic card
27 readers, many buildings still require traditional keys. Departments continue to face challenges with
28 securing keys for students. Farmer-Kaiser invited members to share any additional access issues
29 they have observed.

31 **Preferred Publishing Name on Theses and Dissertations:**

32 N. Rabalais reported on progress toward allowing students to use their preferred scholarly
33 publication names on their theses, dissertations, and synthesis projects. The council's resolution
34 has gained support from key administrators. However, issues related to the inclusion of manuscript
35 titles on official transcripts were identified and ULID usage, namely that the ULID is protected under
36 University policy by FERPA. M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that the Graduate School has worked with
37 the Registrar's Office to resolve these challenges and asked the council to support moving forward
38 without inclusion of the ULID on final manuscripts. A motion to exclude ULIDs from final
39 manuscripts was unanimously supported, clearing the path for implementation with Fall 2024
40 graduates.

42 **Graduate Faculty Membership: Emeritus/Retired Faculty and Non-Tenured/Temporary Faculty:**

43 The council continued discussions from 2023-2024 about creating distinct categories of Graduate
44 Faculty membership for retired/emeritus and non-tenured/tenure-track faculty and temporary UL

1 employees. Patricia Lanier will be tasked with working on a proposal with her committee and
2 support from M. Farmer-Kaiser.

3 4 **VI. New Business**

5 **Report on Summer Grad Council Executive Committee Actions:**

6 N. Rabalais detailed the actions of the Executive Committee (including himself, A. Mayeaux, and M.
7 Farmer-Kaiser) during the summer, including the approval of requests allowing two departing
8 graduate faculty to continue serving on three student committees as members or co-chairs and to
9 count toward the required number of UL Graduate Faculty members; these approvals were limited
10 to the remaining term of their graduate faculty appointments.

11 12 **Graduate Council Goals and Objectives for 2024-2025:**

13 N. Rabalais invited council members to propose goals for the 2024-2025 academic year.
14 Suggestions included reviewing the list of countries considered "English-speaking" for admission
15 requirements, improving support for graduate programs in the context of Title IX and power-based
16 violence complaints, and other topics.

17 18 **VII. Adjournment**

19 The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.