

1 **Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council**  
2 **September 13, 2022**

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4 Members Present: Marietta Adams (EDCI), Elena Babatsouli (CODI), Amy Brown (PSYC), Beenish  
5 Chaudhry (CMIX), Frank Del Favero (EDFL), Raphaël Gottardi (GEOL), Deedra Harrington (NURS), Christy  
6 Lenahan (NURS) Clement Okolo (MS CMIX), Javier Portillo-Elias (ECON), Ashlie Latiolais (ARCH), David  
7 Squires (ENGL), Frances Stueben (NURS), Amanda Shuford Mayeaux (EDFL), Lauren Van Gerwen (CMCN),  
8 Peng Yin (MCHE) M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio)  
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10 Members Absent: James Albert (BIOL), Chad Parker (Chair HIST), Catherine Roche-Wallace (MUS),  
11 Colleen Wolverton (MGMT), Mark Zappi (CHEE), Terrence Chambers (MCHE), Benjamin Yates (MUS)  
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13 **Graduate Council Moodle Page and Meeting Materials**

14 A. Mayeaux led a discussion of how the Graduate Council should share materials and coordinate internal  
15 messaging during the 2022-2023 academic year. It was concluded that all email updates will be sent  
16 through the announcements function of the Moodle course and that the agenda will be provided in  
17 hardcopy at each meeting.  
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19 **Approvals**

20 Motion made to accept the May 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried.  
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22 **Presentation of Applicants to Candidacy**

23 Motion made to accept presentation of applicants to candidacy. Motion seconded and carried.  
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25 **Committee Reports**

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27 **Curriculum Committee**

28 No report.  
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30 **Student Appeals**

31 A report was submitted by the Graduate School on behalf of Y. Wu that provided information both the  
32 June and August meeting. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that the August appeals meeting was the smallest in  
33 recent memory and the spring meeting had been the largest. Motion to accept the report seconded and  
34 carried.  
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36 **Fellowships Committee**

37 No report.  
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39 **Graduate Faculty Membership Committee**

40 No Report.  
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42 **Old Business**  
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44 **Review of 2021-2022 Annual Reports and Recommendations**

45 M. Farmer-Kaiser requested the members of the committee review the 2021-2022 annual reports  
46 provided by the IDEA Committee and the Retention Committee to prepare for the next meeting in  
47 October. She added that for new members this will be a helpful overview of the previous academic year  
48 and that they will be used as a starting point for considering new objectives for the academic year.

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**Stats Lab Update**

M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that the Office of Research has committed to funding a full-time position for the Stats Lab in response to the long-standing recommendation of the Retention Committee and Graduate Council. She added that, while a fall start date had been hoped for, the position should be advertised shortly and that they will push for a quick start date.

**Commencement and Doctoral Hooding Updates**

M. Farmer-Kaiser reported that graduate students will be awarded diplomas and graduate degrees conferred in the academic college graduation ceremonies beginning this fall semester. Doctoral hooding will take place on the Thursday evening prior to the commencement ceremonies in a new doctoral hooding ceremony hosted by the Graduate School. Neither a Graduate School ceremony nor a general assembly will be held during the fall and spring semesters.

**New Business**

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

M. Farmer-Kaiser summarized a report submitted by C. Parker noting that, in addition to meeting with the Provost, Dr. Jamie Hebert, and Dean Farmer-Kaiser, one doctoral and three masters candidacy requests were approved on behalf of the Graduate Council.

**Candidacy and the Role of the Graduate Council**

A. Mayeaux reported that, while the Graduate Council has always voted to approve candidacy each month, it has been confirmed while reviewing changes to the candidacy requirements that there is not a policy in the University Catalog requiring this practice. M. Farmer-Kaiser added that, historically, this practice dates to long before she was dean and that discussion has tended to focus on accuracy of names and degree types rather than the meaning of candidacy; because names and degree types now are pulled directly from Banner the report is more information only than ever before. She noted also that later a request will be forthcoming to the Graduate Council proposing revisions to the process for admission to candidacy for doctoral students but that the question of candidacy review and approval should be considered separately. After a general discussion about the meaning of candidacy and the role of those who approve, a motion was made that the Graduate Council no longer review candidacy reports each month. Motion seconded and carried.

**Request for Continued Graduate Faculty Membership**

A. Mayeaux presented a request from a department head that a departing faculty member be allowed to continue to chair for two doctoral student committees as well as serve as a committee member for an additional doctoral committee. The request noted that the departing faculty member has demonstrated the commitment and availability to provide continued guidance under remote conditions. After a general discussion focused on concerns about the current status of each student and the need for each to have an on-campus advocate, a motion made to approve the request for all three students with the additional requirement that a co-chair be added to the two committees the departing faculty member will continue to chair. Motion seconded and carried.

**Graduate Student Key Access**

A. Mayeaux reported that departments have reported new challenges with securing key access for graduate students to buildings on campus and that this is impacting their ability to conduct their research and perform their required work. Several Graduate Council members reported related issues

1 with students in their departments and agreed that the problem should be addressed. A. Mayeaux  
2 relayed reports received by C. Parker. A draft resolution was presented to the Graduate Council to  
3 address the issue. The resolution stated that the members of the Graduate Council are concerned that  
4 talk of building security and keycard serve as a distraction that create unnecessary and new institutional  
5 barriers to success and recognize the need for much more discussion of administrative issues with  
6 academic affairs before new policies or procedures that impact research and graduate students' success  
7 are instituted. The resolution draft also stated that the members of the Graduate Council expect  
8 building keys to be distributed to all grad students who need them and who have presented a key  
9 request form with the approval of their department head without delay. D. Squires agreed to assist  
10 further with reviewing the text of the resolution for clarity, and a motion was made to pass and submit  
11 the resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

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13 Motion made to adjourn at 3:24. Motion seconded and carried.