MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
December 8, 2020  
Virtual: Microsoft Teams

**Convene** – The meeting convened at 3:00 P.M. by Dr. Paul DeMarco, Acting Dean.

**Ex-Officio**: Dr. Barbara Clark, Acting Associate Dean

**Members Present**: Paul DeMarco, Barbara Clark, Cara Cashon, Israel Curbelo, Lindsay Della, Andy Frey, Robert Garrett, Jafar Hadizadeh, Mary Hums, Michael McIntyre, Michele Kosiewicz, Matthew Nelson, Patrick Possel, Mark Running, Dale Schuschke, David Scott, Tamara Sluss, Gerold Willing, Frances Hardin-Fanning, Simona Bertacco, Geoffrey Clark, Stephanie Boone

**Members Absent**: Gina Bertocci, Sarah Drerup, Bakeerathan Gunaratnam, Kimberly Heller

**Guests:**  none

**Action Items:**

1. **Approval of minutes of October 27th, 2020**

Dr. DeMarco asked for review and approval of the council minutes from October 27th, 2020. **APPROVED**.

1. **Approval of Candidates for the Interdisciplinary Studies Degrees**
   * Charles Nasby should be changed to MA, not MS (this will be taken as a Friendly Amendment)
   * **APPROVED**
2. **Motion from Academic Affairs for Approval of Application Questions for the General Graduate Application.**
   * Cara Cashon represented the Academic Affairs committee and presented the Graduate Application Questions
   * Two characteristics out of the following will be chosen by students to write on:
     1. Community Engagement, Resilience and Adaptability, Accountability and Responsibility, Self-Motivation, Capacity for Self-Improvement
   * Students will be *required* write about how UofL’s Statement of Diversity relates to them
   * Cara Cashon sent a new Graduate Application document to Academic Affairs Committee to review
   * Slate is the new CRM system which will include the new Graduate Application
     1. This should be available next semester
   * No formal plans to develop a rubric
     1. Rubrics will mainly be up to the Graduate programs to evaluate
   * **APPROVED**

**Discussion Items:**

1. Graduation Ceremonies Update (Dr. DeMarco)
   * Virtual Commencement Ceremonies are happening for each unit on Saturday, December 12, 2020
     1. Unified statements from the President and Provost
     2. Units will have breakout videos for students to watch (slides with names, honors, recognitions)
     3. Celebration for *all* 2020 graduates (Spring, Summer, Fall)
   * No individual unit Hooding Ceremonies due to rising COVID cases
     1. Graduate School will have own ceremony on Saturday, December 12, 2020 where all Doctoral Students will be recognized
     2. All Commencement Award winners will be recognized
     3. Jamie Young (Guy Stevenson Award winner) will have a speaking video

**Recommendations:**

Application Questions for the General Graduate Application (Friendly Amendments):

* Change in wording of “Leadership” category description
* Change in wording of Diversity Statement question
* Include quotations around the Diversity Statement
* Include link to Diversity Statement in case statement changes
* Council would like feedback from Director of Graduate Studies and possibly graduate students

**Announcements**: none

**Update from Graduate Student Council –** Israel Curbelo

* Students from fall semester have been chosen for research grants
* Continuing to receive travel grants regardless of no travel to conferences
  + However, there is still funding for online research conferences for spring 2021
* Research conference will be virtual
  + 3 speakers (Dr. Fatemeh Williams, Dr. Emily Roberts, Dr. Vicky Johnson)
* Budget has been set for next year
* Elections will be held in the spring

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted 12/9/2020  
Reilly Brown, Administrative Associate*

*Approved Graduate Council Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*