MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
February 23, 2021
Virtual: Microsoft Teams

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

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

**Members Present**: Cara Cashon, Barbara Clark, Israel Curbelo, Lindsey Della, Andy Frey, Robert Garrett, Frances Hardin Fanning, Kimberly Heller, Michael McIntyre, Michele Kosiewicz, Matthew Nelson, Patrick Possel, Mark Running, Dale Schuschke, David Scott, Tamara Sluss, Gerold Willing, Geoffrey Clark,

**Members Absent**: Mary Hums, Simona Bertacco, Gina Bertocci, Stephanie Boone, Sarah Drerup, Bakerathan Gunaratnam, Jafar Hadizadeh, Joanne Sweeny

**Guests:**  none

**Action Items:**

1. **Approval of minutes of December 8th, 2020**

Dr. DeMarco asked for review and approval of the council minutes from December 8th, 2020. **MOTION** by Gerold Willing. Unanimously **APPROVED.**

1. **Consideration of a motion from the Honorary Degrees Committee**
	* Michael McIntyre represented the Honorary Degrees Committee
		1. Honorary Degrees sub-Committee met to review a nomination for an honorary to be awarded at the May Commencement Ceremonies.
		2. Motion from the sub-committee to recommend approval of the degree.
		3. Brief discussion followed. Question about whether there is a rubric for considering Honorary Degree Candidates. Dr. DeMarco said there is not, but that may be a useful tool for the sub-committee to consider creating.
		4. **MOTION** Unanimously **APPROVED by the full Council.**
			1. Nomination will now go to Provost and President. Board of Trustees will award at May Commencement.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Graduation Ceremonies Update (Dr. DeMarco)
	* Outdoor commencement at stadium in May. Ceremonies will be broken up by school to keep social distancing standards.
	* 2 or 3 ceremonies will occur on Saturday.
	* Pods for 4 people will be set up. Students could have up to 8 guests (2 pods).
	* Doctoral hooding ceremony is Friday, May 7th
	* All 2020 and 2021 graduates are invited to attend
	* Rain or shine
	* Sunday will be held open in case a ceremony has to be postponed
	* Tickets will be assigned to students for friends and family
2. Proposal for a new master’s student partial scholarship award
	* Proposal for new master’s tuition scholarship program
	* Graduate school has tuition carry over that is enough to fund partial scholarship awards for master’s students
	* We would provide 2 years of support for master’s students
	* $3,500 for resident per year. $7,000 for non-resident per year
	* Purpose is for recruiting and increasing enrollment
	* Matching program. Graduate school provides 1 year of funding and masters program provides 2nd year funding
	* We want to encourage programs to recruit diverse students to university
	* Open to US students and permanent residents (not international students or fully online programs)

**Recommendations:**

* + Should we offer new master’s student partial award to accelerated degree students? Dr. DeMarco said that we could consider that but we will initially give priority to funding students not currently enrolled at UofL.

**Announcements**: none

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

* + Friday, Feb 25th is Harry Potter trivia (virtual event)
	+ March 1st, elections will be held. At least one person running for every position
	+ GSC election will be held along with SGA elections
	+ March 11th and 12th is the Graduate Student Regional Research Conference (virtual event)
	+ Kimberly Heller will send out link to faculty for faculty judges
		1. Poster sessions will be live on GatherTown
			1. We have 30 poster presentations (17 per each day)
			2. Around 30 oral presentations (but can be divided into multiple rounds)
		2. Will follow the format of the 3-minute thesis for poster presentations

Old Business – none

New Business – none

**MOTION** to adjourn by Gerold Willing. **SECOND** by Tamara Sluss

Adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted 2/24/2021
Reilly Brown, Administrative Associate*

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