

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
May 23rd, 2023
Hybrid: Houchens, room 105 and Teams

Convene – The meeting convened at 3:00 P.M. by Dr. Beth Boehm, Dean.

Ex-Officio: Dr. Beth Boehm, Dean and Dr. Paul DeMarco, Associate Dean

Members Present: Lindsay Della, Frank Kelderman, Joe Steffen, Mary Hums, Meghan Pifer, Aniti Barbee, Geoffrey Clark, Michele Kosiewicz, Natalie DuPre, Maiying Kong, Tricia Soucy, Monica Wendel, Alexandria Underwood, Lidiya Grote

Members Absent: Lisa Markowitz, Daniel Bennett, Gill Diamond, Kelli Peck-Parrott, Matthew Nelson, Frances Hardin-Fanning, Michael McIntyre, Gerold Willing, Monica Gentili, Tamara Sluss, CJ Ryan.

Guests: none

Action Items:

- **Approval of minutes from October 25th, 2022**
 - Dean Boehm asked for review and approval of the council minutes from October 25, 2022. **The Council Unanimously APPROVED the minutes.**
- **Endorsement of RCR Training Modules from Office of Research and Innovation**
 - This is the third draft that was reviewed by the committee. This requires online training modules along with in-person training. Faculty responsible for making sure those who are required to do training complete it, but Research Office will be able to verify who did training. Online module completion can be easily tracked. RCR Training will be rolled out by Research Office by 7/31/23
 - Dean Boehm will check with VPRI on updated CITI modules and recommendations.
 - Endorsed with the following questions: Request for a clearer definition of what constitutes “Research” and who are “Researchers,” specifically in regards to different disciplines. Will research team leaders get in-person training credit for meetings they lead? How will in-person training be tracked?
 - Dean Boehm asked for review and approval of the Endorsement of RCR Training Modules from Office of Research and Innovation. **MOTION** forwarded by Academic Affairs committee. **SECOND** by Mary Hums. 1 vote opposed. Motion was **APPROVED**
- **Modification of GRE requirements in Minimum Guidelines for Graduate Interdisciplinary Degree Programs**
 - Request to modify the minimum guidelines for Interdisciplinary programs to say that the GRE is optional and the individual tracks can decide on how they want to use those, if at all.

- **MOTION** to accept the proposed change as written by Monica Wendel, **SECOND** by Maying Kong. **APPROVED.**
- **Revision of Prompts on Graduate Application**
 - Dean Boehm proposed a revision to the diversity prompt on the graduate application to bring it into alignment with UofL's current diversity statement.
 - Dean Boehm requested volunteers to review and revise the prompt separately and send notes/suggestions to her (Dean Boehm). Volunteers: Mary Hums, Frank Kelderman and Meghan Pifer.
 - Dean Boehm also suggested that the prompt, which is currently required of all applicants, be made part of the 6 other prompts on the application (of which 2 are required of all applicants). An email ballot will be sent out to the council to vote on making the diversity essay no longer mandatory, but rather an option.

Discussion Items

- **Discussion and Feedback on Graduate School Strategic Plan**
 - Dean Boehm submitted a draft of the Graduate School's Strategic Plan to the Provost, based on a template provided to ensure alignment with the with the University's Strategic Plan. Draft submitted by Dean Boehm with deadline of Monday, May 15th, 2023, with the desire to have the Graduate Council vet the draft before she submits the final version.
 - Suggestion made to move Strategy D2 to Discover: Repeat text currently under L1 Action 1.
 - Suggestion made to L1, Action 4: Add awards under where "we establish and sustain a focus on a culture of quality mentoring."
 - Suggestion made to Strategy 1, Action 3: replace URM (Underrepresented minority student) to students from marginalized backgrounds or students who hold marginalized identities.
- **Update from Graduate Student Council**
 - New GSC President Alexandria Underwood introduced herself.
 - Gave an update on Travel awards: For students traveling in the summer, hold on to the receipts so that they can be reimbursed in the fall (travel grants are not given during the summer).

Email Ballot Count

An email ballot was sent out to the council 6/1/2023 to vote YES or No on the 2 follow questions:

1. Should the diversity essay become one of the seven options students can choose to write 2 essays about rather than a requirement?
2. Since the language of our current prompt is no longer the language used by the DEI office, we decided to use our own language to reflect values for graduate education and allow students to talk about how those values either align with theirs or advance their

goals for graduate study. Do you approve the following language proposed to replace our current diversity essay prompt?

The Graduate School at the University of Louisville values an environment of inclusiveness that empowers us all to achieve our highest potential without fear of prejudice or bias. We commit ourselves to building a welcoming educational community that offers a nurturing and challenging intellectual climate, a respect for the variety of human diversity, and an understanding of the many differences that enrich a vibrant metropolitan research university. Describe the ways in which these values and commitments align with your values or support the advancement of your interests and goals for graduate study at the University of Louisville.

On 6/20/2023 Votes were tallied:

Question 1 received 18 votes of YES, 1 vote of NO, and 1 Abstain

Question 2 received 19 votes of YES and 1 Abstain

Majority ruled in favor of adjusting the Diversity Essay Question language and will now be an option rather than mandatory.

Recommendations: none

Announcements: none

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 6/20/2023

Sarah Imhof, Administrative Associate

Approved Graduate Council Meeting: _____