

**Minutes of the Graduate Council
May 6, 2022**

Members in Attendance:

Ali Beskok, Alan Itkin, Adam Jasienski, Akihito Kamata, Elfi Kraka, Renee McDonald, Brian Molanphy, Volkan Otugen, Alexandra E. Pavlakis, Anthony Petrosino, James E. Quick, Dinesh Rajan, Gretchen Smith

Ex officio members: Suku Nair

Members Not in Attendance:

Jodi Cooley, Heather Shaw (ex officio)

Business:

- **Minutes of the April 22 meeting:** Dr. Pavlakis recommend that one detail from the April 22 discussion of the topic “Procedures for selecting Graduate Council members and Council composition 2022-2023” be captured in the minutes: The fact that original appointment letters had indicated that those Council members who received the most votes in their schools would be given the opportunity for longer appointments on the Council. The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes with this emendation.
- **Procedures for selecting Graduate Council members and Council composition 2022-2023:** Dr. Itkin went through the current policy in the Administrative Handbook on the composition of the Graduate Council (see slides 5) and the original intentions regarding appointments to the Graduate Council. Prior to the current meeting, Council members had been asked to confer with fellow representatives of their schools to discuss who would drop off of the Graduate Council. Dr. Petrosino stated that all three Simmons representatives would prefer to stay on the Graduate Council and argued that, among other reasons, this would make sense because it would provide continuity for the incoming Dean of the Moody School. Dr. McDonald stated that an appointed member of the Graduate Council should only roll off after discussing with their school dean. She also stated that one Dedman College representative would roll off. Prof. Molanphy stated that his understanding was that appointments were until May 2022 and so all of the Graduate Council appointments should now be concluding. He asked whether Council members should check with their school dean about continuing on the Council. Dr. Quick stated that for the one appointed member of each school, it would be important to confer with their dean about continuing on the Council or stepping down from the Council, but not for elected members. Dr. Smith stated that Dr.

Jasienski would go on leave for 2022-2023. She suggested that she and Prof. Molanphy could stay on the Council and that Dean Holland in the Meadows School could appoint a replacement for Dr. Jasienski. Prof. Molanphy asked if there was an SMU policy about administrators above the Assistant Dean level serving on University committees. Dr. Quick said he was not aware of any such policy. Dr. Otugen spoke in favor of allowing schools to retain all three members on the Council for 2022-2023 for purposes of continuity and also due to challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. McDonald said that it would also be important to address the composition of the Council in larger terms, as having three representatives from each school provides Dedman College programs with less representation of interests unique to their division or department. Dr. Quick asked that all Council members inform him and Dr. Itkin by email within one week whether they intend to stay on the Council for 2022-2023.

Dr. Rajan suggested that the larger question of the composition of the Council should not be decided by the Graduate Council alone but by the faculty at large, perhaps by the Faculty Senate. He suggested that the Graduate Council follow the model of proportional representation by which the Faculty Senate is constituted, with each school or division having representation and additional representation allocated based on the population of faculty in that area. Dr. Smith suggested that there are reasons not to change the composition of the Council drastically, including that, as the Moody School's role grows to cover more master's students, what it means for the Graduate Council to be a representative body will change as well. For the sake of discussion, Dr. Otugen suggested some additional options, including that Graduate Council representation could be apportioned based on the population of doctoral students in a given school. Dr. Quick stated that the composition of the Council should change in anticipation of the growth of the Moody School. Elfi Kraka highlighted the discontent created by the current limited representation in Dedman College, with two representatives from Dedman III (Chemistry and Physics) and none in Dedman I. The Council continued to discuss these points and ideas.

- **Other Items:** Dr. Rajan asked if this would be Dr. Quick's last Graduate Council meeting. He and the rest of the Council thanked Dr. Quick for his efforts in creating the Moody School and moving graduate education at SMU forward. Dr. Quick thanked the Council members for their collegiality as well and their contributions to the progress of the Moody School.

Prof. Molanphy asked about how the Moody School graduate orientation would be handled this year. Dr. Itkin stated that the orientation would continue to be primarily virtual and described the components of the orientation and how content would be generated and shared with incoming students. Dr. Quick suggested that, on the model of Baylor, skits could be added to orientation, and Dr. Smith stated that there are Meadows students who would be very happy and willing to assist with that.

- Meeting adjourned.

Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

Graduate Council Meeting

May 6, 2022, 1-2:30pm, Zoom meeting

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Meeting Agenda

- Minutes of the April 22 meeting
- Procedures for selecting Graduate Council members and Council composition 2022-2023
- Other items

April Meeting Minutes



Procedures for Selecting Graduate Council Members and Council Composition 2022-2023



Procedures for Selecting Graduate Council Members

- **Current Policy:** Each of the four schools represented on the Council--Dedman, Lyle, Meadows, and Simmons-- has three representatives. Representatives are all tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Two representatives from each school are elected by a vote within the school, and one representative is appointed or elected at the discretion of the school dean. *Adopted by the Graduate Council April 23, 2020.*
- Next vote to be held summer 2022.
- Appointments are intended to be staggered, with each Council member serving a three-year term.
- In line with current policy and plans discussed by the Council: One Council member from each school will roll off summer 2022 and be replaced by vote or appointment (depending on whether an appointed or elected member rolls off).

Procedures for Selecting Graduate Council Members

Moody School Population:

- Dedman College: 15 PhD programs, 306 PhD students
- Lyle School: 8 PhD programs, 141 PhD students
- Meadows School: 1 PhD program, 2 MFA programs, 12 PhD students, 24 MFA students
- Simmons School: 1 PhD program, 26 PhD students
- Total students (enrolled Spring 2022): 509

Other Items

