

Minutes of the Graduate Council
April 22, 2022

Members in Attendance:

Ali Beskok, Jodi Cooley, Alan Itkin, Adam Jasienski, Elfi Kraka, Renee M. Diana Molanphy,
Alexandra E. Pavlakis, Anthony Petrosino, James E. Quick, Dinesh Rajaram, Gretchen Smith

Ex officio members Suku Nair

Members Not in Attendance:

Akihito Kamata, Volkan Otugen, Heather Shaw (ex officio)

Business:

x Minutes of the March 25 meeting: Prof. Molanphy had requested that the Council review the minutes of the March 25 meeting. The Council reviewed the minutes and approved them.

x Results of online votes: Dr. Itkin reviewed the results of the online votes regarding the Administrative Handbook. The results were as follows: 1) an edit to the Moody School Administrative Handbook regarding dissertation defenses and MFA thesis exhibitions, to accommodate the inclusion of MFA students in the Administrative Handbook and the Moody School Administrative Handbook (see additional documents below).

After discussion, the Council agreed to additional edits to the Administrative Handbook regarding publication of dissertation defenses. The proposed change reads: "Students may petition the Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies to make announcements to SMU faculty and students. The Dean will review the petition and make a recommendation to the Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. The Dean's decision in consultation with the appropriate school administrator will be in favor of this change."

After discussion, the Council agreed to make one additional edit to the Administrative Handbook. The text in the Administrative Handbook had not specified that these committees be chaired by a tenured faculty member, because fewer tenure-track appointments are available.

tenure-track lecturers are being hired in those departments. Council members agreed, however, that, to be consistent with current practice in the MFA programs and with principles related to the different expectations for tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty members, it made sense to specify that committee chairs must be tenure-track. All Council members present voted in favor of this change with one exception: Dr. Beskok voted against. Dr. Beskok expressed concern that, in the future, non-tenure track faculty members might need to chair committees and that the current language in the handbook could be an impediment to that change.

- x MFAs in the Moody School. Prof. Molanphy asked about the status of the proposal for an MFA Health Insurance Program, modeled on the PhD Health Insurance Program, and intended to fully cover the individual premiums of the Student Health Insurance Plan for qualifying MFA students. Dr. Quick said that, unfortunately, the budget proposal for this program was not approved this year. Dr. Quick stated that he would propose that the Moody School provide funds to cover the central



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Meeting Agenda

- Minutes of the March 25 meeting
- Results of online votes
- MFA students in the Moody School
- Public dissertation defenses
- Fellowship Results
- Procedures for selecting Graduate Council members and Council composition 2022-2023
- Other items

SMU

March Meeting Minutes





Publication of Dissertation Defenses and MFA Thesis Exhibitions: Oral examinations for the Ph.D. degree are open to the public and announced on a University calendar that is publicly available. The completed Dissertation Defense Announcement form, including the date, time, and location of the examination (or, in the case of a virtual examination, a link to register for or attend the examination online), must be submitted to the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled defense. The examination will be announced on the Moody School events calendar as well as in the Moody School newsletter. Additional announcements are at the discretion of the student's dissertation committee, in adherence with relevant departmental policies. The format of the oral examination and the participation of the audience are also at the discretion of the dissertation committee, in adherence with relevant departmental policies. Usually, the examination will include a portion open to the public and a portion that includes only the student and the dissertation committee members. **In extraordinary**

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Public Dissertation Defenses and MFA Thesis Exhibitions

- 11 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstain
- Comment (“No” vote): I would change "extraordinary circumstances" to "the rare event." I can envision something prompting a request for a closed defense (e.g., perhaps a disability of some sort) and labeling it "extraordinary" could be perceived as stigmatizing.
- Comment (“Yes” vote): The last line needs a bit more revision. It is unclear what the council will do after the review. Perhaps something such as the following could be used: "The Moody school graduate council will review the petition and make a recommendation to the Dean of the Moody school, who will make the final decision in consultation with the appropriate school Deanon"

MFA Students in the Moody School



Public Dissertation Defenses





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.
- Next vote to be held summer 2022.

Other Items



The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

Administrative Handbook

The Moody School Administrative Handbook details the School's current administrative processes and procedures. ~~and any changes to the handbook must be approved by the school dean.~~ *Adopted by the Graduate Council April 23, 2020.*

Graduate Council Quorum: An attendance of not less than 50% of the voting members of the Council + one additional member is necessary to establish a quorum for a meeting of the Graduate Council. *Adopted by the Graduate Council February 13, 2020.*

Annual Assessment of Ph.D. and M.F.A. Student Performance and Progress to Degree: The Moody School requires...

Publication of Dissertation Defenses and MFA Thesis Exhibitions: Oral examinations for the Ph.D. degree are open to the public and announced on a University calendar that is publicly available. The completed Dissertation Defense Announcement form, including the date, time, and location of the examination (or, in the case of a virtual examination, a link to register for or attend the examination online), must be submitted to the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled defense. The examination will be announced on the Moody School events calendar as well as in the Moody School newsletter. Additional announcements are at the discretion of the student's dissertation committee, in adherence with relevant departmental policies. The format of the oral examination and the participation of the audience are also at the discretion of the dissertation committee, in adherence with relevant departmental policies. Usually, the examination will include a portion open to the public and a portion that includes only the student and the dissertation committee members. The Moody School also publicizes Art M.F.A. thesis exhibitions on the Moody School events calendar and in the Moody School newsletter. *Adopted by the Graduate Council November 19, 2021.*

Graduate Student Travel Grant Guidelines

Travel grants cannot be awarded retroactively;

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only

accepted

10

business days prior to travel (or 10 business days prior to virtual event).

ol. If you are receiving funding from your department,

they may use different procedures for reimbursement than the **Mdy** School of Graduate and **Advanced** Studies. Please be sure you know your department's requirements before your departure.

Procedure

PDF only Incomplete applications will not be considered.

PDF

