

**Minutes from Meeting**  
**1:00-2:30 pm**  
**Rooms 2102 (Bloomington) and 3138B (Indianapolis)**

**Members Present:** John Hitchcock, Kelzie Beebe, Jessica Lester, Leslie Chrapliwy, Christine Leland (IUPUI), Cristina Santamaria Graff (IUPUI), Marjorie Manifold, Chad Christensen, Frank Di Silvestro

**Ex-Officio Present:** Brendan Maxcy (IUPUI)

**Members Absent:** Sam Museus, Scott Bellini

**Ex-Officio Absent:** Elizabeth Boling, Ghangis Carter

**Staff:** Matt Boots, Tracey McGookey, Liyao Zhao

- I. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 31, 2016
  - *Frank Di Silvestro moved to approve the minutes from October 31, 2016, as presented.*
  - *Marjorie Manifold seconded the motion.*
  - *All in favor.*
  
- II. New Business
  - A. **Proposal to Accept IELTS Academic Test of English Proficiency**

The first item of business was a proposal to accept the IELTS academic test of English proficiency for graduate admissions for the School of Education.

    - *Marjorie Manifold moved to approve the proposal, as presented.*
    - *Frank Di Silvestro seconded the motion.*
    - *All in favor.*
  
  - B. **Graduate Bulletin Language Regarding Dissertation Defenses**

The second item of business pertained to the graduate bulletin language regarding dissertation defenses. The committee considered the following language to be included in the graduate bulletin:

“The student and all members of the research committee are expected to attend the defense synchronously, with a minimum of two committee members physically present with the student. In the event that exceptional and unforeseen circumstances prevent adherence to the policy, the department chair will determine whether the defense may proceed or must be reconvened. No defense should be scheduled with the expectation that one or more committee members will be unable to attend synchronously.”

The committee had a few concerns about this language. Leland argued that the Graduate School should abandon its “20th century thinking” regarding the requirement for the physical presence of any committee members at a student’s defense. If the university wanted to attract and service international students, she added, it must be willing to allow students to defend their dissertations wherever they might be at the end of their research. The committee was also not sure if this policy would be applied only to PhD students, or whether it would also include the EdD program, which includes an online component and hence be possibly more relevant for the policy under discussion. The committee did not vote on the item under the expectation that more information would be gathered and suggested that language be added to clarify the PhD/EdD distinction, as well as the issue of whether two members of the defense committee constituted a “majority” of that committee.