

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 5, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LJH 325

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)
Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Kari Perry (Student Representative)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Anna French (Student Representative)
Rob Maher (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)
Chris Livingston (Architecture)
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)
Sarah Mannheimer (Library)
Amy Reines (Sciences)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Ryan Thum (Agriculture)
Akash Gulati (Student Representative)
Deborah Haynes (Interim Dean of The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Sally Mudiamu (Office of International Programs)

Absent

Wade Hill (Nursing)

Meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

January 22, 2025 minutes

- Motion to approve by Windchief, Beamish 2nd, motion passes unanimously

Announcements

- Graduate School update
 - Introduction from new Interim Dean Deborah Haynes
 - There are currently 444 GRAs – if the PI receives a cease-and-desist letter, research needs to stop. Do not know how many GRAs will be impacted. If money was already distributed, expecting that it can be used for GRAs; if money has not been distributed,

may impact GRA funding. It will fall to the colleges to see if they can work with the student.

- If you have questions about GRA funding, can send to Haynes and she will funnel questions to the appropriate parties.
- Interim Dean Haynes will be reaching out to schedule meetings with colleges
 - Warnat suggests providing a suggested time for your college's meeting
 - Haynes will be meeting with GSLC tomorrow
- Shorelight contract for recruiting international students. Currently accepting admissions applications.
 - Some international students have shared recent experiences of being turned away at the airport for a variety of reasons (e.g., spices, medications)
 - Students can contact Reeves directly if anything like this comes up
 - OIP provides lists of items not to bring, rules to follow
- Spring graduation applications due today (February 5)
- GradCat Wellness Week next week, encourage your students to attend events
 - Community Dinner: free dinner for graduate students on Tuesday, February 11th from 5-7pm in Rendezvous Dining Pavilion
 - Rec Night: graduate student game night at the SUB Rec Center on Thursday, February 13th from 4:30-6:30pm
 - Online game night: invite sent directly to all online and distance graduate students for an online game night on Thursday, February 13th
- Questions
 - There are several Graduate School awards for graduate students, are these still available?
 - These are still active, not federal
 - Have not started reviewing, can still apply this week
- Faculty Senate update
 - Alison Harmon attending today's FS meeting to discuss federal funding
 - Refer anyone with questions to Alison Harmon's office (Research and Economic Development)
 - Concerns expressed by emeriti faculty regarding losing MSU email address have been addressed– will just have to fill out a form to request keeping their MSU email address
 - FS continuing to discuss retired faculty serving on graduate committees
 - Open discussion
 - 2nd reading on the one-credit extension and in absentia policy at upcoming FS meeting

New Business

- Pending policies
 - Appeal policy
 - Concern at FS regarding what could be appealed
 - Concern that a single person could overturn a major academic decision determined by the graduate committee (e.g., defense fail)
 - Concern from graduate students that timeframe is not long enough

- Timeframe was moved to 10 days because often these academic decisions occur at the end of the semester and want to get a timely resolution for the student
 - Suggest returning appeal policy to subcommittee for revisions
 - Revise to address concern of appeal criteria
 - Still pending feedback from legal on this issue
 - Review suspended versus dismissed language in the appeal policy language
 - Still pending feedback from legal on this terminology
 - Graduate student feedback is to advocate for a broader policy that gives students more leeway to appeal
 - Students fear retaliation
 - Appeal policy will return to policy subcommittee
- Doctoral committee deadline
 - Review proposed policy
 - Sense was that the current policy works well for most programs, does council want to move forward with this policy?
 - Discussion
 - Encourage students to submit committees as early as possible
 - Can update guidance to encourage students to talk with their graduate coordinator if they are having trouble identifying a committee
 - Dunlop motions to table, Livingston seconds, unanimous approval
 - Doctoral committee deadline policy tabled
- Dismissed v suspended language
 - Pending feedback from legal
 - University Graduate Council bylaws
 - Dean of College of Nursing requested NTT faculty member to serve as a voting member on UGC
 - College of Nursing Dean agreed this would be in the individual's job description and would receive compensation
 - Many nursing faculty are not located on campus; a TT member would have to attend remotely. The proposed NTT member advises graduate nursing students.
 - Discussion
 - Concern that allowing NTT faculty into these types of roles erodes the full-service permanent faculty
 - Why are there not TT faculty to run the program?
 - Faculty in nursing are clinical instructors
 - Challenge for college to get TT lines approved
 - Changes the nature of UGC
 - Origin of tenure was to protect academic freedom

- Open to an exception for nursing, but not a change to the bylaws
- How many TT faculty in nursing?
 - 8 total across 5 campuses
- Suggest NTT member could attend as a non-voting member to provide feedback. If want a voting member, provide a TT faculty member.
- College of Nursing Dean could present case for NTT member to be appointed, then UGC vote on an exception
 - Haynes will invite College of Nursing Dean to attend next meeting

Updates from subcommittees

- Curriculum subcommittee meeting today

Public comment

Adjourned at 11:20 am

Next scheduled meeting – February 19, 2025