

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m. STV 401

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Claudia Petrescu, Associate Vice President for Graduate Education & Internationalization Initiatives

MEMBERS PRESENT

Membership/Student

Development Committee: Susan Chen, Rebekka Darner, Sarah Smelser, Anna Smith

Curriculum Committee: Mary Dyck, Eric Peterson, Beth MacDonald, Melisa Oresky, Scott Pierce

Research Committee: Kevin Meyer, Justin Turner

Equity, Diversity and

Inclusion Committee: Greg Braswell, Miranda Lin

Graduate Student: Edcel Cintron-Gonzales

MEMBERS ABSENT

Membership/Student

Development Committee: Duleep Delpechitre, Qi Zhang

Curriculum Committee: Stella Liao

Research Committee: Shawn Hitchcock, Chang Su-Russell

Equity, Diversity and

Inclusion Committee: Mona Bahl, Claire Lieberman, H. Sally Xie, Jessica Sullivan

Graduate Student: Fathema Alam

Also present: Emma Kopko, Graduate School Assistant Director of Marketing and Recruitment; Mindy Kinney, Assistant Director of Graduate School; and Kim Shennett, Graduate School

Approval of Minutes

Beth MacDonald moved to approve minutes of March 26, 2025. Greg Braswell seconded. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

Welcome and introductions

AVP role and goals for year

- a. Navigating role changes due to creation of AVP role with a combination of leading graduate school and overseeing OIE
- b. The expectation is to elevate standing and positioning of Graduate School and international education.
- c. Strategic plan calls for a 20% increase in graduate students and a 10% increase in international.
- d. Budget model is changing – has not seen it yet – the plan is for it to be released in early October.
- e. Focus on streamlining processes
- f. Would like to meet with the Chairs of each Council committee on a regular basis

Administrative report

- a. Graduate Applications and Enrollment
 - i. New budget model might impact how funds are being allocated to recruitment and retention.

- ii. International enrollment effected by Visa issues – 2.4% and 88% other issues.
 - iii. Executive orders - impact on international students
 - iv. Claudia has talked with Deans about ways to support international recruitment
- b. Admissions
 - i. Admissions reports are sent on a weekly basis to all graduate coordinators.
 - ii. There has been an increase in applications and a decline in admissions.
 - iii. Claudia looking for nuances.
 - iv. Working on reports to obtain graduate retention and graduation statistics. No metrics for graduation rates – have not been reported in the past.
 - v. Mindy Kinney working on reports with PRPA.
 - vi. How do graduate assistantship changes and tenure track faculty effect admission numbers?
- c. Professional Development Series
 - i. Funding remains available for these sessions.
 - ii. Focus on assisting students with career development.
- d. Graduate Writing Center
 - i. Graduate Writing Fellows are available to assist graduate students.
 - ii. Guided by Post-doctoral writing fellow, Dr. John Hawkins.

Committee Reports

- a. Membership/Student Development
 - i. Anna Smith chair of committee.
 - ii. Fall full graduate faculty nominations due October 1.
 - iii. Committee is reviewing Lela Winegarner Scholarship applications.
 - iv. All committee members will be reviewing graduate faculty nominations in mid-October.
- b. Curriculum
 - i. Eric Peterson chair of committee.
 - ii. No committee report due to Coursedog software still being tested and implemented, therefore, no curriculum to review.
- c. Research
 - i. Justin Turner chair of committee.
 - ii. Committee to review Fisher Thesis award applications, due September 29th.
- d. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
 - i. Greg Braswell chair of committee.
 - ii. Committee is currently reviewing EDI Tuition Scholarship applications.

Old Business

- a. Review Bylaws Revisions – ran out of time to begin discussions.

New Business

- a. None

Adjournment

- a. Beth MacDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.