

**GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m. STV 401**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Gavin Weiser, Interim Director of Graduate Studies.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Membership/Student

Development Committee: Myoung Jin Kim, Anna Smith, Jamie Mahurin Smith,  
John Tovar

Curriculum Committee: Beth MacDonald, Eric Peterson, Lily Thompson

Research Committee: Kevin Meyer

Equity, Diversity and

Inclusion Committee: Mona Bahl, Greg Braswell, Claire Lieberman, Miranda Lin

Graduate Students: Ishmael Neequaye, Alexis Quick

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Membership/Student

Development Committee: Duleep Delpchitre, Qi Zhang

Curriculum Committee: Jennifer Barnes, Mary Dyck

Research Committee: Shawn Hitchcock, Chang Su-Russell

Equity, Diversity and

Inclusion Committee: Jessica Sullivan, H. Sally Xie

Graduate Student: Alina Niftulaeva

Also present: Craig McLauchlan, Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies; 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**

Greg Braswell moved to approve minutes of November 20, 2024. Beth MacDonald seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

**Administrative report**

- a. Graduate Admissions
  - i. Applications and admits are up for summer and fall compared with this same time last spring.
  - ii. Enrollment deposits have been added to the report. This is the first year for them. Thank you, Emma Kopko!
  - iii. There are both priority and final application deadlines for most programs. Try to get students, especially international students, to apply by priority deadline.
- b. Professional Development Series (<https://prodev.illinoisstate.edu/events/#thesis>)
  - i. New for graduate faculty and coordinators.
  - ii. Sessions scheduled for this semester:
    1. Thesis/Dissertation Process – 2/26 3 pm DeGarmo 551
    2. Collaborations and Clarity on International Admissions processing, INTO, and Pathway Programs – 3/19 3 pm STV 401
    3. Holistic Admissions – 4/16 3 pm STV 401
  - iii.

- iii. Let us know additional topics you would like to see offered.
- c. Clarence W. Sorensen Distinguished Dissertation Award
  - i. Dr. Helen Plevka-Jones awardee this year.  
(Resonance: A Methodology and Pedagogy for Socially Just Storytelling)
  - ii. More submissions are needed.
- d. Working with Registrar to On-board New Curriculum Software- CourseDog
  - i. Hope to implement in spring 2026.
  - ii. Not sure if syllabi can be housed on it.
- e. Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT)
  - i. Next week 2/27/2025 - 6pm, Normal Theater. All are welcome.

### **Committee Reports**

- a. Membership/Student Development
  - i. John Tovar, committee chair, stated committee is reviewing 15 graduate faculty nominations. Due date for completion is March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Curriculum
  - i. Lily Thompson, committee chair, summarized February graduate curriculum committee report and Council accepted it.
- c. Research
  - i. No business
- d. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
  - i. Greg Braswell, committee chair, stated the EDI scholarships were reviewed and awarded:
    - (1) Kwame Patterson (EAF)
    - (2) Taylor Carter (KNR)
    - (3) Stephanie Vargas (CJS)
    - (4) Jewel Woodard (EAF)
    - (5) Dzidzor Klu (ECO)
  - ii. Working on identifying EDI professional practice opportunities on campus. The College of Arts and Sciences has an equity minded teaching experience. Have not heard from other colleges.

### **Old Business**

- a. Statement on Ethical Use of AI for Thesis/Dissertation Work, Capstones, and Comps
  - i. How are their programs using it? Is it helpful?
  - ii. Teaching and Learning added it into their doctoral handbook.
  - iii. Multiple uses of it. Need additional information how to cite it.
  - iv. Other institutions using flow charts.
  - v. Discussion of other ethical dimensions of its use needs to be added.
  - vi. Institution cannot have an overall policy; programs use the term differently. We don't agree on what authorship means.
  - vii. All programs need to have disciplinary norms in writing so the Graduate School has a stance when there is abuse.

### **New Business**

- a. Bylaws Need Updating
  - i. Leadership of Graduate School title changing.
  - viii. Review, be ready to make changes at March meeting.

- b. Ad Hoc Committee Exploring Faculty Compensation
  - i. Anna Smith, chair, seeking members interested in fact finding with colleagues at other institutions, types of compensation provided for work on theses/dissertations, capstones, and comps. Contact if interested.
    - a. Some models she located are percentage based, provide workload adjustment or compensation after T/D completed.

**Adjournment**

- a. John Tovar moved to adjourn the meeting; Jamie Mahurin Smith seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

**GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

Submitted to the Graduate Council February 19, 2025. This report only covers program proposal approval information. For complete curriculum proposal information, including graduate course approvals, please see the University's Curriculum Proposal site: [registrar.ilstu.edu/curriculumforms/](http://registrar.ilstu.edu/curriculumforms/)

**FOR INFORMATION**

**NEW PROGRAM**

**2026-2027 Catalog**

*Certificate:*

**SED**

**Multilingual Special Education Certificate**

<https://registrarforms.illinoisstate.edu/CurriculumForms/GradNewProgramView.aspx?ID=242>

**REVISE PROGRAM**

**2025-2026 Catalog**

*Sequence:*

**KNR**

**Sport Management Sequence (Online)**

<https://registrarforms.illinoisstate.edu/CurriculumForms/GradReviseProgramView.aspx?ID=481>