

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 21, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

LJH 325

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)
Doug Downs (Faculty Senate)
Chris Livingston (Architecture)
Amy Reines (Sciences)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Anna French (Student Representative)
Ryan Thum (Agriculture)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Katherine Johnston (Letters)
Molly Secor (Nursing)
Sally Mudiamu (Office of International Programs)
Sarah Mannheimer (Library)
Akash Gulati (Student Representative)
Kari Perry (Student Representative)
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)
Deborah Haynes (Dean of The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)

Absent

Meeting started at 10:31 a.m.

December 10, 2025 minutes

Motion to approve by Thum, Secor 2nd, 6 in favor, 2 abstain, motion passes

Announcements

- Graduate School update
 - Staffing updates
 - Student visit funds available – applications due February 16th
 - Spring graduation applications due February 5th
 - Partnering with Extreme Biofilms National Research Traineeship (NRT) for spring professional development series
 - If students attend 2 events, they can apply for \$1,500 seed grant

- Wellness Week February 23rd-27th
- Crawford Scholarship event this spring
- Graduate student updates
 - GSLC met with President Tessman:
 - Housing
 - Working with Alumni Foundation to develop emergency housing fund for graduate students
 - International students concerns: communication and safety
 - GSLC member working with legal to put on know your rights workshop
 - Health insurance
- Office of International Programs
 - Changes to national park fees for nonresidents of the United States
 - 4 international families impacted by the west side houses being torn down. Will have to move out this summer.
 - Students will be able to move to other housing on campus
 - \$750 relocation credit
 - Housing will have moving supplies available
 - Holding a listening session today regarding changes to visa status
 - Country bans currently do not impact J and F visas
 - Q: Communicating information to grad coordinators to help with making admissions decisions?
 - If students choose to apply and go through the process, must be fairly considered
 - University should be clear and upfront in communication when making offers
 - Iranian vigil upcoming
- Faculty Senate update
 - First meeting of spring semester today

Old Business

- Policy Approval Pathway
 - UGC approved new policy approval pathway November 2025. Provost requested that the new pathway be discussed with Faculty Senate leadership. FS leadership requested a special meeting to discuss on January 26th.
 - Open discussion
- Learning Outcomes for 590/690
 - Met with Tracy Dougher and Deb Blanchard
 - All research courses must have a generic syllabus in CIM. UGC could provide example templates to departments. If departments use the UGC template, suggest going through shortened CIM approval queue.

- Implement 590/690 outcomes for each faculty member. Create canvas shell – encourage faculty and graduate students to write their own syllabus with their outcomes.
 - Begin on voluntary basis. If it works well, may become a requirement.
- Chair Warnat to invite Tracy Dougher to next UGC meeting to discuss implementation.

New Business

- Three Minutes Thesis Competition
 - Dean Haynes will send email requesting feedback

Subcommittee updates

Adjourned at 12:00 pm

Next scheduled meeting – February 4, 2026