

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 5, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LJH 325

Council in Attendance:

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

Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)
Donna Negaard (Graduate School)

Absent

Rollin Beamish (Arts)

Meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

October 22, 2025 minutes

Motion to approve by Giullian, Thum 2nd, unanimous approval, motion passes

Announcements

- Graduate School update
 - Grad Fair last month: 697 attended online, 180 attended in person
 - Anticipating push to increase graduate student enrollment
- Shorelight update (Mudiamu)
 - Launched last December
 - Has not resulted in any students

- Shorelight as a company has downsized significantly
- Still marketing, still receiving applications, but the conversion rate has been challenging
- Q: Will we stop working with this company?
 - A: We only pay Shorelight directly if we receive students
 - Are exploring options with other companies
 - Changes at federal level are making it difficult for US to compete for international students
- Faculty Senate update
 - Research misconduct policy – discussion around appeal side of the policy. Current version: faculty sanctions determined by Dean of College; student sanctions determined by the Dean of Graduate School.
 - Passed University Council this morning
 - Senate is being proactive regarding freedom of speech issues
 - Discussions with campus leadership regarding boundaries and protections
 - Working with CFE to plan workshops
 - Open discussion on academic freedom
 - Dean Haynes will discuss with legal, provost, etc. – focus on clarifying guidance and protections for GTAs

Old Business

- Search for Leader of Graduate Education (discussion/feedback)
 - Peer universities: most universities have a Graduate Dean position. Some have a Vice Provost and a director position.
 - Moving away from Dean structure would reduce the effectiveness of the position
 - Concern that Vice Provost might not be a part of regular Dean meetings. Might separate The Graduate School, so there is less communication amongst the colleges.
 - Some support for 2 leadership position. But Vice Provost/Director position wouldn't be as effective of a model as Dean
 - Dean is more involved in recruitment, retention, time to degree
 - If the position stays as Dean level, still push for an Assistant Dean or director to help with the workload
 - Concern of administrative bloat
 - Support for the Vice Provost position with a new director position to reduce the workload
 - Suggest a Vice President for Graduate Education
 - Should have reporting line to the Vice President of Research
 - Suggest moving more support to individual colleges, not The Graduate School. Shift Graduate School to more of a student support unit, like advising or financial services. Give each college a Vice or Assistant Dean of Graduate Education.
 - Bigger colleges have this (AG, Eng, LS, Nursing), but not all colleges do. LS is a 50% role, would have to shift resources.
 - Any programs that live in The Graduate School should be moved to the colleges that they are a part of.
 - Shared services hasn't been effective model for undergraduates (e.g. advising services)

- The university must allocate more resources to grow graduate education. Has been a challenge for all graduate deans in the past. Why do we need a visionary if there are no resources to support it?
 - Funding must be central to a discussion about growing graduate enrollment
 - Transparency in the awarding of GRAs/GTAs.
- Suggest a clearer direction before posting and conducting a search. Could appoint an interim to work out the position and job duties before the national search.
- Make sure that the person hired has a strong background in graduate education and research
- Do any of the options proposed build more trust with faculty?
 - Seeing shared interest is helpful. Can see those shared interests when in a room together. Great structural question – what design gets us in the same room together more often?
- Request transparency in process
- Graduate Policy Approval Pathway
 - First reading
- Decision to move December 3rd meeting to finals week

Adjourned at 11:31 am

Next scheduled meeting – November 19, 2025