

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

December 10, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LJH 325

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)
Doug Downs (Faculty Senate)
Chris Livingston (Architecture)
Rachael Filwett (Sciences)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Anna French (Student Representative)
Ryan Thum (Agriculture)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
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)
Donna Negaard (Graduate School)

Absent

Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Katherine Johnston (Letters)
Molly Secor (Nursing)
Sally Mudiamu (Office of International Programs)

Meeting started at 10:05 a.m.

November 18, 2025 minutes

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

Announcements

- Graduate School update
 - Attended Council of Graduate School annual conference
 - PhD completion awards have been allocated: 11 awarded
 - 3-6 credit tuition waivers given to all applicants
 - Scholarships open and available on the website

- Update on open searches for positions in the Graduate School
- Faculty Senate update
 - Approving new course proposals
 - UGC policy pathway to go to JAGS for approval

Old Business

- Graduate Education Leader Listening Session
 - Well attended
 - Concerns raised: graduate student housing, mentorship, international graduate students, funding
 - Different needs for different departments, difference in research-based programs compared to professional programs
 - Individual hired needs to understand the different paths and different needs
 - Someone who is thorough, thoughtful, curious, well informed, inspirational, motivational to junior faculty, connect students to MSU, support through funding/housing/food security, research oriented and research experience, recruitment and retention
 - Every graduate student on campus should get paid health insurance, not competitive with other schools that offer this to their graduate students
 - Changes to ACA, costs are going way up and international students will not be eligible
 - Concern that the position will get bogged down in the daily operations instead of the visionary aspects
 - Stated that an Assistant Director will be hired to help with the day-to-day
 - Need a graduate career position. Particularly help research students. Suggest someone housed within the graduate school to help with careers.
 - Suggest starting the student health fees at 6 credits instead of 7 for graduate students
 - UGC will be invited to meet with the candidates during on campus visits (spring term)
 - Send a representative from your college if you can't make all the sessions
- Policy Approval Pathway
 - Before adapting new process, Provost would like Faculty Senate leadership input
 - Faculty Senate would like JAGs to approve the new process
 - Dean Haynes will request this item gets added to the agenda for the next JAGs meeting
- Learning Outcomes for 590/690
 - Chair Warnat and policy subcommittee meeting with Tracy Dougher next week
- Appeal Policy & Academic Standing Policy
 - Pending approval of new policy pathway

Subcommittee updates

- Curriculum Subcommittee
 - Suggest CFE hosts training on writing course learning outcomes, syllabus expectations, and grading criteria
 - Online training/slide deck with guidance
 - Required training before CIM access
 - Train college curriculum committees
 - Tie to annual raises, merit raises
 - Some departments standardize the learning outcomes on syllabi

Adjourned at 11:30 am

Next scheduled meeting – TBD