

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 18, 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)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Ryan Thum (Agriculture)
Sarah Mannheimer (Library)
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

Katherine Johnston (Letters)
Molly Secor (Nursing)
Sally Mudiamu (Office of International Programs)
Akash Gulati (Student Representative)

Meeting started at 10:34 a.m.

February 4, 2026 minutes

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

Announcements

- Graduate School update
 - Collective bargaining agreement is now posted
 - Crawford applications closed. Over 170 graduate student applications.
 - Discussion on handling late applications
 - Suggest focusing on prevention: NavMSU text reminders
 - Three-Minute Thesis Competition
 - Thursday, April 23rd from 6-8pm in Inspiration Hall

- GG hired new Operations & Fiscal Manager: Cody Snyder
- Next week is Rest & Recharge Graduate School Wellness Week
 - Community Dinner is Tuesday, February 24th from 5-7pm at Rendezvous
 - Pickleball on Friday, February 27th from 5-6:30pm at Wellness Center
- Faculty Senate update
 - 2nd reading of AI institute proposal
 - Discussion on updates to student field trip policy
 - Voted to endorse JABS division into departments
 - Strategic planning process
 - Reviewing bylaws

Old Business

- Policy Approval Pathway
 - Updated with input from Faculty Senate Steering Committee
 - Provost Mokwa approved the pathway
 - Clarification that the approval path discussion can be via email
 - Will post on UGC website with written description of substantive changes
 - Suggest adding timeframe on each step
 - Franklin will draft description of process
 - Guillian moves to vote on the pathway, Beamish 2nds
 - Unanimous approval
 - Graduate policy pathway approved
 - Academic standing and appeal policies will route for approvals through new pathway
 - Franklin will initiate the substantive/non-substantive pathway email for these policies to move forward
- Implementation of Learning Outcomes for 590/690
 - Example of 590 syllabus currently going through CIM approvals
 - Discussion:
 - Suggest adding N grade (for 590, 690)
 - Suggest adding “may include” for learning outcomes
 - Suggest adding expectations for faculty from the faculty handbook (Faculty Responsibilities, 3. Teaching Responsibilities, section II Graduate Students)
 - The explanation of what a passing grade includes is helpful
 - Should have same expectation as a course if a faculty member is unavailable due to extenuating circumstances
 - Chair Warnat will revise syllabus and send to council members
 - Representatives send to their colleges for feedback

Subcommittee updates

- Curriculum subcommittee reviewing courses

Adjourned at 11:50 am

Next scheduled meeting – March 4, 2026