

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 4, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.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)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Katherine Johnston (Letters)
Molly Secor (Nursing)
Sally Mudiamu (Office of International Programs)
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)
Tracy Dougher (Vice Provost)
Deb Blanchard (Assistant Provost)

Absent

Ryan Thum (Agriculture)
Sarah Mannheimer (Library)

Meeting started at 10:33 a.m.

January 21, 2026 minutes

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

Announcements

- Graduate School update
 - Crawford event on Thursday, April 16th from 4-6pm in Romney 008
 - Yesterday was 15th class day, holding graduate students that have appointments in process
 - Sloan community dinner last night

- Spring graduation applications due February 5th
- Spring professional development events are going well
 - Next event is Pitch & Present Your Research with Impact on February 10th
- Wellness Week February 23-27
- International graduate students will not be eligible for marketplace insurance next year. MSU's insurance is comparatively very expensive.
 - OIP has been looking into options
 - Going to be a very big problem next year
 - Plans are dictated at the MUS level
- Need for overall training for TAs – emergency response training to cover variety of scenarios
- Faculty Senate update
 - Reviewing AI Institute proposal. Second reading at Faculty Senate today.
 - Institution “on” AI not “for” AI; Faculty Senate providing feedback to make this clearer in the proposal
 - JABS departments
 - Parking presentation
 - Revisions to student field trips policy

Old Business

- Policy Approval Pathway
 - UGC leadership met with Faculty Senate Steering Committee to discuss proposed graduate policy approval pathway
 - UGC leadership shared the challenges of the sequential approval process
 - Concern from Senate that not enough Senate Leadership involvement in this process.
 - Edited proposal to clarify who is involved in discussion
 - What is the criteria for when a policy has significant enough feedback to go back
 - If UGC does not vote yes, goes back to policy subcommittee for revision
 - Suggest policy approval pathway be posted on UGC website
 - Revise pathway for next meeting based on feedback

New Business

- Implementation of Learning Outcomes for 590/690 (Dougher, Blanchard)
 - Having learning outcomes in place: set expectations for students and helps with assessment
 - Important for accreditation: recommendation from accreditors. Mid cycle review, we must show progress to maintain accreditation
 - In CIM we need documentation for each 590, 690, etc. rubric. UGC faculty representatives could develop example syllabi for their college.
 - If department uses UGC template, suggest using a streamlined workflow in CIM
 - Recommend: create generic learning outcomes for each rubric in CIM that can then be utilized by each individual faculty
 - Q: what needs to be included in the generic syllabus?

- A: Learning outcomes, grading criteria, behavioral expectations, plagiarism etc.
- Hidden curriculum: faculty have a general idea of the expectations for research courses, but students often do not
- Suggest including N in generic grading scale
- Ag Ed example currently going through CIM approvals
- Canvas could be the place to make this visible to students. Could build a shell.
- Suggest each faculty should have their own research sections built.
- 1) Fulfill accreditation requirement by submitting generic syllabi for each research rubric in CIM 2) Encourage faculty to individually put plans in place
- Could collect examples from departments that are already doing this
- Give Deb Blanchard UGC's guidelines, she can check during CIM approval
- Each UGC college rep could create generic template for their college

Subcommittee updates

Adjourned at 12:01 pm

Next scheduled meeting – February 18, 2026