

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

August 27, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LJH 325

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)
Doug Downs (Faculty Senate)
Katherine Johnston (Letters)
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)
Chris Livingston (Architecture)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Rebecca Hoover (Nursing)
Ryan Thum (Agriculture)
Akash Gulati (Student Representative)
Anna French (Student Representative)
Sarah Mannheimer (Library)
Deborah Haynes (Dean of The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Taylor Ladd (Graduate Student)

Absent

Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Rachael Filwett (Sciences)
Kari Perry (Student Representative)

Meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

April 30, 2025 minutes

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

Announcements

- Welcome & introductions
- Graduate School update
 - Reviewed unofficial fall enrollment numbers
 - Official numbers will be released after 15th class day
 - New Graduate School marketing brochures and bookmarks
 - Grad Fair October 6-10th

- Faculty Senate update
 - Faculty Senate's first fall meeting today
 - President Tessman will be meeting with Faculty Senate leadership
 - Chair Warnat will contact the President's Office again about meeting with UGC

New Business

- Subcommittee appointments
 - Review subcommittee roles and current appointments
 - Revisit at next meeting
- Graduate student updates
 - Graduate Student Leadership Council (GSLC) has openings. If you know any graduate students that would be interested in serving, get them in touch with UGC grad student reps.
 - International student concerns: some of the concerns from last year have decreased, but concerns remain, e.g., challenges in the job market for international students wanting to stay in the country
 - Housing: students are forming a housing council to communicate and advocate with Housing and Safety & Risk
 - Rent increases, construction, environmental health and safety concerns (asbestos/lead)
 - Focus on improving communication, so students can plan for rent increases, know not to put nails in the wall, etc.
 - Graduate Student collective bargaining still in progress
 - Concerns regarding communication from university administration
 - Graduate students are not fully aware that ASMSU represents them. GSLC met with the new ASMSU president.
 - CAPS and legal services still available for all international students
 - CAPS advises all graduate students to come to their office if in need of mental health services, regardless of fee status. They can advise students on the best option for their individual situation.
- Open discussion/topic suggestions
 - Policy approval process
 - Invite university lawyer to attend a meeting and discuss policy
 - Invite Donna Negaard, Assistant Dean of Graduate School, to attend and discuss potential revisions to graduate policy based on her experience
 - Main graduate student concerns: housing, healthcare, and stipends
 - Discrepancy between stipends
 - Creative solutions to subsidize stipends with other sources of funding
 - Working with the foundation on scholarship funding for graduate students
 - Other ideas: build more housing, offer meal plans
 - Faculty mentoring: discuss ways to improve mentoring on campus
 - Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE)

- CFE loads any trainings you attend into your Faculty Success profile – incentive for junior faculty
- Communication on the importance of attending CFE trainings (even if it means missing a college meeting) would be helpful
- What do students expect from their faculty mentors?
- Graduate School mentor webpage – has mentor agreements that students and advisors can fill out together
- Get information on what departments and colleges are already doing
- Relationship between graduate advising versus graduate mentoring
- University currently addressing advising assessment – outcome of accreditation review
 - May be able to bring graduate advising into this discussion
- Graduate School runs graduate mentoring workshop for students
- Role and scope incentivize faculty: let faculty know that this is an expectation
 - Prepare mentoring as a goal for the new strategic plan (likely next year)
- Consider metrics of good advising/mentoring
 - Being available (e.g. responding to emails in a timely manner, being at office hours, showing up for scheduled meeting with advisee)
 - Networking
 - Are there student evaluations of advisors the way there are of classes?
 - Currently being developed for undergraduate advising commons

Updates from subcommittees

Public comment

Adjourned at 11:30 am

Next scheduled meeting – September 10, 2025