

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LJH 325

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)
Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Rob Maher (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)
Chris Livingston (Architecture)
Amy Reines (Sciences)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Molly Secor (Nursing)
Ryan Thum (Agriculture)
Akash Gulati (Student Representative)
Kari Perry (Student Representative)
Anna French (Student Representative)
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)
Sarah Mannheimer (Library)
Deborah Haynes (Dean of The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)

Absent

Meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

April 16, 2025 minutes

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

Announcements

- Graduate School update
 - International students with SEVIS records terminated were reinstated. Legal case in progress.
 - Tell international students to work directly with OIP for individualized guidance and appropriate referrals

- International students can access CPS and ASMSU legal services, regardless of fee
 - Requests for grants that have been truncated to help students finish. Unless the student is a GTA, not able to award tuition waivers for GRAs
 - How many students are impacted?
 - Approximately 9 currently
 - Dean Haynes will work with Dr. Harmon on any potential F&A for alternate funding source
 - Any impact on the number of students that have accepted admission for fall?
 - Haven't seen impact in admission numbers
 - International admissions numbers are higher than ever. Visa application numbers have gone down. Approval numbers have gone up.
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- Faculty Senate update
 - Dean Mudiamu gave a presentation on international student updates. Faculty are not satisfied by the university's response. Believe OIP should be posting updated information (with dates). All students should be aware of their rights in the United States. Being prepared and educating students in the purpose of an educational institution.
 - Discussion on the Graduate Dean's appointment without consultation from faculty
 - Resolutions put forward by other universities pushing for constructive engagement with the federal government. In conversation whether FS would put forward a resolution.
 - Doug Downs chair-elect for Fall 2025

New Business

- Office of International Programs updates
 - Local law enforcement is saying that ICE will not show up without advanced notice to law enforcement.
 - If a student is approached by someone impersonating law enforcement, they should call 911
 - Students, faculty, etc. are aware of situations of this happening. Students are scared. How can we proactively protect students?
 - Addressing this at OIP listening sessions. Chief Stanley is giving students guidance. Information will be provided in orientation for fall.
 - Example of faculty driving students to practicums off campus. Students don't feel comfortable riding bus, going out into community.
 - OIP Dean met with immigration attorneys. Advice was that guidance is changing daily. Best advice is to go directly to OIP.
 - Putting a lot of responsibility on graduate students to pursue daily guidance.
 - Could there be a channel for students to share the information
 - A way to require a log in and students can access the information

- Standard across other countries to carry federal ID with you.
 - Fear of losing the passport book.
 - International students feel better that SEVIS status has been reinstated. Information changing in the news does cause stress. If there is an official channel that students can get updates would be helpful. Concerns about international travel.
 - Need authorization to sign off on travel. Currently have to meet with Reeves. Can there be an easier process?
 - Travel signature event
 - Darcy Ticknor in human resources that can answer employee questions.
- GRE Discussion
 - Ag Econ brought up the concern that GREs are no longer allowed. Having students that look like they would be prepared mathematically, but they are not. Believe the GRE would be a more accurate, objective measure of the students' preparation. Can the department or program decide whether to require the GRE or not.
 - The GRE was originally removed during covid. Concern about how much of a predictor GREs are. May be better ways to measure preparation (ex. placement exam). If UGC supports allowing this by program, Dean Haynes can take request forward.
 - Discussion
 - If a program decides they want to have the GRE back. What is the process?
 - Currently GRE is not required.
 - Sounds like the concern is students are not prepared. How else can programs address this?
 - Examples: qualifying exam, take remedial courses,
 - At undergraduate level, ACT is not required, but you can submit ACT score to demonstrate competency and get into a higher
 - Faculty concerned with bringing an international student that is not prepared. Not convinced GRE is the answer. Can have an interview with the student.
 - Being admitted on some form of merit. GRE is a barrier to entry.
 - In spirit of shared governance, there is a great diversity of graduate programs. If there are programs that have good reasons to require the GRE, allow them to make that case.
 - Some faculty have old school views of
 - Don't want programs to view they don't have a voice
 - Could look at the research on the GRE
 - OIP can do evaluations of international courses, syllabi, etc. Students can be required to pay for evaluations.
 - College of Nursing is trying to recruit diverse students. It is an equity issue.
 - Admission requirements vary by requirement
 - Have been campus wide changes to improve barriers to admission, holistic admissions
 - Julie Paselt, Casey Miller, holistic admissions training for our institution. GRE is unfair advantage to SES students.

- Immediate solution. At this time, GRE is not accepted. There are other ways to evaluate a student. The committee can revisit if needed, right now seems like the committee is reinvented the wheel.
- Getting sense of how widespread the view is
- Promoting diversity, equity, the GRE goes against that ideology
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- Discuss response from Provost
 - Dean was appointed as permanent based on changes seeing with federal administration. President, Provost, and Commission of Higher Education made the decision. They are allowed to make the appointment.
 - Invited Provost and President to today's meeting. They had a conflict and were not able to come. Provost Mokwa would be willing to attend in the fall. Dr. Tessman and Provost would be willing to come in the fall and discuss graduate education.
 - Dean Haynes, Chair Warnat, Reines meet with Dr. Tessman over the summer
 - Discussion
 - Faculty Senate did not receive any notification, explanation of the urgency without any time for input
 - FS policy even requires input on interim appointments
 - Discuss with new administration, what is lost with not following the search process. Many reasons why we do a national search. Also good will, trust with faculty.
 - If there was an emergency reason, they could have discussed with Faculty Senate and UGC, discussed the reasoning.
 - Graduate students have not received direct communication.
 - Transparency is missing
 - The constant should be shared faculty governance
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- 1 cr extension and in absentia policy was approved for 25-26 Academic Year
- Appeal policy will be revisited in the fall

Public comment

Adjourned at 11:30 am

Next scheduled meeting – TBD