

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes April 25, 2025

Present:

Dr. Veronique Lacombe, Vice Chair
Dr. Daniel Lin, Group I
Dr. Shiping Deng, Group I
Dr. Yoo Kim, Group I
Dr. Graig Uhlin, Group II
Dr. Richard Boles, Group II

Dr. Jessie Mao, Group III
Dr. Peter Richtsmeier, Group IV
Dr. Stephen Nemeth, Group IV
Dr. Marten Brienens, Group IV
Dr. Mike Yough, Group V
Dr. Joshua Butcher, Group VI
Dr. David Wallace, Group VI

Graduate College:

Dr. Melanie Morgan, Dean
Dr. Matt Lovern, Associate Dean
Dr. Rebecca Sheehan, Associate Dean
Dr. Carol Powers, Assistant Dean

Guests:

Marcia Sun, Ex Officio GPSGA
Rita Peaster, Registrar
Dr. Jerry Malayer, Senior Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education, College of Vet Med
Dr. Magda Rich, Coordinator of International and Domestic Outreach Activities, College of Vet Med
Dr. Stephanie Hathcock, Interim School Head School of Teaching, Learning and Educational Sciences
Dr. Shanedra Nowell, Associate Professor School of Teaching Learning and Educational Sciences
Dr. Jon Comer, Department Head, Geography

Dr. Lacombe called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Academic Affairs Policy 2-0820 Revision: Registrar Rita Peaster explained “academic forgiveness” will be more forgiving with 4 attempts allowed and the highest grade posted to the transcript for undergraduate students. She also stated Honorary or Posthumous degrees will now have relaxed requirements. The recipient must have completed a minimum of 2/3 of the program completed.

One Health MS and Graduate Certificate – Dr. Malayer and Dr Rich answered questions from the Graduate Council and clarified that the new programs will be fully online.

Geography MS and PHD – Dr. Jon Comer offered explanation of the CIP Code changes (STEM designation).

Effective Teaching in Elementary Schools Graduate Certificate and Effecting in Secondary Schools Graduate Certificate - Dr. Hathcock and Dr. Newell presented the need for reducing the credits from 14 to 12 to align with state department requirements and course changes.

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the April 25, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Dr. Brienens and seconded by Dr. Richtsmeier. This motion was approved.

APC Items

A motion to approve the revised Academic Affairs Policy was made by Dr. Brienens and seconded by Dr. Lin. The motion was approved.

NEW

- One Health, MS (at request of AA, rolled back to reduce total hours to 30)
- One Health, Graduate Certificate

CIP Code Changes

- Geography, MS, PhD

Modifications

- Effective Teaching in Elementary Schools Graduate Certificate
- Effective Teaching in Secondary Schools Certificate

Modifications (Expedited Review)

- MS DIET — reduced credit hours, aligns with other IDEA partners
- MS ELS, SA — name change better aligned to field; course modifications, reduced hrs from 36 to 30 hrs
- MS HCA — already approved by OSRHE in the past, just updating catalog to reflect approval
- MS IDST — update to current practices (add methods' course)
- PhD PHOT — program deletion due to low interest/low enrollment; will not negatively affect current students
- PHD-MCMB – drop GRE, change post-bachelors from 90 to 65 credits
- PHD-BMED, Biomedical Sciences: course modifications/updates
- EDD-SA-EH, School Administration: correcting display in catalog
- GCRT - PHG — reduce 15 to 12 credits, aligns with others across country
- GCRT - Special Ed — move to fully online delivery

GPSGA Report

GPSGA Informational Sessions and Leadership Transition Initiatives - This year, GPSGA launched a month-long series of informational sessions designed to engage General Assembly members interested in leadership roles. These sessions helped participants better understand the experiences and responsibilities associated with serving as a GPSGA board member. In the past, GPSGA faced challenges filling all nine board positions, with mid-semester resignations often occurring due to workload and shifting priorities. Throughout the past year, the Ex Officio helped ensure continuity and offered vital support in managing campus and executive responsibilities and in encouraging the current GPSGA president in stepping into the leadership role and during time of absence due to traveling abroad. At the board's request and based on the

GPSGA Constitution, the Past President continued serving as Ex Officio to help and guide key activities and events. This past semester, two board members—the Treasurer and Secretary—resigned last semester, and the positions remained vacant. With this year's proactive outreach and promotion efforts, a stronger slate of candidates is anticipated for the upcoming election cycle.

Additional Highlights in April

- *Undergraduate Research Symposium:* As part of Graduate Education Month, GPSGA graduate students served as feedback providers at the OSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, emphasizing mentorship and academic engagement. Many first-time graduate student participants were recruited through campus-wide outreach and GPSGA communication platforms.
- *Into the Streets Participation:* GPSGA actively participated in OSU's *Into the Streets* program, a campus-wide day of service aimed at connecting students with the broader Stillwater community. This initiative strengthened civic engagement among graduate students and provided opportunities for community building.
- *Guest Speaker – President Hess:* President Hess will address the final GPSGA General Assembly meeting of the semester on April 30 to discuss key concerns raised by the graduate community. Coordination for this visit is underway with the President's Chief of Staff and Communications Director. Dean Morgan will also attend. This marks a special milestone for GPSGA, as it will be the first time a sitting OSU president has attended a GPSGA General Assembly session.
- *Capitol Cowboys Advocacy:* GPSGA representatives participated in the *Capitol Cowboys* initiative, advocating for the construction of a new Animal Teaching Hospital and highlighting the importance of graduate education and student experiences to state legislators.
- *Vice President for Student Affairs Search Committee:* The screening and search process for the next Vice President for Student Affairs will extend into the summer, with plans to bring final candidates to campus for interviews in August.
- *GPSGA Funding Opportunities Sessions:* The Ex Officio offered informational sessions for newly formed and recently reactivated graduate student groups, highlighting available resources and funding opportunities. This is an opportunity for various graduate groups and units to learn more about funding options and encourage broader participation.
- *GPSGA Group Growth:* The GPSGA informal communication group, launched with 9 members two years ago, has grown to over 160 members. The platform serves as a space to share professional development opportunities, cultural events, campus disaster relief efforts, and research participation calls, helping foster graduate student connection to campus and co-curricular development.
- *GPSGA Graduation Stoles:* GPSGA graduation stoles will be available for checkout through the Graduate Success Center for former and current GPSGA representatives, liaisons, and officers participating in commencement ceremonies.
- *GPSGA Graduate Highlights and Support Initiatives:* In response to ongoing challenges and evolving job market conditions, GPSGA has launched a special highlight focusing on

recognizing and celebrating graduating students, aiming to foster resilience and offer encouragement and advice to peer community transitioning into their professional careers.

- *GPSGA Phoenix Awards:* The recipients of the 2025 GPSGA Phoenix Awards are:
 - *Faculty Award:* Dr. Anita Silwal
 - *Doctoral Award:* Jimmy Uba
 - *Master's Award:* Shaolin Jahan Eidee
 - *Teaching Assistant Award:* Mohmad Junaid Ul Haq
- *Summer Transition Planning:* A summer transition meeting is being scheduled to support the incoming GPSGA board. Transition documents and resource materials will be prepared and distributed to ensure a smooth leadership handoff and continued momentum into the next academic year.

Graduate College Report

Thank you – Dr. Morgan thanks the Graduate Council for their hard work, said goodbye to the faculty leaving office and welcomed the new faculty joining the Graduate Council.

SEVIS Records – Dr. Morgan reported that 5 of the 13 student's records have been restored.

Matriculation Update – Dr. Morgan announced that Holly Scott has joined the Graduate College as our newest Matriculation Specialist. She also mentioned there were no bids for software to assist with Matriculation needs. An “off the shelf” option has been identified that may work.

The Graduate College Awards Ceremony will be held April 30th at 3:00 in the Starlight Terrace and the Remembrance Ceremony will be held in the French Lounge.

Old Business

Graduate Faculty Status Vote – A motion to approve Goup V faculty was made by Dr. Brien and seconded by Dr. Lin. The motion was approved.

ITA Exam – Dr. Powers announced there will be a special ITA Exam to be held on Tuesday, May 13th. The April 4th ITA exam resulted in 4 GTA passing provisionally.

OSU Bus Schedule – Dr. Morgan reported the bus company needs specifics. Vice Provost Chris Francisco will work with Classroom Scheduling to accommodate the bus schedule.

Spring 2025 Graduate Commencement – Reminder about the May 9th commencement and a request for faculty volunteers was made.

Dissertation Hours – Topic to be moved to Fall meetings.

No May 2025 meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Brien and seconded by Dr. Yough. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.