

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes February 20, 2026

Present:

Dr. Veronique Lacombe, Vice Chair
Dr. Shiping Deng, Group I
Dr. Graig Uhlin, Group II
Dr. Richard Boles, Group II
Dr. Kevin Moore, Group III
Dr. Bryan Hoskins, Group III

Dr. Marten Brienens, Group IV
Dr. Erin Dyke, Group V
Dr. Chris Eck, Group V
Dr. Joshua Butcher, Group VI

Graduate College:

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

Guests:

Abiola Samson, GPSGA President

Dr. Lacombe called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the January 23, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Dr. Brienens and seconded by Dr. Eck. This motion was approved.

GPSGA Report

Spring 2026 General Assembly Schedule - The GPSGA continues its monthly sessions for the Spring 2026 semester. We continue to welcome representatives and liaisons from the Tulsa and OKC campuses via our virtual attendance options.

Held: First Meeting: Wednesday, January 28 | 5:30 PM | Animal Science 123

Second Meeting: Wednesday, February 25 | 5:30 PM | Animal Science 123

Guest speaker: The Chief of the OSU Police Department

Third Meeting: Wednesday, March 25 | Location TBA

Fourth and Final Meeting: Wednesday, April 22 | Location TBA

Phoenix Award Committee Announcement - Nominations are still officially open for the 2026 Phoenix Awards. These awards recognize the highest levels of excellence in the graduate

community. Phoenix award is now being opened for the Doctoral Student Phoenix Award, Master's Student Phoenix Award, Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Phoenix Award and Graduate Faculty Mentorship Phoenix Award. Timeline: Applications opened in December 2025 and will close in late March 2026.

Strategic Plan for Spring Semester - Our primary objective this semester is to strengthen communication between the administration and graduate student body. Guest Speaker: We have finalized arrangements to host the Dean of the Graduate College. She will be providing updates on new developments and address specific student concerns previously tabled at the fourth general assembly.

Key Issues & Advocacy Priorities - Based on feedback from the General Assembly, the GPSGA is prioritizing the following issues; International Student Advocacy: Addressing the significant concerns regarding immigration status and OPT card

APC Items

A motion to approve the APC expedited items was made by Dr. Brien. The motion was approved.

New Programs (requires full Grad Council review and vote):

1. HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION, GCRT – skills for administrative roles in higher education
2. STUDENT AFFAIRS, GCRT – skills for administrative roles in student affairs
3. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ADMINISTRATION, GCRT – for industry professionals who want to update/retool their knowledge [CET 5703 is in the workflow to be included next academic year]
4. STATISTICS, GCRT – for professionals; other land grants have this certificate and do well with it
5. MS-ENT-CNST: Engineering Technology: Construction Project Administration, MS – currently no program in Oklahoma and students/residents must go out of state (e.g. Kansas) [FEMP 5033 is in workflow to get in the catalog]

Expedited

Deletion:

1. GCRT-BDA: BIG DATA ANALYTICS, GCRT – continued low enrollment. Email included of current department support for deletion even as the actual petition is dated.

Modifications

2. PHD-MCMB: MICROBIOLOGY, CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, PHD – remove GRE for admission, reduce credit hours to be competitive with other programs

3. PHD-GEOL: GEOLOGY, PHD – course modifications for post-masters students to better serve students
4. PHD-STAT: STATISTICS, PHD – created option (reduced hours) for post-masters
5. PHD-ELEN: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, PHD – reduction in credit hours from 73 to 67. Same number of credits as post-baccalaureate but may use some credits from MS to the 67.
6. MS-ELS-EH-HIED: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP STUDIES:HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION, MS – name change to degree to better represent degree. Reduction from 36 to 30 credits per OSHRE guidance.
7. MS- AGEL-FC: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP,MS – course modifications to better serve students
8. MS-GS: GLOBAL STUDIES, MS – remove foreign language requirement as it served as barrier to degree, remove course as no longer being taught
9. MA-ARTH: ART HISTORY, MA – course modifications to provide more flexibility for students
10. MS-MCMB: MICROBIOLOGY, CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY,MS – remove GRE for admission, change in required courses to better serve students.
11. MS-HORT-FC: HORTICULTURE, MS – course modifications to better serve students
12. MAG-GNAG-FC-AGLE: GENERAL AGRICULTURE:AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP,MAG – course modifications to better serve students
13. PHD-ELPS-EH-HIED: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICYSTUDIES: HIGHER EDUCATION, PHD – course modifications (streamline courses) to better serve students

Graduate College Report

3MT - Dean Morgan announced the 2025 3MT winner, Suman Poudel, has advanced to the final at the 2026 CSGS 3MT Competition.

EdVision – Dr. Powers is currently testing the EdVision software for use in advising her interdisciplinary students.

ISS - An email recently was sent from ISS to International Students regarding status and updates to bills filed in Oklahoma legislature that could impact international student education; email assured students that these bills were being tracked and any necessary updates would be communicated. International applications are down but admission offers are up as of this update.

New Business

Strategic Plan – Dean Morgan announced the survey was distributed to faculty, staff and students and participation has been requested by President Hess. The results of that survey should be available next week on the Strategic Plan webpage.

Policy 4.0; 4.1 OSU Faculty Members (page 6) Graduate College Policy Manual states that current OSU Faculty may not obtain additional degrees from OSU. Faculty Council is in favor of Graduate Council removing it. Discussion will be tabled for a future meeting.

Cancelled classes – Notification of classes that have been canceled due to low enrollment should come from Department Heads. Discussion occurred on how to make this more consistent.

Old Business *none*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13.