

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes January 23, 2026

Present:

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

Dr. Peter Richtsmeier, Group IV
Dr. Marten Brienens, Group IV
Dr. Chris Eck, Group V
Dr. Joshua Butcher, Group VI
Dr. Rudra Channappanavar, 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. Morgan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the November 21, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Dr. Brienens and seconded by Dr. Deng. This motion was approved.

APC Items

Expedited
December 2025

1. EDS-EDUC-EH-EADM: Education: Educational Administration, EDS
Course modification and offer an online program delivery.
2. GCRT-FMEG: Fashion Merchandising, GCRT
Deletion: There have been no students enrolled.
3. GCRT-SPED-EH: Special Education, GCRT
Offer online delivery.
4. MA-TH: Theatre, MA

Program deletion: The MA in Theatre has been dormant for nearly a decade, and there are no plans to revitalize it.

5. MS-CDIS: Communication Sciences and Disorders, MS

Course modification.

Remove GRE.

6. MS-CHEM: Chemistry, MS

Course modification.

7. MS-DM-EH-ADTS : Design and Merchandising: Apparel Design and Textile Science, MS

Course modification.

8. MS-DM-EH-ID : Design and Merchandising: Interior Design, MS

Course modification.

Remove GRE.

9. MS-DM-EH-MERC : Design and Merchandising: Merchandising, MS

Course modification.

Remove GRE.

10. MS-EPsy-EH-EPsy: Educational Psychology: Educational Psychology, MS

Course modifications.

11. MS-FCS-EH: Family and Community Services, MS

Reduced hours for degree: Per request from the IDEA online graduate program, this modification reflects a program change in required hours from 36 to 30 hours.

12. PHD-CHEM: Chemistry, PHD

Set 60 hours for degree requirements.

13. PHD-CPSY-EH: Counseling Psychology, PHD

Course modifications.

14. PHD-EPsy-EH-EPsy: Educational Psychology: Educational Psychology, PHD

Course modifications.

15. PHD-SPSY-EH: School Psychology, PHD

MS degree track option: Add option for student coming in with a master's degree; decrease required number of credit hours.

Remove GRE requirement.

Expedited

January 2026

1. PHD-SOCIOLOGY

Remove post-baccalaureate to doctoral program option from degree sheet. 2) Added footnote that graduate coursework outside the department is allowed as approved by advisory committee.

2. PHD BADM-FIN

Lowered course hours requirements to 60 and reorganized layout.

3. PHD BADM-MKTG

Modification to currently required course work. Removed MKTG 6413/6913 as well as MSIS 6343.

GPSGA Report

I. Observations: Graduate Commencement Protocol

Following recent observations of Fall 2025 commencement activities, I am suggesting a change regarding participation and visibility:

- **Executive Mandate:** While university ambassadors and general volunteers participate on a voluntary basis, it is now mandatory for all GPSGA Executive Members to be present at the Graduate Commencement.
- **Professionalism:** All executives must wear official name tags to remain identifiable to students, parents, and administration. This ensures that the leadership team is accessible and visible during one of the university's most significant events.

II. Spring 2026 General Assembly Schedule

The GPSGA will resume 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.

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

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

Third Meeting: Wednesday, March 25 | Location TBA

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

III. Phoenix Award Committee Announcement

Nominations are now 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**
- **Graduate Faculty Mentorship Phoenix Award**

Timeline: Applications opened in December 2025 and will close in **late March 2026**.

IV. Strategic Plan for Spring Semester

Our primary objective this semester is to bridge the communication gap between the administration and the graduate student body.

- **Guest Speakers:** We are finalizing arrangements to host the **Dean of the Graduate College** and the **Chief of the OSU Police Department**. They will provide updates on new developments and address specific student concerns previously tabled.
- **Confirmed Schedule:** The Dean of the Graduate College is currently scheduled to attend the **April General Assembly**.

IV. 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 delays for students from countries affected by partial or full travel/visa bans.

Graduate College Report

Enrollment – Dr. Morgan reported the Spring 2026 Graduate Student enrollment is up approximately 200 students overall. Stillwater campus is down 6%, Tulsa campus is up 16%. College of Health Sciences is up 23% and International Student enrollment is down 11%.

Zero Ending Courses – The request/policy change for zero-ending course be required to have a syllabus courses has received positive feedback from faculty.

EdVision – Is moving forward and is currently in the demonstration phase with the pilot scheduled for the next few weeks and anticipated deployment in Fall 2026.

New Business

TOEFL – Dr. Lovern the shared that the internet based test of English Proficiency (iBT) has changed their scoring method. Current scores from the old system will be good for 2 additional years from the test date. On the new scoring system, the required minimum admission score is 4.0 (overall) and the exemption minimum from having to take the ITA Exam is 5.5 on the Speaking section. Individual graduate programs may require higher scores.

Appeals Process – Dr. Lovern reported the Graduate College is working to clarify the student appeals process with no changes to the policy itself. He asked for feedback from the Graduate Council.

A motion to endorse the clarification was made by Dr. Brienens and seconded by Dr. Butcher. The motion passed.

Strategic Plan – Dean Morgan announced the Strategic Plan Committee has been meeting since December 2025. A survey will be distributed to faculty, staff and students and participation has been requested by President Hess. OSU is working with EAB to hold forums to gather information. The plan will be presented in June 2026 with the hopes of a final version for the Fall 2026 semester.

Old Business *none*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23.