

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes March 28, 2025

Present:

Dr. Veronique Lacombe, Vice Chair
Dr. Daniel Lin, Group I
Dr. Shiping Deng, Group I
Dr. Sarah Foss, Group II
Dr. Graig Uhlin, Group II
Dr. Kevin Moore, Group III

Dr. Marten Brienens, Group IV
Dr. Mike Yough, Group V
Dr. Erin Dyke, Group V
Dr. Joshua Butcher, Group VI
Dr. David Wallace, Group VI

Graduate College:

Dr. Matt Lovern, Associate Dean
Dr. Carol Powers, Assistant Dean

Dr. Lacombe called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

APC Discussion with Senior Vice Provost Chris Francisco – Dr. Francisco clarified the Data Science program requests and answered question from the council. A motion was made by Dr. Brienens and seconded by Dr. Yough to approve the previously tabled APC items. The motion was approved.

New Programs:

- Data Science, MS (Engineering)
- Data Science, MS (Computer Science)
- Data Science, MS (Math/Statistics)

• Program modifications, through an APC Expedited Review:

- Forensic Sciences: Forensic Document Examination, MS
- Environmental Science: Environmental Management Professional Science Masters, MS
- Design and Merchandising: Apparel Design and Textile Science, MS
- Electrical Engineering, PhD

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the March 28, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Dr. Brienens and seconded by Dr. Yough. This motion was approved.

GPSGA Report

GPSGA Stole Ceremony and GPSGA Stoles Checkout Process - During the March General Assembly, GPSGA hosted a stole ceremony to recognize the service of current board members to the graduate and professional and to inspire engagement in the upcoming elections. The GPSGA Stole honors the service and leadership of our current and former GPSGA representatives, liaisons, and officers by recognizing their contributions to the graduate and

professional student community. It celebrates their commitment and impact during their academic journey at OSU! The GPSGA Graduation Stole Checkout Process is now open for Spring 2025. Current and former GPSGA representatives, liaisons, and officers are eligible to borrow a stole for commencement. Stoles must be returned after graduation commencement. GPSGA Stoles may also be purchased for \$40.

GPSGA Funding Opportunities - GPSGA Travel Awards: Applications are due by March 31, 2025. Research Materials Grant: The reimbursement application will open in April, with a deadline at the end of the month. Collaborative Event through Co-sponsorship Funding. GPSGA co-sponsored a Business Seminar organized by the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association featuring Dr. Trost, who shared his inspiring journey from engineer to inventor to entrepreneur.

University Committee Updates - Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) Search
The search and screening committee reconvened in March following campus visits by four candidates. The final recommendation report has been submitted to the Provost for review.

Student Activity Fee Allocation Process (AFAP)

Group I Allocation: Coordination is underway to finalize the committee (7 members in accordance with policy), in collaboration with the SGA AFAP Chair and advisor. Hearings are anticipated to be completed before April 14, 2025.

Group II Allocation (Feb–April 2025): Hearings and presentations are ongoing.

- Departments Involved: Arts, Athletics, Campus Life, Dining, Hargis Leadership Institute, Housing & Residential Life, Music, Theater, Wellness.
- Meeting Schedule: Orientation, 4 Presentation Rounds, and Final Allocation Meeting
- Final allocations will be announced in mid-April 2025.

Graduate Education Month & Undergraduate Research Support - In celebration of Graduate Education Month in April, GPSGA is participating in the OSU Undergraduate Research Symposium to highlight mentorship and the importance of graduate education.

- OSU's 4th Undergraduate Research Symposium: April 22, 2025
- Feedback Provider Training: April 17 at 3:30 PM in GAB B-09
- Sign-up and session schedule available online.
- Over 70 more feedback providers are still needed across all disciplines.

Graduate College Program Updates Reminders Shared with the Graduate Student Community:

- 360° Critical Skills for Career Success Program
 - Platform updates have temporarily paused new submissions.
 - Previous submissions are retained.

- Students nearing eligibility for the Graduate Dean's Medallion should contact gradcareersuccess@okstate.edu by April 15.
- Students are encouraged to maintain personal records of their activities during this transition.
- Doctoral Candidacy Celebration
 - Rescheduled to April 1 at 3 PM; program begins at 3:30 PM.

GPSGA Phoenix Awards- The nomination period has closed. Evaluations are underway, and recipients will be announced following the review. Awardees will be invited to the Graduate College and GPSGA Awards Ceremony on April 30.

Into the Streets – Community Engagement Opportunity - GPSGA has created a volunteer group for Into the Streets on March 28, offering representatives and liaisons a chance to serve the Stillwater community and make up for one missed General Assembly meeting to remain in good standing.

Concerns from the General Assembly

- Graduate Student Housing: Members raised concerns about the long waitlist and abrupt communication regarding the new policies, changes, and availability of on-campus housing. Questions were raised about any potential plans for long-term planning for housing and infrastructure.
- Paused Funding for Programs: Representatives expressed uncertainty over suspended funding and budget priorities.
- Institutional Direction: GPSGA constituents requested clarity regarding the university's future directions following recent leadership changes.

Marcia discussed the concerns raised with Dr. Lovern. For the April General Assembly, we plan to reach out to Dr. Hess to check his availability and invite him to meet with the general assembly and provide the general assembly with an opportunity to ask questions related to the emerging concerns and questions.

Graduate College Report

Award Plaques – Dr. Lovern announced the award plaques celebrating graduate students, staff, and faculty have been installed on the wall outside the 2nd floor offices of the Graduate College.

Plan of Study – Dr. Lovern reported that submitted graduate applications are increasing each year and becoming more complicated, too, similar to issues seen in the rise of plans of study. Application processing times by our admissions officers are roughly equivalent to peer institutions but we still hope to increase capacity to handle applications in the near future.

New Business

Graduate Faculty Status Vote – Dr Powers reviewed the current Graduate Faculty up for vote. Sixty new or renewal applications were reviewed and approved at the level of Full or Associate

1-3 by the Subject Matter Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. A motion was made by Dr. Uhlin and seconded by Dr. Yough to approve all status updates. The motion passed.

ITA Exam – Dr. Powers announced there will be a special ITA Exam to be held on Friday, April 4th. There are 10 spots available. The departments will pay for the exams for their own students.

Subject Matter Group Reports –

Group I – fewer than 10 people attended. The 2 nominations were announced, bylaw discussion and approved the Graduate Faculty nominations.

Group II – Graduate Faculty nominations were voted on, stipends discussion.

Group III – Graduate Faculty applications, bylaws, Graduate credit for Jr/Sr level courses

Group V – officer nominations, bylaws, and degree credit hour reduced to 60 to be more competitive.

Group VI – application reviews, Graduate program updates, commencement volunteers, bylaws.

OSU Bus Schedule – Dr. Lacombe reported there are still no evening buses currently. Per the OSU website, there is a need for drivers.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Yough and seconded by Dr. Foss. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.