

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes March 27, 2026

Present:

Dr. Veronique Lacombe, Vice Chair
Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan, Group I
Dr. Yoo Kim, Group I
Dr. Richard Boles, Group II
Dr. Kevin Moore, Group III
Dr. Bryan Hoskins, Group III

Dr. Peter Richtsmeier, Group IV
Dr. Stephen Nemeth, Group IV
Dr. Marten Brienens, Group IV
Dr. Chris Eck, Group V
Dr. Joshua Butcher, Group VI
Dr. David Wallace, Group VI
Dr. Rudra Channappanavar, Goup 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 1:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the February 20, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Dr. Richtsmeier 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

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

Guest speaker: The Chief of the OSU Police Department

Held: Third Meeting: Wednesday, March 25 | 5:30 PM | Animal Science 123

Guest speaker: Dr. Frances Alvarado Albertorio (Graduate Initiatives and Engagement Librarian)

Fourth and Final Meeting: Wednesday, April 22 | 5:30 PM | Animal Science 123

▪ Guest Speaker: Dr. Morgan, Dean of the Graduate College

- GPSGA elections will commence following the meeting.

AFAP Allocation Committee Update - The AFAP Allocation Committee has convened and finalized funding decisions. All organizations that presented their projects were allocated funding. A small number of organizations that did not appear for their presentations received no allocation.

Phoenix Award Committee Announcement - Nominations for the 2026 Phoenix Awards are now officially closed. These awards recognize the highest levels of excellence within the graduate community. Evaluation period commences early April 2026, pending committee member confirmation.

Spring travel Assistance - Application Deadline: March 31, 2026. Exception applications will open immediately following the close of the standard application window.

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.

APC Items *none*

Graduate College Report

Applications - Dean Morgan reported that OSU applications are down 28% overall. Enroll was ~4900 and is currently ~3500. Also noted International applications are down 37% and Domestic applications are down 12%. Offers are up 35%.

SP26 Honorary Graduate Commencement Marshals – Dean Morgan announced the names of this Spring's Marshals as Jaime Lewandowski, Dayeon Lee, Chloe Hunsucker, Delaney Weisend and Marcia Sun. The Doctoral Marshals will carry the gonfalon and lead the Platform Party procession at the ceremony.

Commencement Ceremony Updates – Going forward, students who are earning a Graduate Certificate only (no degree) will no longer be recognized at the commencement ceremony due to space and time constraints. The Dean's congratulations portion will also be cut from the video for the same reasons.

EdVision – The Registrar's office is on track for the pilot study to be ready by Summer 2026.

Retake Policy – The policy has been enacted and 1 student has taken advantage so far. The *policy will appear in this year's course catalogue*.

Zero – Ending Course Syllabus – Scheduled for the next Faculty Council.

New Business

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. Discussion and motion: approve the spirit of allowing faculty to pursue a degree at OSU was made by Dr. Butcher and seconded by Dr. Ramanathan. The motion passed. Dean Morgan will provide language options for the next meeting.

Strategic Plan – Dean Morgan announced the results of the survey are coming in shortly. She and VP Marsh will meet with President Hess on Monday, March 30th and then it will be before the Board of Regents in their June 2026 meeting.

April is Grad Ed Month – Dr. Powers announce the Doctoral Candidacy celebration will be held April 2 in the Starlight Terrace. Grad Ed Awards Ceremony is scheduled for April 29th and we will host a self-care event for students.

Old Business

Bylaws Update – Dr. Sheehan gave an update on the continuing bylaws revisions. Included are all Graduate Faculty man vote, the creation of one set of bylaws making them more inclusive and simplified.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Eck and seconded by Dr. Ramanathan and Dr. Channappanavar. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:29.