

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes October 25, 2024

Present:

Dr. Vernique Lacombe, Vice Chair
Dr. Shiping Deng, Group I
Dr. McKale Montgomery, Group I
Dr. Sarah Foss, Group II
Dr. Graig Uhlin, Group II
Dr. Jessie Mao, Group III
Dr. Kevin Moore, Group III

Dr. Peter Richtsmeier Group IV
Dr. Erin Dyke, Group IV
Dr. Stephen Nemeth, Group IV
Dr. Mike Yough, Group V
Dr. Joshua Butcher, Group VI
Dr. David Wallace, Group V

Guest: Marcia Sun, GPSGA

Graduate College:

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

Dr. Lacombe called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the September 27, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Dr. Deng and seconded by Dr. Yough. This motion was approved.

Graduate Faculty Status for Dr. Carol Powers – a motion was made by Dr. Yough and seconded by Dr. Butcher to approve Full Graduate Faculty Status for Dr. Powers for her to advise the Interdisciplinary Program. This motion was approved.

APC Items – Dr. Lovern provided a brief description of the nine APC items listed below. A motion was made by Dr. Foss to accept these changes and updates. The motion passed.

- Program Requirement Change: Hidden Student Populations, GCRT
- Program Requirement Change: Online Teaching, GCRT
- Existing Program Online Delivery: Social Foundations of Education, MA
- Program Requirement Change: Educational Technology, MS
- Program Requirement Change: Educational Leadership Studies: Higher Education, MS
- Program Requirement Change: Human Development and Family Science: Applied Human Services, MS
- Program Requirement Change: Family and Consumer Sciences Education, MS
- Program Requirement Change: Human Development and Family Science, PhD

- Option Suspension: Human Sciences: Human Development and Family Science, PhD

GPSGA Report

GPSGA Fall Welcome Reception & Leadership Session for OSU LeadWeek welcomed nearly 200 attendees, both online and in-person, from Stillwater, OKC, and Tulsa. Special thanks to the Graduate College leadership team for serving as guest speakers at the event.

Leadership Session (OSU LeadWeek Collaboration with OMA): The session, held in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, was at full capacity with about 30 attendees. Participants wishing to receive a digital badge for the session can contact marcia.sun@okstate.edu.

GPSGA's Participation in the 2024 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award - A GPSGA representative contributed to the selection process for the 2024 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award, assisting with the evaluation of 12 nominees from different colleges.

GPSGA Executive Board Vacancies & Ambassador Program - GPSGA is actively seeking to fill two vacant Executive Board positions. The GPSGA Ambassador Program has welcomed two new ambassadors. This initiative, launched two years ago, aims to prepare future GPSGA leaders for potential executive roles in the spring semester.

GPSGA's Participation in "Into the Streets" Volunteer Initiative – Fall 2024 - The "Into the Streets" volunteer program, now in its third year, continues this semester. GPSGA forms groups of graduate students for participation in this community volunteer event each semester.

Upcoming GPSGA General Assembly - The third General Assembly Meeting for Fall 2024 will take place on Wednesday, October 30, at 5:30 PM in SSH 035. Representatives and liaisons from Tulsa and OKC can participate online.

GPSGA Travel Assistance & Fund Information (Fall 2024)

- The Fall 2024 Travel Assistance Application is open, with a deadline of Thursday, October 31. Applicants should review the GPSGA Travel Assistance Information Page before submitting.
- Post-conference reports for Travel Assistance and visual reports for the Co-Sponsorship Fund must be uploaded to Canvas. The Finance Committee will review applications at the end of the semester, with notifications to follow.

GPSGA Committee Assignments - Committee assignments for all GPSGA representatives and liaisons are available on the GPSGA Community Canvas page. Committee chairs will be in touch to schedule online meetings to discuss tasks.

GPSGA Phoenix Awards - The Phoenix Award applications will be open from October 28, 2024, to March 10, 2025. No late submissions will be accepted. The application is available via

Microsoft Forms on the GPSGA Canvas Community page. Each applicant may only submit one application per category. For questions, contact sonika.poudel@okstate.edu.

Graduate Student Wellness Concerns - Online graduate students, especially those out-of-state, have voiced concerns about accessing OSU wellness resources. They reported difficulty in scheduling virtual therapy appointments and joining graduate support groups due to counselor licensing restrictions. They also shared a need for more options in addition to BetterHelp.

Graduate College Report

Dr. Morgan offered congratulations to Dr. Rebecca Sheehan. The OSU Board of Regents voted to approve her appointment as Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College.

A reminder that 3MT is scheduled for November 12, 2024.

Donuts with the Dean is scheduled for October 31 from 9:00 – 10:00 in 101 GAB, The Graduate Student Success Center.

Plan of Study Update – a process is being put into place to increase efficiency and make the process more automated.

New Admissions Officer – an offer will be made later today to a recent interviewee to fill the vacant admissions officer position in the Graduate College.

Old Business

Subject Matter Group Elections - Group V elected Dr. Erin Dyke as Vice Chair, Dr. Yu Feng was elected as Secretary of Group III. Group IV will be electing a new secretary in the next 2 weeks.

Updating Subject Matter Group By-Laws – Dr. Lacombe announced that Dean Morgan has charged Graduate Council to review and edit the current Subject Matter Group by-laws. This committee will include one member of each Subject Matter Group as listed below. Dr. Véronique Lacombe will serve as the Chair and Dr. Rebecca Sheehan as ex officio member.

Group I Dr. Shiping Deng

Group IV Dr. David Wallace

Group II Dr. Graig Uhlin

Group V Dr. Erin Dyke

Group III Dr. Jessie Mao

Group VI Dr. Stephen Nemeth

Leave of Absence Policy – Dr. Sheehan reminded the council of the new wording that was approved at the September meeting. A suggestion was made to revise the wording. A motion was made by Dr. Richtsmeier and seconded by Dr. Butcher to approve the revised wording.

New Business

Communication from Graduate Council to Faculty – Dr. Lacombe highlighted the mechanisms by which the information from the Graduate College & Council is shared with the Faculty (e.g., Monday memo, monthly reports at the Faculty Council meetings). It was further suggested that minutes of the GC meetings be distributed to the Graduate Coordinators.

Graduate College Office Hours – Dr. Sheehan reported that the Matriculation Team will be hosting Zoom office hours each week for Graduate Coordinators to ask questions. This information will be announced each week in the Monday Memo.

Data Clean Up – Dr. Powers gave an update of the ongoing data clean up process. With assistance from IRA (Institutional Research and Analytics) it was found that many students do not have an advisor listed in Banner. It was also noted that the time to apply for graduate certificates is incorrect.

Graduate Faculty Status – Dr Morgan reported that Dr. Powers is also leading the clean up project for the Graduate Faculty Database.

Graduate Application – Dr. Morgan announced that Spears School of Business would like to add “How did you find out about Graduate School?” to the application.

3000/4000 Level Classes – Dr. Jessie Mao indicated that the “starred version” of 3000- and 4000-level classes for graduate credit was removed several years ago. This change has created challenges for some graduate students who would benefit from technical courses outside their previous studies. Currently, this is handled on an ad-hoc basis by creating a graduate section of the course that meets alongside the undergraduate class, with additional coursework requirements. However, when the course falls outside of the student's department, this process becomes cumbersome or even impossible. Graduate Council discussed approaches to help streamline this process.

Subject Matter Group Reports –

Group I - new Leave of Absence policy was discussed along with Graduate Faculty Data.

Group II – a vote was taken for renewals and new members of the Graduate Faculty. Discussion was held on recruiting International students and it was suggested a Graduate Coordinator event be held each semester.

Group III – discussions over 3000/4000 level classes and by-laws were held.

Group IV – International Student assistance was discussed.

Group V – elections of officers, by-laws and Graduate Faculty Database were discussed, as well as the role of the Graduate representative on graduate committees. The latest will be further discussed at upcoming GC meeting.

Group VI – there were 20 applications to review. Reports of the 8 Graduate programs and highlights of the general Graduate Faculty meeting were provided.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Yough and seconded by Dr. Deng. Meeting adjourned at 3:08.