

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 21, 2025, 3:00 pm**  
**3105 Gardner Commons**

**Council Members Present:** Paul Stout, Donna Ziegenfuss, David Symons, José Gutiérrez, Codrina Rada, Glen Schmidt, Misty Smith, Julie Valentine, Robert Keiter, Kent Golic, Ramesh Goel, Janet Lindsley, Patrick Panos

**Student Representative Present:** Steven Valdez

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Darryl Butt, Helene Shugart, Katrina Green, Anthony Jones, Karen Paisley

**Excused members:** Erin Mason, Jay Jordan

**Graduate School Staff Present:** Paula Spencer, Mary Anne Berzins

**Welcome:** Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

- Thanked Graduate Council members who are completing their three-year term
- Discussed need for additional Graduate Council meeting on May 12 to address:
  - Backlog of 7-year reviews
  - Administrative unit changes
  - Role of Graduate Council in light of legislative and policy changes

**Proposal:** New Program - Professional Masters of Materials Engineering and Management

Presenter: Michael Free, Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Discussion took place about:

- Resolution of Graduate Council concerns from March 31 presentation
  - Student engagement for online students
  - Learning outcomes assessments
  - Course mapping
  - Student demand

The Council discussed the following:

- Concern for market demand
- Need for continuous improvement of online delivery

**Motion to approve:** Patrick Panos

**Second:** Ramesh Goel

**Vote:** Yes-12, No-1, Abstain-1

**Action:** Approve the program and give feedback regarding meeting market demand and demonstrating continuous improvement to online delivery.

**7-Year Review:** Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies – MSRT Program

Presentation by review committee chair: Julie Valentine

Discussion took place about:

- Positive remarks from students
- Potential for online programs
- Concerns about facilities
- Budget issues
- Need for grant management support
- Potential for marketing program

**Motion to ratify report:** Janet Lindsley

**Second:** José Gutiérrez

**Vote:** Yes-14, No-0, Abstain – 0

**7-Year Review: Environmental Humanities Program**

Presentation by review committee chair: Robert Keiter

Discussion took place about:

- Funding for program
- Strong national reputation
- International and domestic student success
- Need for dedicated career-line faculty
- Processes for retaining core faculty
- Graduate student teaching assignments

**Motion to ratify report:** Kent Golic

**Second:** Donna Ziegenfuss

**Vote:** Yes-14, No-0, Abstain-0

**7-Year Review: Department of Philosophy**

Presentation by review committee chair: Janet Lindsley

Discussion took place about:

- Nationally ranked program
- Interdisciplinary nature of program
- Faculty workload issues
- Perception of inequities with faculty roles and assignments
- Need for better pre- and post-award grant support
- Graduate learning outcomes

**Motion to ratify report:** Glen Schmidt

**Second:** Misty Smith

**Vote:** Yes-14, No-0, Abstain-0

**Proposal: New Program – Transportation Infrastructure Electrification Certificate**

Presenter: Cathy Liu, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Discussion took place about:

- Resolution of Graduate Council recommendations from March 31 presentation
- Refined learning outcomes
- Working on registration procedures
- Concerns about logistics for registering and tracking students have not been resolved

**Motion to approve program contingent on resolving logistical details with Registrar, Bursar, and**

**Financial Aid:** Patrick Panos

**Second:** Codrina Rada

**Vote:** Yes-14, No-0, Abstain-0

**Action:** Approve program upon confirmation that concerns have been resolved

**Proposal: International Three Year Degrees**

Presenter: Helene Shugart, Graduate School

Discussion took place about:

- Proposal has been socialized and vetted with the following groups
  - Academic Leadership Team, ALT
  - Council of Academic Deans
  - Enrollment Management
  - Admissions
  - Directors of Graduate Studies and Graduate Coordinators
- Does not apply to domestic three-year degrees
- Procedure allows for an application to be accepted into the system; does not guarantee admission to a program
- Consistent with peer institutions
- Ensures that the university remains competitive and maintains international vibrancy

**Motion to approve proposal:** Patrick Panos

**Second:** Julie Valentine

**Vote:** Yes-13, No-0, Abstain-0

**Adjourn**