

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 18, 2025, 3:00 pm
3105 Gardner Commons

Chaired by: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

Council Members Present: Darryl Butt, Codrina Rada, Julie Valentine, Kaylee Alexander, Kody Powell, Paul Stout, Sharlene Kiuahara, Fan-Chi Lin, Glen Schmidt, David Symons, Patrick Panos, Donna Ziegenfuss (former member)

Student Representatives Present: Steven Valdez, Harleen Saini

Ex Officio Members Present: Karen Paisley, Katrina Green, Erin Mason, Anthony Jones, Helene Shugart

Excused members: James Keddington, Janet Lindsley, Robert Keiter, Jay Jordan, Jim Agutter, Ramón Barthelmy, Kuby Balagurunathan, Corey Bois (student representative)

Graduate School Staff Present: Paula Spencer

Welcome: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

Discussion: College Restructuring and Reorganization

Presenter: Peter Trapa, Vice Provost and Senior Dean of the Colleges and Schools of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dean Trapa provided updates on the following:

- Goals of shared services under the Colleges and Schools of Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS)
 - Improve quality of services
 - Address inequities
 - Encourage professional communities
 - Avoid duplication of effort and inefficiencies
- Implementation status of shared services integration
 - Advising, advancement, facilities, and safety is complete
 - In process for administrative support and finance
- Process of integration of the School for Cultural and Social Transformation (Transform) into the College of Humanities.
 - Strong faculty support from both units
 - Plans to expedite proposal through university review and approval processes
- Status of merger of Economics Department and QAMO into the School of Business
 - Three candidates for the chair position will have on campus interviews
 - The successful merger of Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering provides a model for this process

Update on move of Curriculum Administration to the Registrar's Office

Erin Mason

- New structure is consistent with arrangements at other universities.
- The goal is to improve cohesiveness between the two services.
- The change coincides with the new degree audit system.

Summary of Graduate Council duties:

Darryl Butt

- Review new program proposals (checklist was provided)
- Conduct 7-year reviews with a possible change to 5 year reviews
- New member orientation will be provided at a future meeting

Proposal: MFA Dance Name Change

Presentation by Daniel Clifton (School of Dance)

Discussion focused on the following rationale for change:

- “Modern Dance” is a dated term now associated with a specific time period. The new name more appropriately represents the breadth of the curriculum.
- Student and faculty support the change
- New name has potential to attract more students

In deliberations, the Council inquired about departmental faculty approval processes

Motion: Approve the program after details are provided on how faculty approval was secured

Motion by: Sharlene Kiuvara

Second: Codrina Rada

Vote: Yes-12, No-0, Abstain-0

Action: Approve change upon receipt of requested information

7-Year Review (2024-25): Neuroscience Ph.D. Program

Presentation by Donna Ziegenfuss (former Council member), review committee chair

The program was commended for interdisciplinary collaborations, high graduate placement, and strong leadership. The report’s recommendations advised the program in the areas of faculty and partner engagement across campus, administrative support, and improvements to curriculum and student advising.

Motion to ratify the report: Steven Valdez

Second: Glen Schmidt

Vote: Yes-12; No-0; Abstain-0

7-Year Review (2023-24): School of Music

Presentation by Patrick Panos on behalf of *ad hoc* committee chair, Misty Smith

The school was commended for its teaching excellence and community ties. The report’s recommendations focused on sustainable strategic planning and updating the undergraduate curriculum..

Motion to ratify the report: Sharlene Kiuvara

Second: Codrina Rada

Vote: Yes-12; No-0; Abstain-0

Adjourn