

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 22, 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 Kiuvara, Fan-Chi Lin, Glen Schmidt, David Symons, James Keddington, Janet Lindsley, Ramón Barthelmy, Jim Agutter, Jay Jordan

Student Representatives Present: Steven Valdez, Harleen Saini, Corey Bois

Ex Officio Members Present: Karen Paisley, Katrina Green, Helene Shugart

Excused Members: Kuby Balagurunathan, Anthony Jones (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff Present: Paula Spencer

Welcome: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

Proposal: Restructure of School of Cultural and Social Transformation (Transform)

Presenters: Wanda Pillow, College of Humanities and Ella Myers, Gender/Ethnic Studies

Discussion took place about the following:

- Proposal is to restructure Transform as an academic department within the College of Humanities
- Rationale for the change
- History of Transform
- Faculty and College of Humanities support
- Minimal to no impact on faculty lines, student services, facilities
- Timeline for formal approval
- Gender and Ethnic Studies will maintain its presence within the College of Humanities
- Maintaining representation on Faculty Senate

Graduate Council deliberations focused on the following:

- Impact on faculty retention
- Meritoriousness of proposal, considering the exigent circumstances
- Implications for current SCST faculty representation on governance bodies

Motion: Vote on proposal – Jay Jordan

Second: Jim Agutter

Vote: Yes -17 ; No-1; Abstain-0

Discussion: Changes to Policy 6-100

Presenter: Chase Hagood, Office of Undergraduate Studies

Discussion about revising *Policy 6-100-Evaluation and Instruction* focused on the following:

- Broad representation of working group
- Context and impetus for review and revision
- Iterative process of revision
- Timeline for final approval

Action: Request possible return to give progress update in November

New Program Proposal: Criminology MA/MS

Presenters: Kim Korinek and Heather Melton, Department of Sociology and Criminology

Discussion took place about the following:

- Popularity of undergraduate criminology program
- Benchmarking with peer institutions
- Market analysis and industry demand
- Consultation with Weber State
- Comparison of “criminal justice” vs. “criminology” programs, including different CIP code
- Faculty support
- Advising plan
- Trajectory of potential program growth and revenue generation
- Comparison of MA and MS program curricula

Graduate Council deliberations focused on the following:

- Lack of distinction between MA and MS curricula
- Need for more robust assessment plan (beyond portfolio assessment)
- Confidence in enrollment projections
- Changing nature of advising

Motion: Approve MS program only – Glen Schmidt

Second: Kaylee Alexander

Vote: yes-18; no-0; Abstain-0

Action: Notify department of MS approval. Recommend strengthening assessment plan and clarifying advising structure. Invite opportunity to amend proposal for MA approval.

Curriculum Change Proposals: Multiple changes to Nursing MS and DNP

Presenter: Emily Winn, College of Nursing

Discussion took place about the following:

- Accreditor expectations
- Need for pediatric acute care providers in Utah
- Online potential to support new Primary Children’s campus in Nevada
- Benchmarking peer programs
- Alignment of proposed certificates with existing emphases
- Changes present low burden for curriculum development

Graduate Council deliberations focused on the following:

- Thoroughness of proposals
- Lack of assessment plans for some of the proposals

Motion: Approve all ten proposals as a slate – Jim Agutter

Second: Glen Schmidt

Vote: yes-18; no-0; Abstain-0

Action: Notify department of approval, pending upload of absent assessment plans .

Seven Year Review: Department of Anthropology

Presenter: David Symons, Review Committee Chair

The department was commended for its high impact and internationally recognized research and training. Excellent facilities, department culture and outcomes were also commended.

Recommendations centered around strategies for growth, funding opportunities and learning outcomes assessment for the undergraduate program

Motion to ratify the report: Jay Jordan

Second: Kaylee Alexander

Vote: yes-18; no-0; Abstain-0

Seven Year Review: Latin American Studies Program

Presenter: Codrina Rada, Review Committee Chair

The program was commended for its robust interdisciplinary and global connections. Faculty and staff demonstrate a deep commitment to the program. Recommendations focused on formalization of faculty appointment agreements, undergraduate curriculum expansion, community building and funding opportunities.

Motion to ratify the report: Janet Lindsay

Second: Kaylee Alexander

Vote: yes-18; no-0; Abstain-0

Adjourn