

Graduate Council

April 23, 2026

Minutes

Present: Kaitlin Ensor, Mari Clements, Dwight Heaster, JD Carpenter, Scott Beatty, Jeff Bryson, Connie Stout, Liam Condon, Robin Meadows, Rachel Adams

Absent: Gerda Kumpiene, Adrian Duelley, Kevin Evans

Guest: Ann Reed, Ashley Nicholas

Call to Order

- Approval of Minutes
 - Dwight motioned to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2026, meeting; JD seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, and Teaching Fellows
 - Dwight presented a rough draft for the catalog language. Changes were made during the meeting. Dwight will update the document and send it to Academic Affairs.
 - Dwight motioned for the provost to discuss the funding for these positions with the CFA and AD. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.
- Master's in Clinical Psychology
 - No update

New Business

- Reaffirmation of Graduate Program Coordinators
 - Connie stated the Education department approved of Gerda serving as the Coordinator.
 - JD stated that the Business department approved of Dwight serving as coordinator.
 - Scott stated the Criminal Justice department approved of him serving as coordinator and the Jeff will serve as the administrative proxy for the department.
 - Kaitlin stated the Social Sciences department approved of her serving as the coordinator. Liam Condon will be serving as the Director of Clinical Psychology.
- Nomination/Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 26/27 Academic Year

- Scott nominated Jeff for the position of chair and he accepted the nomination.
- Connie nominated Kaitlin for the position of chair and she accepted the nomination.
 - Academic Affairs will send the ballot electronically. The Council also decided that the winner of the vote will serve as chair, the runner-up will serve as vice chair.
- Academic Appeals Bylaws
 - Ann presented the Academic Appeals Committee bylaws to the Council in order to discuss a Graduate Council Member serving on the Committee in cases where a graduate student may make an appeal.
 - Council agreed that the representative should be chosen by Faculty Senate. Dwight is interested in serving and Connie would be interested in serving as the alternate.
 - Jeff motioned to recommend Dwight serve as the representative and Connie as the alternate representative of the Graduate Council on the Academic Appeals Committee. Scott seconded. Motion passed.
- Course Rotations
 - Mari suggested that the Graduate Coordinators and Department Chairs review course rotations and submit clear and solid rotations in the fall.
- Hooding Ceremony
 - Mari suggested not holding a hooding ceremony in December starting next fall. Graduates from December would be invited to the May ceremony.
- Graduate Council Student Representative
 - Scott nominated Victoria Osborne, he also volunteered to reach out to her to see if she is interested. If she accepts she will be added to the ballot along with the chair and vice chair positions.