

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, March 28, 2025 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Faculty Center

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Dennis LaJeunesse, Chair	Aileen Reid
Ben Dyson, Chair-Elect	Gwen Schug
Lakshmi Iyer	Robert Wells
Brad Johnson	Wanda Williams
Vladislav Maksimov	Melody Patterson Zoch
Salih Rakap	

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Diane Gill	Terry Chavis
Marianne LeGreco	Yolanda Ikazaoboh
Christian Moraru	

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

Greg Bell	Graduate School
Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office
Jodi Pettazzoni	Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	<p>I. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2025</p> <p>Motion to approve February 28, 2025 minutes (Johnson, Dyson). Minutes approved.</p>
11:03	<p>II. Report of the Chair—Dennis LaJeunesse</p> <p>Chair LaJeunesse expressed concern for international students and the possibility of their visas being revoked and being unable to graduate. He inquired whether students could defend earlier if needed and graduate in a following term, which Dean Bell confirmed. The Council discussed that students could defend their dissertations virtually but would need to be enrolled in the semester in which they defend. Dean Bell stated that students cannot work as graduate/teaching assistants while located in other countries but may be able to do so from nearby states depending on agreements with Human Resources. Council members stated that international students are hesitant to travel internationally or fly within the U.S. and are missing out on conferences and other opportunities. The Council voiced a need for Maria Anastasiou from the Global Engagement Office to speak to the Graduate Council or the Graduate Faculty regarding the current situation of international students and how faculty can support them. Dean Bell will reach out to her.</p>

- 11:13 **III. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell**
- Dean Bell reported that the Graduate School has seen a 20% increase in applications and a 2.5% increase in admissions. There is also a 7% increase in students who have indicated they are planning to enroll. April 15 is the deadline for students to respond to financial offers of support. Today is the deadline for the final round of fellowship nominations, and the Graduate School is trying to send the last offers before April 15.
- The Graduate Showcase poster competition will take place on April 3, 1-3:30 in EUC Cone Ballroom, and the Council is encouraged to attend. The Showcase is part of the ResearchCon activities that go through April 10.
- The Graduate School Graduation Ceremony will be on May 8.
- 11:28 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Terry Chavis**
- No report, but Brad Johnson reminded the Council that Graduate Student Appreciation Week is the second week of April.
- 11:38 **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Robert Wells**
- *GCC Information Items (from February 28, 2025 meeting)*
- Chair Wells stated that Andrew Hamilton presented two School of Education proposals related to the DEI memo, which were approved. The committee also approved a program revision for the School of Nursing and tabled a new course from the School of Theatre for additional information. The committee approved a new concentration form presented by Jodi Pettazoni and continued their discussion of the timing of program discontinuations.
- 11:48 **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Brad Johnson**
- *Academic Recovery Policies*
- Chair Johnson presented the Academic Recovery Policies:
- *Selective Course Academic Recovery Appeal*
 - *Fresh Start Academic Recovery Appeal*
- Vladislav Maksimov inquired if time limits for degrees would still be relevant if students utilized the policies, and Dean Bell responded that they would be if they used the Selective Course Academic Recovery Appeal (if the Fresh Start Academic Recovery Appeal is used, all prior coursework will no longer count toward degree requirements). Vladislav also asked how the period of three years was chosen for the Fresh Start Academic Recovery Appeal, and Maria Hayden answered that since the policy is a significant edit to the student’s academic record, there needs to be a significant change in the student’s circumstances. The Council did not express any concerns regarding the policies, and they will be voted upon at the next Graduate Faculty meeting.

11:58 **VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No report**

12:00 pm **VIII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Dennis LaJeunesse**

Chair LaJeunesse stated there was discussion in the Faculty Senate of removing the Graduate Council representative from the Executive Committee but that they decided to keep the representative to facilitate communication.

Chair LaJeunesse encouraged the Council to attend the upcoming meetings of the Faculty Senate, which will include a resolution from the EDI committee. There will also be further discussion of Wellness Day.

12:30 **IX. Adjournment**