

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**September 17, 2025**

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 3:30pm in 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Mary Ager, Matthew Bilskie, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Jim Conklin, Kelly Dyer, Kerstin Emerson, Jennifer Graff, Andrew Grundstein, Jack Huang, Alexa Lamm Rebecca Matthew, Sheba Mohankumar, Jeff Mullen, Priya Narayanan, Ginger Orton, Alison Smith, Amy Stich, Bart Wojdyski. Graduate Student Association: Aina Aishat, Eben Boakye, Emerson Moon. Graduate School: Ron Walcott, Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, Chazz Jordan.

Members absent: Alex Anderson, Vivian Appler, Ted Christensen, Luis Correa-Diaz, Janette Hill, Craig Osenberg, Laura Rider, Geoffrey Sheagley.

VP/Dean Ron Walcott called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Graduate Council Committee Chairs:**

A. Administrative Committee  
Ron Walcott, Ex Officio Member  
No report.

B. Appeals Committee  
Kerstin Emerson, Acting Chair

Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met twice.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, the Appeals Committee heard an appeal for Graduate School dismissal due to low GPA. Those in attendance were: AnnaMarie Conner, Mary Ager, Jeff Mullen, Kerstin Emerson, Laura Rider, Luis Correra-Diaz, Amy Stich. From the Graduate School: Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Chazz Jordan. The vote was to uphold the decision of the Graduate School and deny the appeal: 0 yes, 7 no.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Appeals Committee heard an appeal for Graduate School dismissal due to low GPA. Those in attendance were: Craig Osenberg, Alex Anderson, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Kerstin Emerson, and Ebenezer Boakye. From the Graduate School: Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Chazz Jordan. The vote was to approve the appeal and reinstate the student to the Graduate School: 6 yes, 0 no.

C. Policy and Planning Committee  
Bart Wojdyski, Chair  
No report.

D. Program Committee  
Jeff Mullen, Chair

Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved eight proposals via Microsoft Teams. The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.

Action Item 1: From the College of Veterinary Medicine, a proposal to offer a new Area of Emphasis in Diagnostic Medicine under the Certificate of Clinical Internship. *Approved 22-0-0*

Action Item 2: From the Terry College of Business, a proposal to terminate the Professional Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at the Gwinnett Campus only. *Approved 22-0-0*

Action Item 3: From the Terry College of Business Department of Management Information Systems, a proposal to rename the online Master of Business and Technology (MBT) to the online Master of Artificial Intelligence in Business (MAIB). *Approved 22-0-0*

Action Item 4: From the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, a proposal to transfer the NAMS course prefix and associated graduate certificates from the Department of Religion to the Institute of Native Studies. *Approved 22-0-0*

Action Item 5: From the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Department of History, a proposal to add a new Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies. *Approved 22-0-0*

Action Item 6: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to add new Areas of Emphasis under the online Educational Specialist degree for:

- a. Reading, Children's Literature, and Language Arts P-5
- b. Reading, Children's Literature, and Language Arts Grades 6-12

*Approved 21-0-1*

Action Item 7: From the Mary Francis Early College of Education Department of Language and Literacy Education a proposal to terminate the Areas of Emphasis under the online Master of Education (MED) in Reading Education for:

- a. Elementary Education P-5
- b. Secondary Education 6-12

*Approved 21-0-1*

Action Item 8: From the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, a proposal to offer a new online Masters of Natural Resources (MNR) degree. *Approved 21-0-1*

## **Information Items**

- A. Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 50 new courses, 77 course revisions, and 2 deletions.
- B. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 22, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.