

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**February 4, 2026**

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Vivian Appler, Matthew Bilskie, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Jim Conklin, Jennifer Graff, Andrew Grundstein, Jack Huang, Alexa Lamm, Rebecca Matthew, Jeff Mullen, Priya Narayanan, Craig Osenberg, Laura Rider, Amy Stich, Bart Wojdyski. Graduate School: Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, Chazz Jordan.

Members absent: Mary Ager, Alex Anderson, Ted Christensen, Luis Correa-Diaz, Kelly Dyer, Kerstin Emerson, Janette Hill, Sheba Mohankumar, Ginger Orton, Geoffrey Sheagley, Alison Smith. Graduate Student Association: Aina Aishat, Eben Boakye, Emerson Moon. Graduate School: Ron Walcott.

Associate Dean Anne Shaffer called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Committee Reports:**

A. Appeals Committee  
Craig Osenberg, Chair

Since the last Graduate Council report, the Appeals Committee met on January 28 to review a low GPA dismissal appeal from a Terry College of Business student. Members in attendance: Craig Osenberg, Jennifer Brown, Ted Christensen, Kerstin Emerson, Alex Anderson, Melinda Brindley, Vivian Appler, and Luis Correa-Diaz. From the Graduate School: Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Chazz Jordan. The vote was to approve the appeal; therefore, overturning the dismissal and reinstating the student: 8 yes, 0 no.

B. Program Committee  
Jeff Mullen, Chair

Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved 16 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 Family and Consumer Sciences, a proposal to add a new graduate certificate in Relational Therapy Practice. **Approved 16-0-0**

Action Item 2: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to add a new AoE in Middle Grades Education under the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Education. **Approved 16-0-0**

Action Item 3: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to rename the Exercise Science program to Human Movement Science for the Master of Science (MS), Master of Science Non – Thesis (MS – NT), and Doctoral (PhD) degrees. **Approved 16-0-0**

Action Item 4: From the School of Veterinary Medicine, a proposal to add a new online graduate certificate in Foundations in Veterinary Pathology. **Approved 16-0-0**

Action Item 5: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to add a Thesis Master of Science (MS), Non-Thesis Master of Science (MS NT), and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the Tifton campus. **Approved 16-0-0**

Action Item 6: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to add a Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Crop and Soil Sciences with Area of Emphasis (AoE) options in Soil Science, Weed Science, and Sustainable Agriculture. **Approved 16-0-0**

- (1) Griffin
- (2) Tifton

Action Item 7: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to add a Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Entomology. **Approved 16-0-0**

- (1) Griffin
- (2) Tifton

Action Item 8: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to add a Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Food Science and Technology on the Griffin campus. **Approved 16-0-0**

Action Item 9: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to add a Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Horticulture. **Approved 16-0-0**

- (1) Griffin
- (2) Tifton

Action Item 10: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to add a Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics. **Approved 16-0-0**

- (1) Griffin
- (2) Tifton

Action Item 11: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to add a Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Plant Pathology. **Approved 16-0-0**

- (1) Griffin
- (2) Tifton

C. Policy and Planning Committee  
Bart Wojdowski, Chair

No business to report.

**Information Items**

- A. Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 18 new courses, 48 course revisions, and 0 deletions.
- B. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.