

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**October 22, 2025**

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 3:30pm in 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Alex Anderson, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Ted Christensen, Luis Correa-Diaz, Kelly Dyer, Kerstin Emerson, Jennifer Graff, Andrew Grundstein, Janette Hill, Jack Huang, Alexa Lamm, Rebecca Matthew, Sheba Mohankumar, Jeff Mullen, Priya Narayanan, Ginger Orton, Amy Stich, Bart Wojdynski. Graduate Student Association: Aina Aishat, Eben Boakye, Emerson Moon. Graduate School: Ron Walcott, Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, Chazz Jordan.

Members absent: Mary Ager, Vivian Appler, Matthew Bilskie, Jim Conklin, Craig Osenberg, Laura Rider, Geoffrey Sheagley, Alison Smith.

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

**Graduate Council Committee Chairs:**

- A. Appeals Committee  
Kerstin Emerson, Acting Chair

Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met once. On October 15th, 2025, the Appeals Committee heard two appeals.

The first was for a departmental dismissal. Those in attendance were Craig Osenberg, Vivian Appler, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Kerstin Emerson, Ebenezer Boakye, and Alex Anderson. From the Graduate School: Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Chazz Jordan. The vote was to uphold the decision of the department: 3 yes, 4 no and therefore deny the appeal.

The second was for a Graduate School dismissal due to low GPA. Those in attendance were Craig Osenberg, Vivian Appler, Melinda Brindley, Jennifer Brown, Kerstin Emerson, Ebenezer Boakye, Alex Anderson, Ted Christensen, and Luis Correa-Diaz. From the Graduate School: Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Chazz Jordan. The vote was to uphold the decision of the department: 9 yes, 0 no and therefore approve the appeal.

- B. Program Committee  
Jeff Mullen, Chair

Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved three 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 Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to offer a new Area of Emphasis in Speech – Language Pathology under the EDS degree. **Approved 18-0-1**

*Action Item 2:* From the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, a proposal to offer a new Area of Emphasis in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences under the MS degree in Forestry and Natural Resources. **Approved 20-0-1**

Action Item 3 From the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, a proposal to offer a new Area of Emphasis in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences under the PhD degree in Forestry and Natural Resources. *Approved 20-0-1*

C. Policy and Planning Committee  
Bart Wojdowski, Chair

The PPC met on September 29 at 10:30am to discuss several policy revisions. Eight members were present: Mary Ager, Kelly Dyer, Jennifer Graff, Alexa Lamm, Emerson Moon, Geoff Sheagley, Amy Stich, and Bart Wojdowski (chair). Ron Walcott, Cheri Bliss, and Robin Bingham were present from the Graduate School. Revisions to existing admissions and probation/dismissal appeals policies were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0. We are bringing those requested changes to the Graduate Council for vote:

Action Items: Proposed changes to the Admissions and Probation/Dismissal Appeals process.

1. Admission Appeals *Approved 22-0-0*
2. Probation/Dismissal Appeals ... Tabled; sent back to PPC for further discussion.

**Information Items**

- A. Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 50 new courses, 77 course revisions, and 2 deletions.
- B. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.