

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
August 26, 2026**

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Mary Ager, Alex Anderson, Matthew Bilske, Melinda Brindley, Anindita Chakravarty, Ted Christensen, Jennifer Graff, Neil Grimsey, Andy Grundstein, Janette Hill, Kelly Hines, Jack Huang, Alexa Lamm, Sanghoon Lee, Rebecca Matthew, Brian McKay, Ginger Orton, Svetlana Pashchenko, Geoffrey Sheagley, Amy Stich, John Wares, Michael White, Canaan Whitfield-Cargile. Graduate Student Association: Stella Babatope, Allison Hidalgo, and Ankush Shumar. Graduate School: Anne Shaffer, Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, Chazz Jordan.

Members absent: Vivian Appler, Luis Correa-Diaz, Bettie St. Pierre, Qiong Wang.

Interim Dean Anne Shaffer called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and the minutes of 4/8/26 were approved 20-0-0.

Dr. Shaffer then provided an orientation to Graduate Council to clarify the role of members with clear expectations and how to execute those responsibilities. See accompanying PPT document.

Graduate Council Committee Chairs:

- A. Administrative Committee
Anne Shaffer, Ex Officio Member

No business to report.

- B. Appeals Committee
Geoff Sheagley, Chair

The Appeals Committee met on 8/11/26 to hear an appeal for a Graduate School dismissal due to low GPA. Those in attendance were Mary Ager, Alex Anderson, Vivian Appler, Luis Correra-Diaz, Neil Grimsey, Sanghoon Lee, Geoffrey Sheagley. From the Graduate School, Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, Chazz Jordan. The committee voted to approve the appeal and reinstate the student, 7yes 0 no.

- C. Policy and Planning Committee
Amy Stich, Chair

No business to report.

- D. Program Committee
Andy Grundstein, Chair

No business to report.

Information Items

- A. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 17, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Overall meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m., and members went into breakout groups by committee.