

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
September 16, 2026

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Mary Ager, Alex Anderson, Melinda Brindley, Anindita Chakravarty, Ted Christensen, Jennifer Graff, Neil Grimsey, Andy Grundstein, Janette Hill, Kelly Hines, Jack Huang, Alexa Lamm, Sanghoon Lee, Rebecca Matthew, Ginger Orton, Svetlana Pashchenko, Bettie St. Pierre, Geoffrey Sheagley, Amy Stich, Qiong Wang, John Wares, Michael White. 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, Matthew Bilskie, Luis Correa-Diaz, Brian McKay, Canaan Whitfield-Cargile.

Interim Dean Anne Shaffer called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and the minutes of 8/26/26 were approved 23-0-0.

Graduate Council Committee Chairs:

A. Appeals Committee
Committee Report (Geoff Sheagley)

Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met once. On September 16, 2026, the Appeals Committee heard two appeals for Graduate School dismissals due to low GPA. Those in attendance were Geoffrey Sheagley, Neil Grimsey, Sanghoon Lee, Vivian Appler, Alex Anderson, Luis Correa-Diaz, Mary Ager, Janette Hill, Svetlana Pashchenko, and Stella Babatope. From the Graduate School, Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, Chazz Jordan.

The committee voted to deny the first appeal and, therefore, uphold the Graduate School dismissal of the student; 1 yes, 6 no, 1 abstain.

The committee voted to approve the second appeal and, therefore, reinstate the student; 7 yes, 0 no, 1 not present.

B. Policy and Planning Committee
Committee Report (Amy Stich)

Action Item 1:

Proposed addition of the following statement to [PhD Requirements, Section 5. PhD Comprehensive Examination](#): *The oral examination and/or prospectus presentation can be held completely remotely if approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the unit/department head.* **Approved 24-0-0**

C. Program Committee
Committee Report (Andy Grundstein)

Action Item 1: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to rehome the Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Data Science to the Institute for Integrative Precision Agriculture (IIPA). (*Representatives: Marin Brewer, George Vellidis*) **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 2: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a proposal to create a new Communication and Leadership Excellence for Aspiring Researchers (CLEAR) Graduate Certificate (Athens Campus). (*Representatives: Jennifer Waldeck, Allison Byrd*) **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 3: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Educational Specialist (EdS) degree in Special Education (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Lloyd Reiber)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 4: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to rename the Physical Education graduate programs (MS, MS-NT, and PhD) to Sport Pedagogy. *(Representative: Bryan McCullick)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 5: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the EdS degree in Science Education (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 6: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to create a new Area of Emphasis (AoE) in Science Education (online) under the EdS degree. *(Representative: Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 7: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to create a new Area of Emphasis (AoE) in Music Education (online) under the EdS degree. *(Representative: Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 8: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the EdS degree in Music Education (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 9: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to create a new Intervention Specialist Graduate Certificate (Athens Campus, online). *(Representative: Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 10: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Graduate Certificate in Preschool Special Education (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Jenny Brown)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 11: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Early Childhood Education/Special Education General Curriculum P-5 area of emphasis under the Special Education Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Jenny Brown)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 12: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Birth Through Five-Preschool Special Education area of emphasis under the Special Education MAT (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Jenny Brown)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 13: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Adapted Curriculum and Autism area of emphasis under the Special Education MAT (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Jenny Brown)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 14: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the General Curriculum area of emphasis under the Special Education MAT (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Jenny Brown)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Action Item 15: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Master of Education (MEd) in Communication Sciences and Disorders (Athens Campus). *(Representative: Jenny Brown)* **Approved 25-0-0**

Information Items

A. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.