

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

J. O'Brien-Brown, M. Wright, D. Shantz, A. Ruzsinszky, S. Meadows, L. Lukkarila, N. Nguyen, M. Kohler, A. Schumacher, G. Morris, I. Emond, M. Cunningham, S. Berry, A. West, R. Stivers, D. Pociask, S. Montes, A. Anagnost, K. Andrinopoulos, C. Beasley, S. Overstreet, S. Bernhard

1. Meeting called at 8:31
2. Approval of January Minutes, motioned by G. Morris, seconded by D. Shantz
3. Announcements
 - a. Program proposals and major changes must reach the Grad Council stage in CIM by the first Wednesday of the month. Email notice to Mike and Jennifer is greatly appreciated.
 - b. New programs and significant changes must have all approvals by early spring to be included in next year's catalog.
 - c. Upcoming Meeting dates
 - i. March 11 – in person with PhD reviewers, Boggs 600
 - ii. April 8
 - iii. May 6 (if needed, please note that it is off from our usual 2nd Wednesday schedule)
 - d. Introducing Myan Wright, new career advisor in OGPS
 - e. WaveWorks deadlines
 - i. Deadlines for student payments – HR deadlines for one-time pays, stipends, etc, these systems will be offline from roughly 2/23 to 3/20
 - ii. Deadlines for student reimbursements
 1. Student Org deadline is 2/26, general deadlines may be 3/11, payments will resume on 4/13
4. Once the catalog is finalized, we may be able to spend more time focused on policies and procedures
5. FSB
 - a. MS in Business Analytics cancelled/replaced – notice
 - b. Is being replaced by the MS in Business Analytics and AI
6. SSE
 - a. 4+1 MS in Chemistry – vote
 - i. Standard program, 4+1 option is not ticked, S. Montes will fix
 - ii. This is not a combined 5 year program, which implies that both degrees are conferred at the same time. 4+1 programs require students to get the BS first and then the MS is awarded later.

- iii. Sarah Montes, with D. Shantz's approval will make the edit to remove the reference to the combined program
 - iv. Motion passes unanimously
 - b. 4+1 MS in Cell and Molecular Biology – vote
 - i. Edits to make it “must” take two courses as an undergraduate. S. Montes will make the edits with D. Shantz's approval
 - ii. 1 abstention, 11 in favor, motion passes
 - c. 4+1 MS in River-Coastal Science and Engineering – vote
 - i. Some language was copied from the external MS program that refers to transfers and external work.
 - ii. Only one person, the DGS, is apparently in charge of approvals for transfers as opposed to a graduate committee
 - iii. RCSE does not have undergraduates right now
 - iv. Motion by D. Shantz to send back to SSE for revisions, seconded by M. Cunningham, all in favor.
 - d. Most 4+1 programs do not say that students “must” take 6000 courses as undergraduates, but use “may”. We probably need to make this clear for departments. Accelerated master's degrees may be 1-year degrees, whereas 4+1 master's programs imply courses taken during the final year of undergraduate studies.
 - e. Non-thesis MS in Earth and Environmental Sciences (traditional and 4+1) – vote
 - i. The department offers courses in the summer to help make it more feasible to finish in 12 months
 - ii. Motion passes unanimously
- 7. BMS
 - a. MS in Biomedical Sciences – vote
 - i. Designed for BMS PhD students who don't complete the PhD and intend to leave with the MS. It is not available to students who did not start in the BMS PhD program
 - ii. Requires a thesis
 - iii. MS in specific subfields requires too many specific courses for BMS PhD students to qualify
 - iv. Motion passes unanimously
- 8. TUSABE
 - a. Certificate in Sustainable Urbanism – vote
 - i. How much of the certificate can overlap with the degree? S. Bernhard is not confident because it varies based on how long the program is which impacts how many electives students take

- ii. General policy is 25% can be counted for both degrees, which is one course for a 12-credit certificate. Grad Council and S. Bernhard agreed that S. Montes may add this language to the proposal
 - iii. One abstention, 12 in favor, the motion passes
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:24, motioned by D. Pociask, seconded by S. Bernhard