

## **Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 12, 2025**

**J. O'Brien-Brown, S. Yates, N. Nguyen, D. Omerbasic, G. Morris, A. Schumacher, B. McFadden, H. Ashbaugh, A. Ruzsinszky, D. Shantz, S. Montes, R. Chavez, M. Cunningham, T. Rosensteel, K. Haugeberg, X. Geng, S. Bernhard, K. Andrinopoulos, J. Proctor, L. Lukkarila, R. Stivers, D. Pociask, D. Lowell, S. Berry**

1. Meeting called at 8:31
2. Approval of December Minutes, motioned by G. Morris, seconded by B. McFadden
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Spring 2025
  - 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. March 12
  - c. April 9
  - d. May 14
4. Announcements
  - a. NSF-NIH survey
  - b. Tele mental health is available for all students
5. SLA proposals:
  - a. MFA in Interdisciplinary Dance Performance, minimum credit hours increased from 57 to 60 – notice
  - b. MFA in Music, new concentration in Black American Music – vote: 17 in favor, 1 abstain
    - i. Tuition needs to be filled in before we can approve
  - c. MFA in Theatre & Design, new concentration in Stage Management – vote: 16 in favor, 1 abstain
    - i. Learning objectives and outcomes need to be included, so vote is pending the addition of learning objectives and outcomes
6. SSE proposal:
  - a. 2-Year MS in Cell and Molecular Biology – vote: all in favor
    - i. Came from asking alumni in industry to identify what was needed to succeed in things like pharmaceuticals. Skill gaps were identified from the 1-year program.
    - ii. Could an opportunity to do an internship be offered?
7. New business:

- a. Dismissal policy edit to the appeal process. Rationale for the appeal to go to the provost needs new information/evidence. Vote proposed by M. Cunningham, seconded by R. Proctor. Motion passes unanimously.
  - b. Tax question from SPHTM. Is there any language we can use to talk about taxes and international taxes. SLA has language that all stipends are subject to the tax regulations of your home country. Taxes can vary so widely that all we can do is refer to the international tax office
    - i. From SSE: *"Please note that the stipend dollar amount is before any taxes are deducted from your stipend check and are subject to the tax laws in the U.S. or your home country if you are not a U.S. citizen."*
    - ii. We have been told not to offer tax advice. There is a page on the IRS that may be helpful
    - iii. HR has a position that is supposed to help with international taxes, but it has been hard to keep filled. Direct students to the Student Employment liaison who should be able to point them to the right person.
    - iv. Health insurance is also a taxable benefit
    - v. HR seems to be working on a better solution and has been in communication with members of GC to handle some surprise tax situations, that might include hiring an international tax lawyer
  - c. NIH funding issues: has this been impacting admissions this cycle
    - i. AAU graduate deans list has largely said that they are not making changes to admissions this year, about 25% may make some changes
    - ii. The AAU has put in a class action suit challenging this executive order
    - iii. Associate deans are talking about a lot of different issues around these orders. SPHTM is probably impacted most immediately. In SSE admissions aren't yet impacted
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 motioned by B. McFadden, seconded by R. Proctor