

## **Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**

**November 12, 2025**

**M. Cunningham, J. O'Brien-Brown, T. Rosensteel, R. Chavez, A. Schumacher, L. Lukkarila, D. Shantz, A. Ruzsinszky, C. Arcari, D. Pociask, G. Morris, N. Nguyen, S. Meadows, A. West, D. Omerbasic, S. Montes, V. Subramaniam, C. Beasley, C. Stieber, S. Berry, K. Andrinopoulos, S. Overstreet, A. Anagnost, D. Lowell, S. Bernhard**

1. Meeting called at 8:32
2. Approval of October Minutes, motioned by C. Beasley, 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. December 10
    - ii. January 14
    - iii. February 11
    - iv. March 11 (tentative, in person with PhD reviewers)
  - d. Writing Center information
    - i. L. Lukkarila presented. The writing center does serve graduate and professional students. Students must schedule, and at the point of selecting a time, they should confirm that the available tutors are graduate tutors. They provide feedback on different levels, but not copy-editing. Ideally, this helps students give their advisors a cleaner draft of their work, so that the advisor can focus on bigger issues.
    - ii. Tutors set their own hours, which could limit availability, but to date, the center has not been overwhelmed.
    - iii. Can they make graduate tutors easier to identify?
    - iv. Director of the writing center is a joint appointment
  - e. Honor Code updates
    - i. J. O'Brien-Brown is creating an internal guide document for the administrators who handle honor board cases. It will answer common questions and hopefully help keep the administration of cases consistent between schools.

- ii. We are working with NTC's academic integrity office to reduce the differences between our process and theirs, in order to reduce confusion and opportunities for mistakes.
  - iii. Big topics so far are training for honor board pool members, sanctions, and record keeping.
- f. GRE-optional policy
  - i. We are at the end of the initial period of allowing the GRE to be optional and will need to vote if we want to keep it optional.
  - ii. Please let your units know that this will be voted on in December
  - iii. At CGS, most schools are not requiring the GRE, though some specific programs, such as engineering, seem more likely to use it
  - iv. Would this apply to other exams, such as the GMAT? We want to make sure that we are in line with professional accrediting bodies
  - v. C. Beasley wanted to note that affordability is considered, particularly in this economic climate
  - vi. K. Andrinopoulos noted that they had one program that kept the GRE as a requirement, and their enrollment dropped significantly.
  - vii. Will this policy mean that the schools cannot require the GRE? No, the policy would be that schools and/or programs may require it, but are not mandated by the university to do so.
  - viii. What will be used in lieu of this particular criterion? GPA, undergraduate institution, may not be adequate. Wholisticadmissions.com can help guide programs about how to do full reviews
  - ix. Ideally, the GRE is a formative exam. It is often correlated to first year performance, but M. Cunningham notes that it is not necessarily correlated with completion
  - x. This is part of a bigger question. Do we need to make a larger policy recommendation about encouraging schools to take a wholistic approach
  - xi. How do we want to address students who do submit the GRE? Will that be accommodated? Only look at it after making a decision?
  - xii. Motion to make a statement with the policy about our commitment to holistic admissions, motioned by S. Overstreet, seconded by S. Bernhard.  
15 in favor, 1 abstained
- g. Background checks for all PhD students
  - i. Based on a discussion that came up at the September University Senate meeting
  - ii. We have banned the box, but we want to know about any concerns after a student is admitted but before they matriculate. That will help the university adequately prepare/make arrangements if a student needs some

accommodations and advise them properly (such as if a student will not be eligible for licensure, can't TA, etc)

- iii. We will vote on this in December. Do we need to also generate supplemental best practices for this?

4. BMS

- a. Pathologist's Assistant/Anatomic Pathology Program – vote
- b. Program had been halted due to faculty shortages, but is prepared to start. The new director did not realize that it needed to go through CIM, it is supposed to begin in January.
- c. 15 in favor, 1 abstention, motion passes.

5. WSPH

- a. Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences MS – vote
- b. 15 in favor, 1 abstention, motion passes.

6. SSE

- a. Chemistry 4+1 – vote
  - i. Already has a terminal master's and is adding the 4+1 option
  - ii. Motion passes unanimously
- b. Earth and Environmental Sciences terminal MS – vote
  - i. Can external applicants actually complete this in one year? There are very few summer courses
  - ii. Students must take courses in GIS, which are available in the summer
  - iii. Students also complete an internship/independent study for six hours, which generally would be done in the summer. They are also able to take up to six hours in other departments, which may have other summer offerings.
  - iv. Motion passes unanimously

7. New business

- 8. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 motioned by D. Shantz, seconded by C. Stieber