

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 2025, 3:00 pm
3105 Gardner Commons

Council Members Present: Paul Stout, Donna Ziegenfuss, David Symons, José Gutiérrez, Codrina Rada, Glen Schmidt, Misty Smith, Julie Valentine, Robert Keiter, Kent Golic, Ramesh Goel, Janet Lindsley, Patrick Panos

Student Representative Present: Steven Valdez

Ex Officio Members Present: Darryl Butt, Helene Shugart, Katrina Green, Anthony Jones, Karen Paisley

Excused members: Erin Mason, Jay Jordan

Graduate School Staff Present: Paula Spencer, Mary Anne Berzins

Welcome: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

- Thanked Graduate Council members who are completing their three-year term
- Discussed need for additional Graduate Council meeting on May 12 to address:
 - Backlog of 7-year reviews
 - Administrative unit changes
 - Role of Graduate Council in light of legislative and policy changes

Proposal: New Program - Professional Masters of Materials Engineering and Management

Presenter: Michael Free, Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Discussion took place about:

- Resolution of Graduate Council concerns from March 31 presentation
 - Student engagement for online students
 - Learning outcomes assessments
 - Course mapping
 - Student demand

The Council discussed the following:

- Concern for market demand
- Need for continuous improvement of online delivery

Motion to approve: Patrick Panos

Second: Ramesh Goel

Vote: Yes-12, No-1, Abstain-1

Action: Approve the program and give feedback regarding meeting market demand and demonstrating continuous improvement to online delivery.

7-Year Review: Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies – MSRT Program

Presentation by review committee chair: Julie Valentine

Discussion took place about:

- Positive remarks from students
- Potential for online programs
- Concerns about facilities
- Budget issues
- Need for grant management support
- Potential for marketing program

Motion to ratify report: Janet Lindsley

Second: José Gutiérrez

Vote: Yes-14, No-0, Abstain – 0

7-Year Review: Environmental Humanities Program

Presentation by review committee chair: Robert Keiter

Discussion took place about:

- Funding for program
- Strong national reputation
- International and domestic student success
- Need for dedicated career-line faculty
- Processes for retaining core faculty
- Graduate student teaching assignments

Motion to ratify report: Kent Golic

Second: Donna Ziegenfuss

Vote: Yes-14, No-0, Abstain-0

7-Year Review: Department of Philosophy

Presentation by review committee chair: Janet Lindsley

Discussion took place about:

- Nationally ranked program
- Interdisciplinary nature of program
- Faculty workload issues
- Perception of inequities with faculty roles and assignments
- Need for better pre- and post-award grant support
- Graduate learning outcomes

Motion to ratify report: Glen Schmidt

Second: Misty Smith

Vote: Yes-14, No-0, Abstain-0

Proposal: New Program – Transportation Infrastructure Electrification Certificate

Presenter: Cathy Liu, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Discussion took place about:

- Resolution of Graduate Council recommendations from March 31 presentation
- Refined learning outcomes
- Working on registration procedures
- Concerns about logistics for registering and tracking students have not been resolved

Motion to approve program contingent on resolving logistical details with Registrar, Bursar, and

Financial Aid: Patrick Panos

Second: Codrina Rada

Vote: Yes-14, No-0, Abstain-0

Action: Approve program upon confirmation that concerns have been resolved

Proposal: International Three Year Degrees

Presenter: Helene Shugart, Graduate School

Discussion took place about:

- Proposal has been socialized and vetted with the following groups
 - Academic Leadership Team, ALT
 - Council of Academic Deans
 - Enrollment Management
 - Admissions
 - Directors of Graduate Studies and Graduate Coordinators
- Does not apply to domestic three-year degrees
- Procedure allows for an application to be accepted into the system; does not guarantee admission to a program
- Consistent with peer institutions
- Ensures that the university remains competitive and maintains international vibrancy

Motion to approve proposal: Patrick Panos

Second: Julie Valentine

Vote: Yes-13, No-0, Abstain-0

Adjourn