



April 29, 2025
10:30am-noon

111F Townsend Hall – Grad Hub

Attending: Chi-Ren Shyu, Erika Boerman, Maria Fidalgo, John Kerns, Paul Ladehoff, Jessica Osaze, Felix Oguche, Enid Schatz, Matt Easter, Ashley Siebenaler, Yi Shang, Jeff Wood, Randi Foraker, Jeni Hart, Kuntara Pukthuanthong, Abed Rabbani. Via Zoom: Erin Robinson, Julie Miller, David Beversdorf, Leslie Lyons.

Need confirmation for: Dan Edidin, Jacqueline Limberg, John Frymire, Petros Valettas, Cristina Mislan

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes of March 2025: Ladehoff motion, Boerman second; approved
3. Acceptance of the agenda: Ladehoff motion, approved with minor revision
4. Committee Reports:
 - Academic Affairs Committee – Prof. Julie Miller, chair
 - a. Course Approvals

Changes to existing (edited) and new (added) courses: all changes and additions approved unanimously
 - b. New Program Approvals
 - Vote on MS and PhD in Biomedical Engineering (presented in March): both approved unanimously
 - Presentation of MBA in Analytics program, College of Business: Marsha Richins presented the proposed program. It is an in-person 45-credit hour curriculum to be completed in two years. The program is designed to bridge the gap between data scientists and business decision-makers, offering a combination of core business knowledge and technical skills. The program is expected to attract students with professional skills and recent graduates of technical programs. The program is also expected to contribute to the state's workforce development and attract tech-oriented businesses.
 - To be voted on in May meeting
 - Presentation of Graduate Certificate in Music Production, School

of Music: Cory Brodack presented proposed certificate.

Certificate may be of interest within and outside School of Music.

- To be voted on in May meeting

- c. Approvals on edits of existing programs; each approved independently and unanimously
 - Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Across the Lifespan)
 - MS in Finance
 - MS in Nursing with Emphasis in Adult-Gerontology Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - MS in Nursing with Emphasis in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Across the Lifespan)
 - PhD in Public Affairs
 - Graduate Certificate in Evidence and Equity Based Literacy Instruction and Intervention
- ii. Fellowships and Awards Committee – Prof. John Kerns, chair
 - Committee completed work; all 5 awards announced at recent Graduate and Postdoc Awards Reception; recommendation to highlight work of GFS and this committee during next year's reception
- b. Policy Subcommittee – Prof. Maria Fidalgo, chair
 - probation dismissal and appeal's process:

New procedure to select the members of the appeal committee (from GFS):

The Dean of the Graduate School or a representative will meet with the student to discuss the situation. If, after this meeting, the student wishes to make an appeal to the Graduate Faculty Senate, they will submit a statement to the Graduate School describing the basis of the appeal and containing any correspondence or other documentation relevant to the appeal. **The dean will notify the Graduate Faculty Senate, which will appoint an ad-hoc Appeal Committee consisting of five senators who are not members of the academic program involved in the appeal.** In the first Senate meeting of the academic year, the Exec Committee and each standing committee will identify a representative to the Appeal Committee as well as a backup.

The Appeal Committee will be formed by one member of the Executive Committee, and one member from each standing committee. The fifth committee member will come from the backup pool.

The process will be repeated after each appeal

Additional changes proposed based on student feedback:

Programs should provide the students with written timely communication about meetings/decisions related to the probation and dismissal process within 48 hrs. Departmental responses to appeals should be provided in writing to the student within two weeks of the submission.

Templates/guideline documents provided by Graduate School to the department for probation notices and improvement plan documents.

Policy changes regarding the parties in the appeal hearing: “If there are grounds for an appeal, **a hearing will be scheduled within 30 days* of receiving the notice of appeal. Parties to the hearing include: the student (and up to 2 advocates from the University community, if desired), representatives from the department/program, the Appeal Committee and the Graduate School**”

Revisions to the appeal form: (1) include uploading of documentation to support the appeal as well as a list of attachments and justification for their inclusion; (2) request an expedite process for the appeal in the case of time sensitive situations (visa issues, funding deadlines, etc.)

Departments and the Graduate School to publish annual anonymized statistics on probations and dismissals?

- Maria Fidalgo discussed the policy subcommittee's review of the probation dismissal and appeals procedure. Members were overall happy with recommendations to establish GFS appeals committee early in academic year. The proposed language of "advocate" was questioned, as it might suggest that the person would speak on behalf of the student, which is not the case. The policy subcommittee will consider other language for “advocate” in advance of a vote on the policy changes. Senators also discussed implications and need for an expedited appeal process for time-sensitive situations.
- Jeni Hart described the purpose of the appeal form as a document for the Graduate Dean to initially review the rationale for the appeal request and whether it aligns with the grounds for an appeal. Supporting documents are compiled if there are grounds for the appeal.

5. Faculty Council Information Sharing – Member at large – Prof. Erika Boerman

- Erika Boerman shared that the Forager One platform, a commercial product aimed at matching students interested in research with faculty or students interested in students doing research was introduced at the most recent Faculty Council meeting. The platform is set to roll out in Fall 2025 for undergraduate students, with plans to expand to include graduate students. Senators discussed how the platform could be a good recruiting tool for graduate students based upon undergraduates who are engaged in

research as identified in the platform.

6. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Ms. Jessica Osaze, GPC Representative: Jessica introduced Felix Oguche, who is President of GPC as of May 1, 2025; she thanked GFS for their support and making her feel welcome over the last year; she also mentioned again that any advocacy GFS can provide to the Provost's Office to compel additional funding for Tiger Pantry would be appreciated.
7. 2025-2026 Executive Officer Nominations: Chi-Ren Shyu asked senators to consider self-nominating to run for President, Vice President, or Member-at-Large at the May meeting for next year's GFS; Erin Robinson reported that 8 senators are up for election; 4 senators have been selected and 4 are still pending
8. Report: Graduate School – Dean Jeni Hart: Jeni shared an update on termination and reinstatement of SEVIS records for 5 graduate students
9. Extra meeting in May for Executive Committee elections and newly elected senators will be invited to join.
10. Other new business: none
11. Resolutions: none
12. Announcements: none
13. Motion to adjourn: made and seconded