

Graduate Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes



Tuesday December 2nd, 2025, 3:30pm
111F Townsend Hall

Attending (in-person): Amy Rhea, Laura Zangori, Paul Ladehoff, Felix Michael Oguche, Julie Miller, Dan Eddin, Rocio Rivera, Janna Lancaster, David Beversdorf, Jeni Hart, Enid Schatz

Attending (via Zoom): Rose Osnaya, Abed Rabbani, Ashley Siebenaler, Jeff Wood, Erin Robinson, Jacqueline Limberg, Erika Boerman, Leslie Lyons

1. Call to order at 3:34pm
2. Approval of minutes of October 2025
 - a. Motion to approve by Miller
 - b. Second by Limberg
 - c. Disposition: Approved unanimously
3. Acceptance of the agenda
 - a. Motion to accept as amended by Miller
 - b. Second by Beversdorf
 - c. Disposition: Approved unanimously
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. **Academic Affairs Committee – Prof. Julie Miller, Chair**
 - i. New program presentations
 - PhD in Architectural Studies, **Dr. Janna Lancaster**
 - “New old program”, moving from an emphasis area to a degree in its own right, CIP code change will make program more visible.
 - Delivered 100% online, 100% in-person, or hybrid.
 - Many courses taught in hybrid format.
 - ii. Course Approvals: GFS Pres Courses 11 18 25.xlsx (6 edited courses, 6 added)
 - iii. New Program Approvals:
 - Graduate Minor in Project Management and Analytics for Health Administration, presented by Sue Boren and Patricia Alafaireet
 - After additional discussion and new information regarding the history of the program, the disposition of the Graduate Faculty Senate was to reject the program approval request at this time, citing concerns regarding course/program duplication. Vote to

reject was unanimous.

- New Program Proposal Graduate Certificate in Data Journalism, presented by Lindsey Crozier and Mark Horvit
 - Disposition: Approved unanimously by the Graduate Faculty Senate.

iv. Approvals on edits of existing programs GFS Pres Programs 11 18 25.xlsx (3 programs edited: BA in Economics, BS in economics, Graduate Certificate in Finance)

- Disposition: Approved unanimously by the GFS

b. Fellowships and Awards Committee – Prof. Abed Rabbani, Chair

- i. Dissertation, Thesis and advisor (35 total applications: 13 dissertation, 9 thesis, 13 advisor; many in social and life sciences, none in humanities, in engineering and math there were PhD but no MS applications)
- ii. Dec 14th reviews due in committee
- iii. Recommendations will be delivered at January 2026 meeting

c. Policy Committee – Prof. Rocio Rivera, Chair

- i. On break until January 2026, then committee will focus on sick leave policy

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

- a. Proposed: change to academic calendar to move FS start date to 3rd Monday of August. This would be a systemwide policy what the semester would be 15 weeks long.
- b. Policies under discussion regarding grade appeal and student absences.
- c. December 4 – vote on DEI committee had been scheduled but has now been changed on agenda to debate (to disband, rename, or do nothing)
- d. More information regarding FC updates in the dedicated module on the GFS Canvas site.

6. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Mr. Felix Oguche, GPC Representative

- a. General assembly, resolutions.
- b. President Choi support to Tiger Pantry
- c. Research Development Award applications, competitions

7. Report: Graduate School – Dean Jeni Hart

- a. 300 students in commencement for December, including 100 doctoral

students. Commencement will fall during business hours on a Friday at the Hearn Center.

- b. Applications to the graduate school: down 175 applicants (incl. 150 international student applications) but there are some deadlines in January 1, 15, Feb 1, etc.
 - c. Distance applications are steady.
 - d. Nursing was never a federal professional program, but now the loan cap for it will be lower because it was not added to the professional program list. This means \$100k in loans per lifetime is not enough money to get through the program.
8. Other new business: none
9. Resolutions: none
10. Announcements: none
11. Motion to adjourn at 4:50pm by Beversdorf. Adjourned.