

Graduate Council 2024-2025

May 1, 2025

Members present: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Khaled Ahmed, Kelly Bender, Scott Collins, Jane Dougherty, Lance Griswold, Dong Han, Karen Johnson, Rhonda Kowalchuk, Cheng-Yao Lin, Kayla Malone, Kim Parr, Mark Pease, Mark Peterson, Benjamin Richardson, Jennifer Spreng, Michael Timm, Tomas Velasco, Andy Wilber, Hale Yilmaz, Matthew Young.

Ex Officio: Jennifer Horton (for John Pollitz), Karen Jones, Constantinos Tsatsoulis, Sheryl Tucker

Guests: Julie Dunston, John Flack, Julie Hibdon, Bobbi Knapp, Kymberli Morgan, Sabrina Nilufar, Amber Pond, Jennifer Sherry, Sowmy Thuppal, Elyse Weller

Meeting started at 8:00 AM

- Consideration of 4-3-2025 meeting minutes.
 - The vote on a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting passed unanimously.
- Remarks from the Provost: Sheryl A. Tucker
 - The provost thanked Grad Council members for their service.
 - Student visas that were terminated have been restored.
 - The undergraduate student government has passed a resolution concerning *dead week*. Essentially, they are requesting no new assignments or exams during the week before finals. A significant concern raised by both students and advisors is that students are not getting timely feedback on assignments, and they are going into finals with no idea of what their grades are and what their performance to date has been. The Graduate Council will be asked to provide input on this matter.
- Remarks from Vice-Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School: Costas Tsatsoulis
 - Dean Tsatsoulis thanked Grad Council members for their service and encouraged participation at graduation ceremonies.
- Remarks from Associate Dean & Director of Graduate School: Karen Jones
 - Dr. Jones thanked Grad Council members for their service.
 - Dr. Jones asked that GC members remind their Directors of Graduate Studies to review any outstanding applications in the system.
 - GA contracts for the summer are due today.
 - GA contracts for the fall are due July 1st.
 - A poll will be sent out via email on May 2nd asking for preferences on serving on standing committees of the Graduate Council.

- Remarks from Dean of Library Affairs: Jennifer Horton for John Pollitz
 - A retirement reception for Dean Pollitz will take place on Wednesday from 2:00-3:30 in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors on the first floor of the library.
- Remarks from Council Chair: Mark Peterson
 - The chair thanked all GC members for their service and congratulated those GC members who received promotions this year.
- Report from GPSC: Michael Timm
 - The GPSC recently had an award ceremony and had successful elections. All the GC representatives have been selected.
 - There is one grievance awaiting decision.
 - Michael expressed appreciation to the GC for helping GPSC and graduate students get representation on the GC and in university government.
- Report from Council Vice-Chair: Andy Wilber
 - A couple of comments have been received on the Emeritus policy. Those comments will be forwarded as appropriate.
 - Regarding the grievance noted previously, the faculty member has responded and the grievance is now under review with the Student Appeals Committee.
- Report from Faculty Senate: Amber Pond
 - The Faculty Senate finished up the term yesterday and held elections. Khalid Meksem will be the president, Jennifer Sherry will be the vice president, and John Farrish is the secretary.
 - The FS passed a resolution in favor of the new Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Sustainability.
- Report from Educational Policies Committee: Ahmad Fakhoury
 - No report.
- Report from New Programs Committee: Tomas Velasco
 - Second reading of a resolution in support of the addition of an MS in Population Science.
 - John Flack, MD (Professor and Chair, Department of Internal Medicine, Chair, Population Science and Policy) and Dr. Sowmy Thuppal (Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Surgery and is a faculty at the Center for Clinical Research, SIU School of Medicine) were present to provide additional questions and answer questions.
 - A question was raised concerning how this program differs from our public health program? Dr. Thuppal noted that the new program would focus on policy and rural

- health. The program would specifically train healthcare professionals to work in public health from the realm of rural health and rural health policy.
- The vote on the resolution passed unanimously.
- Report from Program Review Committee: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos
 - Nothing new to report.
 - Report from Research Committee: Kelly Bender
 - There is another quarter of equipment request grants to review by May 31st. Requests will be distributed to members of the Research Committee and a review will be performed then.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

Graduate Council 2025-2026

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Meeting started at 8:30 AM

- There was one nomination for Graduate Council Chair – Kelly Bender. A vote was taken, and Prof. Bender was elected unanimously as Chair.
- There was one nomination for Graduate Council Vice Chair – Iraklis Anagnostopoulos. A vote was taken, and Prof. Anagnostopoulos was elected unanimously as Vice Chair.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:34 AM.