

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

April 16th, 2026; 2:30pm

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

Present: Gloria Sweida (Chair), Beidi Qiang, Cinnamon VanPutte, Chin-Chuan Wei, Kyong-Sup Yoon, Dan Segrist, Carole Frick, Mary Frazier, Saad Ullah, Elizabeth Cali, Jill Smucker, Joe Kohlburn, Duff Wrobbel

Excused: Cheryl Borowiak, Chris Slaten, Mindy Dilley

Absent: Andrea Keller, Musah Sumaila, James Monahan, Ram Madupalli

Call to Order – 2:34PM

- I. Announcements
  - a. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On Teams
  - b. Graduate Committee on Assessment (GCOA) Report – On Teams
  - c. Enrollment Management Report – No report
  - d. Student Affairs Announcements – Report was presented by Jill Smucker in place of Mindy Dilley.
    - a. For students considering a medical leave of absence for the spring semester, the deadline is May 1. There may be limited flexibility during finals week.
  - e. International Affairs Announcements – None
  - f. Graduate School Announcements – Liz Cali
    - a. Liz Cali provided an update on new ADA accessibility requirements, particularly regarding thesis submissions.
    - b. The Graduate School has been focusing on accessibility compliance using available tools. Students are encouraged to use the Microsoft Word accessibility checker; Adobe Acrobat Pro is required for PDF accessibility checks which students do not have access to through the University.
    - c. ProQuest is in the process of integrating an accessibility checker.
    - d. Discussion included the evolving nature of requirements and publisher expectations.
    - e. A question was raised regarding research data management plans and publisher requirements for depositing raw data.
      - a. A system-wide research administration group has been working on a data management policy that had been delayed but is now moving forward.
      - b. Members noted the tension between data management requirements and public sharing expectations.
      - c. It was stated that clearer documentation requirements will likely be incorporated into future revisions.
  - g. Other Announcements
    - a. Council members were reminded that Graduate Council subcommittees will need new chairs for the upcoming academic year.
    - b. Current chairs will reach out to potential volunteers.
    - c. Chair appointments are for a one-year term.

- II. Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2026
  - a. Minutes from the March 19, 2026 meeting were approved.
    - i. Motion: Duff Wrobbel
    - ii. Second: Carole Frick
    - iii. Outcome: Approved
- III. Public Comments -none
- IV. Report of the Educational and Research Policies (ERP) Committee - Chairperson Chin-Chuan Wei
  - a. No policies were reviewed.
  - b. A slate of R&D / RPAB volunteers was reviewed and forwarded.
  - c. The ERP Committee approved the list and forwarded it to Graduate Council for a vote.
- V. Report of the Programs Committee – Chairperson Duff Wrobbel
  - a. Industrial Engineering (91A)
  - b. Full Program Review: Industrial Engineering
    - c. Duff Wrobbel reported that the Industrial Engineering 91A was approved.
    - d. The Full Program Review vote was enrollment and completion needs intervention – below capacity and the overall standing as in good standing.
- VI. Continuing Business
  - a. Reminder that the final Graduate Council meeting of the academic year will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 1:00 p.m.
- VII. New Business
  - a. Vote on R&D / RPAB Candidates
    - i. Members were instructed to vote using the electronic ballot:  
<https://siue.kualibuild.com/app/67f405fddb749a0280908ce3/run>
    - ii. Selected Nominees by Area:
      - 1. Life Sciences and Biomedical Panel: Ashley Wittler
      - 2. Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business and Education Panel: Kristine Hildebrandt
      - 3. Physical Sciences and Engineering Panel: Yun Lu
      - 4. College of Arts and Sciences (CAS): Maurina Aranda
      - 5. School of Nursing (SON): Erica Frost
  - b. Textbook Advisory Committee Volunteer
    - i. Carole Frick is the current representative.
    - ii. The committee meets approximately once per month with Textbook Services and University Center representatives.
    - iii. Jill Smucker emphasized the importance of Graduate Council representation.
    - iv. Mary Frazier volunteered to serve on the committee.
- VIII. Adjournment- meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.