

PURDUE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting
September 21, 2023
2:30 p.m.

First Meeting
Via Teams

PRESENT: Council Members, Eric Barker, chair, Nurgul Aitalieva, Kola Ajuwan, Brad Alge, Thomas Atkinson, Yong Bao, Shawn G. Bauldry, Janice Blum, Laura Bowling, Vetria Byrd, Jason Cannon, William B. Collins, Joy Colwell, Bryan DeWitt, Duane D. Dunlap, Emad Elwakil, Jason FitzSimmons, Keith B. Gehres, Catherine A. Golden, Jeffrey P. Greeley, Troy D. Janes, Qing Jiang, Mary Johnson, Kimberly Kinzig, Ann L. Kirchmaier, Douglas LaCount, Jiliang Li, Yanjun Li, Qiang Liu, Clarence D. Maybee, Panayota (Youli) Mantzicopoulos-James, Somosmita Mitra, James L. Mohler, Melanie Morgan, Tina L. Payne, Rodolfo Pinal, Julia M. Rayz, Carson Reeling, David Rollock, Paul Salama, Abraham Schwab, James E. Tisdale, Christine Wuenschel, Amanda D. Zelechowski

ABSENT: Carrie Berger, Arun Bhunia, Kevin D. Gibson, Erla Heyns, Nancy A. Jackson, Ton Jin Kim, Judith Lewandowski, Patti Ludwig-Beymer, Dimitri Peroulis, Joseph Robinson, Laura Schwab-Reese, Kristen White, Josh Widhalm, Nicole Widmar, Patrick Wolfe.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

Dr. Eric Barker, Acting Associate Provost for Graduate Programs, called the meeting to order. Dr. Barker stated that he and the University Senate, the Graduate School staff, and the Associate Deans have spent the last 2 1/2 months now taking a look at Graduate School functions. Jason Fitzsimmons from the Provost's Office has been assisting as the project manager. He stated that they had been benchmarking against the top five public universities, as that is a goal for the President and the Provost, to strive for five in terms of top five public universities. They are looking at how they are functioning to support graduate students, to support the academic units in their pursuit of excellence and innovation around advanced degrees, graduate studies, and post-doctoral scholar support.

Dr. Barker stated what they had been up to:

They have been working to try to simplify processes for approval of graduate curricula related matters. They believe the projection is several thousands of hours of faculty time saved and increasing the speed at which we can approve things to allow us as an institution to be more agile and nimble in the graduate degree and advanced degree space.. Our mantra has been to try to

simplify processes to make everyone's life easier and to make faculty's life easier, and most importantly to make our students' experience even better.

Dr. Barker noted that we have authorized a project to look at the Graduate School database here on the West Lafayette campus, as well as electrical, computer engineering ECN database. With IT support, we're going from 2 systems ultimately over the next few years to one. We are hoping during that transformation process to take another step in simplifying our processes. We have authorized a dedicated staff member for Purdue University, Indianapolis.

We will be launching, hopefully next week, the simplification of the process for new faculty to get graduate identifiers. We are looking at the plan of study approval processes and where some of the pain points might be from the graduate student perspective, as well as faculty and staff.

And lastly, Assistant Vice Provost Jason Cannon has joined the leadership team to help provide support for interdisciplinary graduate programs, post-doctoral fellowship support, and career development for graduate students. We continue to focus on what we call the specialized and centralized services at the Graduate School that support no units and graduate students. These would be things like interdisciplinary graduate programs program and curricular approvals, the administration of courses from the Graduate School, the GRAD courses.

The Graduate Records Database, fellowship management, admissions, admissions management, professional development, graduate assistants and advocacy are all things that we view as specialized in centralized services that will continue going forward. And really finding ways to best support the services that you all provide at the unit level where the graduate students live, reside, and work. So, thank you for your support.

There is always a question about what this means for the structure of the Graduate School. We are not yet at a point where we're ready to tackle that question because we want to understand our function before, we think about form and function. Those centralized specialized services that I mentioned will continue and we are committed to that, and the Provost and the President are committed to that as well.

Hats off to the Graduate School staff who have been really outstanding with critical thinking in terms of our processes. Dr. Barker stated he is excited about the days ahead as we continue to support graduate education across the system. We are grateful to the Graduate Council. Our next step will be talking to the various graduate deans on the West Lafayette campus and having conversations with the regionals.

We will come back to the Graduate Council with some additional reporting, and then we'll also want to have a conversation with the University Senate. And so there are still many conversations to have. It is very much a work in progress, but I hope that you'll notice some of the improvements and changes we're making with the North Star being, how do we best support our graduate students? Also, how do we best support our post docs and how do we unleash the full potential of the academic units to innovate in a very nimble and agile way around the graduate education and advanced degree space?

Dr Barker noted that we will be working from a Consent Agenda this year for our voting process and described how this would work. We will take a vote towards the end of the meeting on that consent agenda. He stated that you, as members of this body, can request that items not be put on the consent agenda and discussed separately.

APRIL MINUTES:

Dr. Barker noted that the April 20th minutes were sent out to the members for review. He asked for a motion to place on the Consent Agenda. The motion was given and seconded. The minutes were placed on the Consent Agenda.

PRESENTATION (Catherine Golden):

Catherine Golden, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, stated she would provide a demo on our website for reference. One of the big changes of course is the way in which faculty will interact with Curriculog, which houses all of the course and curricula proposals. We had 29 distinct forms to do what we now can do in ten, and so you'll see that we've consolidated a lot of proposals in terms of modifying existing curricula with the change existing curricula form. If you've been in Curriculog and ever had to scroll to page four to find the proposal that you were looking for, everything is now on the first page.

One of the things that we did in the redesign was to really make sure that we were thinking about streamlining requirements so that we had a reduction in terms of the number of steps for faculty, Streamlining forms means undergraduate and graduate requirements are on the same form and many cases we adopted what the Graduate School is looking at in terms of the proposal requirements and pushed that down to the undergraduate level proposals.

Catherine showed a side-by-side comparison of the workflow for new certificates at both the undergrad and grad level and the different conditional steps. In addition to dropping from 29 to ten different forms, we have over a 50% reduction in the total number of steps that each form gets routed to. We're now up to nine so really significant streamlining that's taken place, and this wasn't done easily, and it wasn't done quickly.

One of the things that we did in all the different outreach, all the conversations that we had is we wanted to make sure that there were clear and unduplicated reviewer lanes. Based on the roles that we had, we wanted to make sure that we had the right reviewer at the right time, looking at the right things.

Based on the data that we collected as part of the focus groups and interviews; we came up with a series of reviewer assumptions. What do we expect or anticipate? A component of the design that really allowed for a lot of the consolidation was the administrative review step.

We had a series of serial steps from a lot of the different units that we have across campus and what we do now is we actually meet weekly, every Thursday morning and quickly move through all of those proposals, so that if there's something from an administrative feasibility standpoint that would prevent that proposal from advancing, that is the first stop that curricula proposal makes, and we give comprehensive feedback, then back to the proposer, so that that gets fixed

before it moves into the academic review process. The other piece that you'll notice, of course, is the addition of the Director of Graduate Studies into the West Lafayette review process. Proposals can be referred to an area committee of the Graduate Council when necessary. Catherine showed two slides that talked about review criteria, noting that the conventions around all grad school processes completed and aligned with the mission and strategic plan. Meetings were held with heads and area committee members to be sure their input was heard.

Catherine noted that part of the initiative, in addition to new forms and workflows, was really articulating what are all the requirements and getting that in one space. The other piece that was a big change in terms of this project relates to the timelines. Specific details on timelines and requirements for all proposal types are in one place. This resource page is maintained by the Office of the Provost.

For new graduate degrees, we have a notice of degree or NOD process. This is a pre-review to get earlier feedback. We recognize how much time it takes to get our proposal all the way through the process, and so we're asking for earlier feedback at that proposal development stage. This is done with a survey and is overseen by the Graduate School, so that we can identify if there are any objections that might be coming up early and getting those mitigated. This was something that we partnered with Legal Counsel on as a non-binding agreement to help really articulate what those collaboration principles might look like. Catherine stated that she welcomed input into these processes.

Dr. Barker wanted to stress the notice of degree messaging that will go out. Please, please, please pay attention to those. This is your opportunity to weigh in early in the process to get clarification or express concerns. We really do want to be proactive and respectful of our colleagues within the Graduate School system to allow this process to work well. So just be on the lookout for that one. It will start coming regularly.

Those of you who are engaged with Purdue Online already get a similar kind of notice where there is a monthly list that indicates new things that are coming down the pipeline. It will be a very parallel concept and we do want you to pay attention to that. My guess is as we continue to implement this process over the coming months and many of you start to engage with it, there may be questions, that's just natural, and so don't hesitate to reach out to Catherine.

And again, thank you for your hard work on this process and kudos to Tina Payne and Tom Atkinson, who quickly stepped in to help us get functional for this first meeting.

COURSE AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS:

Next on the agenda are Course and Program proposals (Appendix A). There were no objections to moving these to the Consent Agenda.

PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

The next agenda item is a presentation from the Purdue Graduate Student Government president, Somosmita Mitra:

I was elected to the position of the PGSG as your President in May 2023. I'm a graduate student pursuing my PhD in electrical and computer and engineering and it's a privilege to be here and talk about what PGSG has done so far in this academic year. To start off, we had our call out and

our invitation to teams. We had about 119 team members joining PGSG as of today. We had two Senate meetings and on the last one there were 58 senators. We were able to increase the number of senators that are representing their perspective departments on the Senate floor of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate with help from Dean Barker, and we had two key eboard positions which were vacated last month. As of yesterday, we have managed to fill them as well. We plan to hold town halls beginning next month to hear more about graduate student concerns and the issues that they're facing across campus. We'll be having our first mental health first aider training to develop a team of mental health first aiders on the 25th of October. This is PGSG funding 15 graduate students interested to be there as a support system for all graduate students here on campus.

We also have funding to do a kickoff party on the 13th of November with collaboration from CAPS to highlight the mental health and student wellbeing resources here on campus. We have a PGSG picnic on the 6th of October. We have our weekly literary club, as well as the Biweekly Accountability Club happening here at the center. We've also had on the Senate floor legislation to add Juneteenth to the academic calendar, as well as on the next month. The Senate is working on legislation with the support of the provost to get Mental Health Action Week on the academic calendar as well.

In addition to that, we are working on a shuttle service with support from Associate Provost Barker for Saturdays and Sundays from 6:00 PM to midnight. This was based off the kickoff program that PGSG did in April, called the “after hours” bus shuttle service and right now, our plan is to continue that for the upcoming two semesters and be able to gather data in order to support our graduate students better.

NEW BUSINESS (POSTHUMOUS DEGREE REQUEST):

Dr. Barker stated that we currently have one item of new business and unfortunately, it's the awarding of a posthumous degree. There is a recommendation from the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering for a posthumous degree for the late Brent Kreinop. Brent has been recommended for a non-thesis Master of Science degree in Defense, Engineering and Technology. He has completed the requirements for this major. The late Brent Kreinop, who died March 19, 2023, meets and even exceeds the university's requirements for the conferral of a posthumous Master of Science degree in Defense, Engineering and Technology. During the review of Mr. Kreinop's record, the following were noted: Mr. Kreinop began his Purdue University graduate program in the fall of 2019. He enrolled in the Defense, Engineering and Technology program, effective with the summer 2022 session. Mr Kreinop's plan of study for the Master of Science in Defense, Engineering and Technology degree was created, and the plan of study included 36 credits, all of which have been completed.

Mr. Crane's plan of study focused on Expeditionary Warfare and included satisfactorily completed coursework from Cranfield University per the collaborative agreement with that institution. The non-thesis option program was fully completed, and it is my conclusion and recommendation that Mr. Kreinop meets the requirements to receive a posthumous Master of Science degree in the Defense, Engineering and Technology program.

Dr. Barker noted that Professor Steve Beaudoin was here as well, to say a few words:

He was a highly valued employee out at Crane. He worked on defense kinds of issues for Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, specifically for the Navy program. All of his colleagues really admired and valued the contributions that he made there.

He worked for Professor Ed Delp to pursue a master's thesis project, and it was always felt that he went above and beyond. He was conscientious. He was really motivated as he did the research project. He did that on top of his full-time day job. And he did it in an area where he didn't have a lot of experience, so he really had to learn a lot to come up to speed. And Professor Delp was delighted with his work. He completed all the requirements. He certainly has merited the posthumous degree, and I'm hopeful that you will grant that request.

With confirmation from the members, the request was placed on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda includes: the April 2023 Minutes; Appendix A, Graduate Course and Program Proposals; and the Posthumous Degree Request. The motion to accept the full Consent Agenda was received and seconded. The Consent Agenda was approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Barker at 4:05 p.m.

Eric Barker
Chair of the Graduate Council

Tina Payne
Secretary to the Graduate Council

**PENDING GRADUATE COUNCIL COURSE
AND PROGRAM PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS**
September 2023

GRADUATE COURSE PROPOSALS:

Area Committee A, Behavioral Sciences, (Joy Colwell, chair; colwell@pnw.edu)

Graduate Council Document 23-27a, PUBH 51250, International Health Systems: A Comparative Approach (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:21373/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-27b, PUBH 51350, Global Health Security and Disaster Management (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:21375/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-27c, PUBH 54250, Public Health and Nutrition (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:21374/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-27d, PUBH 54750, Public Health Program and Policy Evaluation (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:21372/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-27e, PUBH 54850, Public Health Law (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:21376/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-18d, SLHS 52101, Speech Disorders In Children (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24471/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-18e, SLHS 54600, Clinical Seminar In Speech-Language Pathology (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24310/form>

Area Committee B, Engineering, Sciences, and Technology (Duane Dunlap, chair; ddunlap@purdue.edu):

Graduate Council Document 23-20b, CM 61000, Urban Built Environment (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22202/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-20d, CM 62500, Smart Infrastructure System (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22219/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-20c, CM 63500, Advanced Facilities Management (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:23344/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-20e, CM 63600, Future-proof Construction And Infrastructure (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22241/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-20f, CM 63700, Computer Vision Application For Smart Infrastructure Management (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22240/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-8b, CS 56100, Software Testing (PFW)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22789/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-26a, CNIT 54600, The Internet of Things for Information Technology (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:18581/form>

Graduate Council Document 22-23d ECE 60432, Nanophotonic Modeling (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:18705/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-9a, ECE 61220, Advanced VLSI Design (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:20950/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-28a, ENGT 54000, Change Management For Enterprise Sustainability (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24200/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-21a, ME 52701, Kinetic Theory & Computational Modeling In Fluid Dynamics (IUPUI)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:9282/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-21b, ME 56806, Materials Characterization Techniques (IUPUI)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:20943/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-21c, ME 60602, Topology Optimization (IUPUI)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:9853/form>

Area Committee C: Chemistry, Engineering, and Physical Sciences, (James Tisdale; chair, jtisdale@purdue.edu):

Graduate Council Document 23-15f, BME 51000, Neural Mechanisms In Health And Disease (PWL)

<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24179/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-15c, BME 52300, Embedded Bioinstrumentation (IUPUI)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:23286/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-15d, BME 53000, Imaging Diagnostic Technologies For Medical And Biological Applications (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:15176/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-15b, BME 54600, Engineering Analysis Of Tissues (IUPUI)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22323/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-15e, BME 57200, Engineering Principles Of Biotechnology Applications (IUPUI)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24450/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-19a, CHE 50200, Analytical Approach To Healthcare Delivery (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:17053/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-34a, CLPH 635, Principles Of Pharmacokinetics And Pharmacodynamics (PWL)
[CLPH - 63500 - Princ Phrmcokinet & Pharmcodyn | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 23-25a, IPPH 57400, Pharmaceutical Biotechnology (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:23433/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-16a, MA 57300, Numerical Solution Of Ordinary Differential Equations (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22069/form>

Area Committee E: Life Sciences, (Laura Bowling, chair; bowling@purdue.edu):

Graduate Council Document 23-5c, BIOL 51201, Advanced Cell Biology (IUPUI)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:23997/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-5d, BIOL 51099, Neural Mechanisms (PWL)
[BIOL - 51099 - Neural Mechanisms | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 23-5e, BIOL 52101, Experimental Design and Analysis (PWL)
[BIOL - 52101 - Experimental Design & Analysis | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 23-29a, BTNY 69200, Graduate Professional Practice (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24463/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-30a, HSCI 52500, Introduction To Statistical And Computational Approaches For Health Sciences (PWL)
[HSCI - 52500 - Statistics For Health Sciences | Curriculog](#)

Area Committee F, Management Sciences (Nicole J. Widmar, chair; nwidmar@purdue.edu)

Graduate Council Document 23-22a, MGMT 56300, Machine Learning For Business Analytics (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24332/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-22b MGMT 56700, Deep Learning For Business Analytics (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24331/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-22c MGMT 58700, Using R For Analytics (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:22014/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-22d MGMT 63610, Business Ethics (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:23477/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-23a OBHR 66310, Leader Communication & Negotiation (PNW)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:24072/form>

Graduate Council Document 23-32a AGRY 69500, Graduate Professional Practice (PWL)
<https://purdue.curriculog.com/proposal:25187/form>

GRADUATE CURRICULA PROPOSALS:

Area Committee E

Graduate Council Document 23-35a, Dual Title PhD in Nutrition Science/ Cancer Research
[PhD in Nutrition Science-Cancer Research - College of Health and Human Sciences - WL | Curriculog](#)