

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Bertelsmeyer Hall Room B12A and via Zoom

12:00pm Wednesday, February 04, 2026

Present: Serhat Hosder, Amy Belfi, Irina Ivliyeva, Melanie Mormile, Jee-Ching Wang, Sarah Stanley, Haiming Wen, Jee-Ching Wang, Manashi Nath, Magdy Abdelrahman, Rui Bo, Peggy Lindner, Kyle Perry, Vahe Permzadian, Cecil Chua, Frank Liou, Xiaodong Yang, Lana Alagha, Hyunsoo Kim, Cihan Dagli, Edward Malone, Lijun Jiang, Jeffery Winiarz, John Harris, Iheanyichukwu Ajoku, David Borrok, Robin Gore, Stephen Raper, Roger Weaver, Debra Bourdeau, Sharon Matson, Jade Sinnott, Sylvia Skouby, Alexa Fineran, Tina Balch, Autumn Frazier

President L. Jiang called the meeting to order, 12:00 pm

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2025 Meeting - Motion to approve: second: approved.
3. President's Report
 - a. Parliamentary Appointment
 - i. Nominations and volunteers still being accepted
4. Status report from Kathryn Northcut - Chair of the Personnel Committee
 - a. Dr. Northcut provided a detailed update from the Personnel Committee concerning campus climate surveys and labor conditions
 - b. The COACHE survey will be the only one conducted this year
 - c. Dr. Northcut also provided details concerning
 - i. Staff Success Center
 - ii. Concerns about NTT contracts
 - iii. Concerns about funding for miscellaneous instruction
5. Discuss current challenges related to the Graduate Faculty Rules and Regulations and consideration of a subcommittee to conduct a comprehensive review and identify possible areas for improvement, including the following
 - a. Organization of the Graduate Council and election of council representatives (see addendum) and questions whether departments should be limited to a single representative on the GFC
 - b. Removing reappointment requirements for full members (assistant professor or higher) of the graduate faculty (see addendum)
6. There was discussion concerning increasing the maximum of Stipend X
7. Discuss proposed changes to 6000-level lecture credit hour requirements:
 - a. Non-thesis MS: reduce requirement from nine to six credit hours
 - b. PhD: establish a minimum of nine 6000-level lecture credit hours
 - c. The discussion was tabled because the proposing department was not represented at the meeting
8. The GFC President will soon solicit via email nominations for the GFC officer positions of president and secretary
9. New Business
 - a. The importance of recruitment was reiterated

- b. Candidates for the Vice Provost of Graduate Education have been identified and the interview process is ongoing
- c. There was discussion concerning an increase in minimum compensation for post docs
- d. The formulation of a centralized 'list of contacts' was discussed
- e. Graduate Student Council representation inquired on the status of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights
 - i. They were advised to re-initiate and submit a new Graduate Student Bill of Rights document to Graduate Council for consideration
- f. The GFC discussed policies for restricted research projects
- g. The integration of AI in graduate education was discussed extensively
 - i. The importance of the growing use of AI tools by graduate students was discussed, emphasizing the need for guidelines on responsible AI use
 - ii. The GFC also explored plans to develop AI-focused courses and a graduate certificate, with ETC leading the initiative
 - iii. The governor's AI directive was mentioned, encouraging universities to integrate AI training into their programs, and discussions were suggested for departments to define AI competencies for their students
- h. The concept of increasing stipend X for PhD students, but not for Masters Students was introduced for consideration

Meeting adjourned by President Jiang, 1:00 pm.

VI. THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

B. Organization

1. The Council shall consist of the President of the Graduate Faculty, as Chair, and one representative for each graduate degree granting program and from each department offering graduate courses (5000+ level) not otherwise represented.
2. In May of alternate years, the Graduate Faculty by departments or programs, shall elect one of their members to serve a two year term on the Graduate Council commencing with the start of the next academic year.

IV. ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

- A. Petitions for membership in the Graduate Faculty shall be submitted to the Vice Provost of Graduate Education by the Chairs of the Departments concerned no later than the first day of October during the Fall Semester and the first day of March during the Spring Semester. The petition shall be accompanied by evidence that the department chair feels necessary to substantiate the qualifications of the individual being considered for membership.
- B. The Membership Committee of the Graduate Faculty shall consider the petitions and submit the names of the candidates who meet the qualifications to the President of the Graduate Faculty along with the recommendation that they be elected to membership. The President of the Graduate Faculty will then forward the recommendations of the Membership Committee to all members of the Graduate Faculty.
- C. The petitions and accompanying evidence of the candidates who are recommended for membership by the Membership Committee shall be made available to the members of the graduate faculty at least three days prior to the date of the membership election.
- D. Graduate Faculty members shall be reviewed six years after the initial appointment and every five years thereafter by the Membership Committee in order to ascertain whether the member is continuing to be active in graduate work. The name of a member who, in the opinion of the membership committee, has ceased to meet the requirements as described in Section III.C.3a-c shall be submitted to the President of Graduate Faculty with the recommendation that their membership not be renewed provided the member in question does not withdraw their application before the membership election ballot is distributed.
 1. In the event that a recommendation to not renew is made by the Membership Committee, the President of Graduate Faculty shall notify the member and the member's Department Chair to notify them of the recommendation. The member will be given a minimum of five working days to prepare a rebuttal to the Membership Committee's recommendation to be given to the President of Graduate Faculty. If not done so already, the Department Chair will be asked to provide the name of a member of the Graduate Council to act as an advocate for the member filing the rebuttal.
 2. The Membership Committee, Graduate Council advocate, and the President of Graduate Faculty will meet to consider the rebuttal to reach a final decision. The recommendation from this group will then be forwarded to the member being considered for renewal and that member's Department Chair no later than five working days before the membership election ballot is distributed.
- E. All voting related to the membership of individuals in the Graduate Faculty shall be conducted by secret ballot.