

Graduate Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 12 – 1 pm

Bertelsmeyer Hall, Room B12A

Zoom: <https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/93458482630?pwd=vSMOvVmX1GeIGJr9CVw3Ub1K1E1xCf.1>

Meeting ID: 934 5848 2630 Passcode: 969141

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of minutes from November 5, 2025, meeting
3. President's Report
 - a. Parliamentarian update: nominations and volunteers still being accepted
4. Status report from Kathryn Northcut - Chair of the Personnel Committee
5. Discuss current challenges related to the Graduate Faculty Rules and Regulations and potential approaches for addressing them, including consideration of a subcommittee to conduct a comprehensive review and identify possible areas for improvement.
 - a. Organization of the Graduate Council and election of council representatives (see current language from Rules and Regulations on page 2)
 - b. Removing reappointment requirements for full members (assistant professor or higher) of the graduate faculty (see current language from Rules and Regulations on page 2)
6. Increase Stipend X max
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
8. New Business

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.