

# Graduate Faculty Meeting Minutes

Carver/Turner, Havener Center and Zoom

4:00pm Monday, May 4, 2026

Present: Lijun Jiang, Jeffrey Winiarz, Clair Kueny, Peggy Lindner, Vahe Permezadian, Irina Ivliyeva, Sarah Stanley, Guang Xu, Melanie Mormile, Kamal Khayat, Tayfun Akyurek, Vadym Mochalin, John Harris, Jade Winzer, Sharon Matson, Karen Walberg, Tricia Helton-George, Ambyr Reese

In attendance on Zoom: Randy Moss, Haiming Wen, Katherine Sharp, Mahelet Fikru, Monday Okoronkwo, Magdy Abdelrahman, Jonghyun Park, John Myers

President L. Jiang called the meeting to order, 4:00 pm

1. Approval of Minutes from the December 1, 2025, Meeting - Motion to approve as written: Second: Approved
2. Approval of Spring 2026 Commencement List (sent via email)
  - a. Approved by a vote of the members in attendance.
3. Graduate Faculty Membership Vote for SP2026
  - a. 23 full and 5 associate memberships recommended for approval by the Membership Committee
  - b. Approved by a vote of the members in attendance.

Associate Memberships:

Chad Berner  
Seogjae Choi  
Grant Kolar  
Shakeel Abid Mohammed  
O Satici

Full Memberships:

Daryl Beetner  
Jessica Cundiff  
Andreas Eckert  
Arezoo Emdadi  
Mahelet Fikru  
Nobuyuki Fukawa  
Katherine Grote  
Xiaoming He  
Amber Henslee  
Catherine E. Johnson  
Jeremy L. Maurer  
John Myers  
Francisca Oboh Ikuenobe  
Daniel Oerther  
Jonghyun Park  
Vahe Permezadian  
Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani  
Kathleen Sheppard  
Sarah Stanley  
Mingzhen Wei  
Wan Yang  
Xiaodong Yang

Yanzhi Zhang

4. Election for Standing Committee (Nominations listed below)
  - a. Budgetary Affairs - (One position available / Two-year term)
    - i. Michael Moats (Materials Science and Engineering)
    - ii. Jie Huang (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
      1. By a vote of the members in attendance, Michael Moats was elected to the Budgetary Affairs Committee
  - b. Personnel Committee – (One position available / Two-year term)
    - i. Kathryn Northcut (English & Technical Communication)
      1. By a vote of the members in attendance, Kathryn Northcut was elected to the Personnel Committee
5. Motion approved by Graduate Council on April 1, 2026
  - a. Removal of the Non-Thesis Comprehensive Examination for the Master of Science Degree without Thesis Degree
    - i. By a vote of the members in attendance, the motion was approved
6. Elections for Graduate Faculty President and Secretary for 2026-2027 (Nominations listed below)
  - a. President
    - i. Lijun Jiang (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
    - ii. Guang Xu (Mining & Explosives Engineering)
      1. By a vote of the members in attendance, Lijun Jiang was elected Graduate Faculty President for 2026-2027
  - b. Secretary
    - i. Peggy Lindner (Engineering Management & Systems Engineering)
      1. By a vote of the members in attendance, Peggy Lindner was elected Graduate Faculty Secretary for 2026-2027
7. New business
  - a. There was no new business

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.