

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 18, 2026

Members/Alternates Present:

Lipford, Heather, Interim Chair – Human-Centered Computing and Education
Barto, Jeff - Applied Physiology, Health, & Clinical Sciences
Browne, Aidan - School of Energy
Christou, Eliana - Mathematics and Statistics
Faklaris, Cori - Human-Centered Computing and Education
Hayes, Nathan - Management
Hultquist, Lauren - Graduate & Professional Student Government
McCormick, Liz – Architecture
Moller, Stephanie - Sociology
Murtha, Timothy – Anthropology
Tolone, Bill – Dean of the Graduate School
West, Caroline - Graduate & Professional Student Government

Also Attending: Coffey, Lauren - Graduate School
Cottenoir, Mitch – Office of Assessment and Accreditation
Hall-Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School
Wyse, Matt - Academic Affairs, Faculty Governance Assistant

Absent: Lachance, Joan - Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education
Moore, Abby - Atkins Library

I. Report of the Chair – Heather Lipford

Chair Lipford welcomed the council members and guests and introduced herself as the interim chair during Chair Brown's sabbatical. She highlighted the roles of the council, including reviewing proposals, suggesting policy changes, acting in an advisory capacity to the Dean of the Graduate School, and acting as a liaison between their college and the Graduate School.

Browne volunteered to serve as interim vice chair for the fall semester. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chair Lipford reviewed the consent calendar procedures and asked council members to consider serving in the Dean's Annual Review sub-committee in the spring. She also proposed moving the November meeting to November 10 since November 3 is election day. The proposal passed unanimously.

II. Report of the Dean – William Tolone

Dean Tolone reported that the university is placing additional focus on graduate education. This includes streamlining the admissions process, increased marketing, exploring new programs, and continuing to explore online delivery.

Dean Tolone also reported that funding decisions are shifting to the colleges, allowing for funding decisions to be more local. He also mentioned that the university was exploring the possibility of accelerated 4-year doctoral programs.

III. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Jones".

Daniel Jones