

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 1, 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
Lachance, Joan - Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education
McCormick, Liz – Architecture
Moller, Stephanie - Sociology
Moore, Abby - Atkins Library
Murtha, Timothy – Anthropology
Tolone, Bill – Dean of the Graduate School

Also Attending: Coffey, Lauren - Graduate School
Hall-Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School

Absent: None

I. Report of the Chair – Heather Lipford

A. Approval of the May 5, 2026, and August 18, 2026, minutes.

Murtha motioned to approve the May 5, 2026, minutes and Browne seconded. The motion passed with 9 in favor and 1 abstaining.

Murtha motioned to approve the August 18, 2026, minutes and Browne seconded. The motion passed with 9 in favor and 1 abstaining.

B. Reviewing and Making Comments on Proposals in Curriculog

Chair Lipford demonstrated how to navigate Curriculog using a sample proposal. She stressed that some issues do not need to hold up the proposal, such as typos or the grading scale, but issues that affect how the course is entered into Banner and the catalog do need to be resolved. She also reiterated that it is important for the council to be the last thorough review in the process.

The review process will consist of three council members reviewing each proposal. The list of proposals and reviewers will be sent two weeks before the meeting. Reviewers must comment on each proposal they are assigned. If there are no issues with the proposal, they

will comment that it looks good. If there are any issues, they will detail them in the comments section. Proposals will be added to a consent calendar. Any proposals that require discussion will be pulled from the consent calendar. The remaining consent calendar will be voted on as a group.

II. Report of the Dean – William Tolone

Dean Tolone reported that the final graduate enrollment for fall is 5,581 students, roughly 770 of which are international students. Resident enrollment is up and the final number was far better than the projections.

He also reported that a far stricter interpretation of curricular practical training is being enforced. CPT will only be allowed if training is required for all students in the program.

III. Discussion Topics

Lauren Coffey of the Graduate School presented several new initiatives. To enhance the certificate to degree process, the university is adding six credit hour certificates that are stackable. These are for students looking for particular competencies and will not require the creation of new classes.

Another initiative is an accelerated doctoral degree, which would allow students to earn their bachelor's and doctoral degree in under 7 years.

IV. Other Business

Hayes pointed out that the by-laws on the website are not the updated version. Graduate Council secretary Daniel Jones will investigate it. Browne asked if there is a list of graduate faculty. Katherine Hall-Hertel noted that due to the ever-changing nature of the list, any posted list would be quickly out-of-date.

Lachance motioned to adjourn the meeting. Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Daniel Jones