

Minutes of the Graduate Council

Date of Meeting: April 15, 2026

The April 15, 2026, meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:03 p.m. via Zoom by Dr. Ann Wheeler, Chair of the Graduate Council.

Members in Attendance: Alexandra (Ale) Babino, Amanda Arnold, AnaLouise Keating, Dayna Averitt, Brigitte Vittrup, Catalina Pislariu, Chanam Shin, Daniel Newmire, Dayna Averitt, Della Molloy-Daugherty, Derek Crews, Faheemah Hannah, Helen Everts, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Jennifer Martin, Jennifer Quong, Kanchan Budhathoki, Kimberly Mory, Lamar Muro, Kristen McDaniel, Lamar Muro (Lilia), Laura Trujillo-Jenks, Mark Tengesdal, Mikyoung Lee, Nerissa Gillum, Paula Clutter, Pat Driscoll, Rachelle Campbell, and Sharon Wang-Price.

Substitutes: Dan Chen for He Ren

MINUTES APPROVED

- The minutes of the March 18, 2026, meeting were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT BY DR. CAROLYN KAPINUS, DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate Student Appreciation Week Summary

Thank you to everyone who participated in Graduate Student Appreciation Week! Many of you shared heartfelt words of encouragement, which we featured in our daily updates to students. Some of you also shared how you recognized students within your own programs or partnered with us to host events for the wider community. If you haven't already done so, and you have time, please view the submissions to our photo contest. We asked people to capture "What does it mean to be a graduate student?" We received an outpouring of touching and poignant entries. A staff member reached out to me to share "Thank you for sharing those pictures; they gave me a better understanding of how our TWU graduate students manage their time. They deserve to be congratulated and celebrated." The Graduate School wholeheartedly agrees!

Dissemy Demonstration

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 22, at 1:00 pm** for a demonstration of [Dissemy](#), an AI-based instructional tool designed to help students master discipline-specific academic writing. We would love to get your feedback on the potential impact of this tool.

Application and Enrollment Numbers

For fall 2026, the overall acceptance rates are up by 7% (50 applications). Preregistration rates are up 11% (19 students). For summer 2026, the overall acceptance rates are up by 20% (107 applications). Preregistration rates are down by 6% (20 applications). Programs can continue to have an impact on enrollment by communicating early and often with applicants and admitted students. If you want ideas about how to do this, reach out, and the Graduate School can send you the link to view an informative Zoom session we held about this topic last fall.

Thank You

Finally, I want to thank you for all the work you have done on the council this year. During this academic year, the Graduate Council approved 15 revised graduate programs, 11 new graduate programs, 2 new graduate student awards, and 1 revised policy. Of course, graduate faculty applications were also approved too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT BY DR. RUTH JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Minors

The state has announced new rules for minors. We will continue to have minors listed on the Graduate Catalog pages for now until we obtain additional information from the state. Completion of minors has been very low in some areas. Hours in a minor are 6-18 hours.

New Graduate School Staff

Both Tanya and Laurie have caught on quickly and are doing an excellent job. Tanya has her first graduation approaching. Thank you to everyone for your patience during this transition. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

GUEST SPEAKER –Lacey Thompson - Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Aid

SUMMARY REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee – Chair: Dr. Ann Wheeler & Vice Chair: Dr. Dayna Averitt

- No Report.

Research Committee – Dr. Catalina Pislariu

- No Report.

Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Sharon Wang-Price

- No Report.

Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Zhen Li (absent)

- Dr. Dayna Averitt, Vice Chair, spoke on behalf of Dr. Li and reported that there was only one proposal for the committee to review and vote on during today's meeting.
- Dr. Averitt read a message from Dr. Li thanking the committee for their hard work. She noted that many items were completed at the last minute and with a short turnaround time.

Membership Committee – Chair Nominee: Dr. Helen Everts

- **Annual Report Summary:** Dr. Everts presented the committee's final year-end summary, which detailed the total number of applications received, approved, denied, and returned for revision over the academic year.
- Dr. Everts thanked the committee members for their dedication and hard work in reviewing all of the applications throughout the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Committee – Dr. Helen Everts

- Recommendations for Graduate Faculty Status (listed on page 2 of the agenda) were voted on and approved. – **Voted on and approved.**
- 12- Full / 4 - Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement

Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Zhen Li

- Request to Amend - History MA Public & History MA Public Thesis - MA in History (Public History) – **Voted on and approved.**

Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2026-2027 academic year

- The floor was open for nominations; no additional nominations were received from the floor.
- The committee voted unanimously to approve the slate of candidates as presented, re-electing Dr. Ann Wheeler as Chair and Dr. Dayna Averitt as Vice-Chair for the 2026–2027 academic year.

OLD BUSINESS– None

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.
- The next Graduate Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026.**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Faculty Recommendations:

12 - Full / 4 - Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement - **Voted on and approved**

Name	Component	Recommendation
Arnold, Amanda	PT	Full with Dissertation Chair endorsement
Bhatt, Abhinit	PT	Full
Townes, Ashley	HPK	Full
Dice, Jenifer	PT	Full with Dissertation Chair endorsement
Lemieux, Monique	NFS	Full
Cheng, Wen-Hsing	NFS	Full with Dissertation Chair endorsement
Li, Zhen	Acc & Fin	Full
Rhodes, Shanae	CON	Full
Applewhite, Tneecia	Nursing	Full

Tubb, Donna	Nursing	Full
Ramirez, Alicia	Nursing	Full
Felske, Carrie	Nursing	Full
Choe, Siyoung	HPK	Full
Borsh, Sarah	OT	Full
Casey, Stefanie	OT	Full
Soderling, Stina	LCG	Full with dissertation chair endorsement