Minutes of the Graduate Council
Date of Meeting: October 21, 2026

The October 21, 2026, meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:02 p.m. via Zoom by Dr. Ann Wheeler, Chair of the Graduate Council.

Members in Attendance: Alexandra (Ale) Babino, Amanda Arnold, AnaLouise Keating, Andrea Brooks, Ann Wheeler, Brigitte Vittrup, Catalina Pislariu, Chanam Shin, Daniel Newmire, Dayna Averitt, Della Molloy-Daugherty, Derek Crews, He Ren, Helen Everts, Hope McCarroll, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Huizhi Yu, Jennifer Quong, Kimberly Mory, Kristen Becker Schneider, Kristen McDaniel, Lilia Muro, Nerissa Gillum, Rachelle Campbell, Sharon Wang-Price, Sofia Rubinstein, and Zhen Li

Substitutes: Mikyoung Lee for Faheemah Hannah and Pamela Baker for Pat Driscoll

MINUTES APPROVED

- The minutes of the September 16, 2026, meeting were approved.

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

Leadership Transition: Dr. Johnson is retiring as Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the end of June. By the time she retires, she will have served in her role for 20 years. That's a lot of institutional knowledge and we are going to miss her. An active internal search is underway to select a successor by the end of this semester to begin training in the spring. A call for applications went out to the faculty listserv last week. The search committee includes Dr. Dayna Averitt, Dr. Alyssa Fiss, and Dean Suzanne Sellers (Note: Max McComb was added to the committee following the meeting).

Three-Year Degrees & Graduate Impact: Governor Abbott has directed the THECB to create a statewide framework for three-year bachelor's degree pathways to reduce student costs and accelerate workforce entry. Three-year degrees are growing in popularity, and many graduate schools are looking at their admission policies as a result.

Recruiting Zoom Recording: Thanks to everyone who attended the Zoom session on "Relational Recruiting" and thanks to our own Dr. Dayna Averitt for sharing her strategies to increase biology recruitment. You can still request the recording and associated materials.

Dissemity Demonstration (Week of Nov. 4): We will host a demonstration of Dissemity during the week of November 4. Dissemity is an online platform that guides graduate students through structuring and writing academic research.

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

- No Report/ Absent.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Dr. Annie Munson, Executive Director, International Affairs

SUMMARY REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee – Chair: Dr. Ann Wheeler & Vice Chair: Dr. Dayna Averitt
- No Report.

Research Committee – Dr. Catalina Pislariu
- **Outstanding Thesis & Dissertation Awards:** Seven nominations were received, and the committee will begin the review process soon.

Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Sharon Wang-Price
- The Master's Level Course Revalidation Policy will be discussed under old business.

Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Zhen Li
- The committee reviewed seven proposals, which will be presented for a vote under New Business.

Membership Committee – Chair Nominee: Dr. Helen Everts
- The committee reviewed 16 applications. These applications will be presented for a vote under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Committee - Dr. Helen Everts
- Faculty Recommendations: The committee presented 10 Full and 6 Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement recommendations (listed on page 2 of today's agenda). **Voted on and approved.**

Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Zhen Li
- Request to Amend - MEd in Curriculum Studies
- Request to Amend - Graduate Certificate in Adapted Physical Education
- Request to Amend - MBA (Marketing)
- New Program - Dual Degree MLS and MA in English (Literature)
- New program - MS in Kinesiology
- New Program - Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity
- New Program - Dual Degree MLS and MA in English (Writing and Rhetoric)

All proposals were voted on and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Sharon Wang-Price

- Request to Amend - Master's Level Course Revalidation Policy. **Voted on and approved.**

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.
- The next Graduate Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026.**

Membership Committee –

- Faculty Recommendations: 10- Full / 6 - Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement

Name	**Component**	**Recommendation**
Dunlap, Jayne	Nursing	Full with dissertation chair
Price, Megan	OT	Full
King, George	SHPK	Full with dissertation chair
Barker, Jamie	LCGS	Full
Ernst, Daniel	LCGS	Full with dissertation chair
Quintana, Danielle	Nursing	Full with dissertation chair
Mendez, Sierra	Eng, RSCGS	Full with dissertation chair
Banzon, Gabrielle	Music	Full
Stankovic-Ramirez, Zlata	Hum Dev Fam Stu	Full
Rodenfeld, Meirav	OT	Full
Kim, Hansol	OT	Full
Nadolny, Caitlin	PT	Full
Shilcutt, Jackie Beth	Dance	Full with dissertation chair
Corkins, Kristin	Nursing	Full
Servin, Joshua	Nursing	Full
Nahar, Shamsun	Social Work	Full