

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 15, 2025 – Zoom

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Bergner (MSME), Joshua Bolton (Fulton School Rep), Melissa Bugdal (At-Large Perdue School Rep), Yvonne Downie-Hanley (MBA), Maida Finch (EDD ), James Fox (EDLD), Elizabeth Geiger (OGS), Clifton Griffin (Dean of Graduate School), Aston Gonzalez (HIST), Martin Hunter (Registrar), Allen Koehler (AVP Enrollment Management), Eric Liebgold (BIO), Scott Mazzetti (HHPF), Ruth Malone (CURRMED) Heather Porter (Seidel Rep), Jessica Scott (OGS), Ignaciyas Soosaipillai (CADR), Christine Spillson (At-Large Henson School Rep)

## **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Annette Barnes (DNP/MSN), Stephanie Bernhard (ENGL), David Burns (PUBCOMM), Mark deSocio (GIS), Memo Diriker (Faculty Senate Liaison), Jen Hart (CHHS Rep - Spring 25), Amanda Hill (CHHS Rep – On Leave), Abigail Isaacson (GSC), Stephen Oby (MSW), Erin Stutelberg (MAT)

I. Call to Order – 3:31pm.

II. Good News

- Congratulations to Dr. David Burns who is retiring. GC recognizes his work in starting the Communications grad program.

III. Curriculum

- GCC presented a list of graduate curriculum that was approved at the 5/14/25 meeting. The following were approved:
  - BIOL 602 – Course Change – “Biology and Environment
  - MAT – New Accelerated Masters – B.S. General Physics

IV. Grad Council Goals – FY26

- Continue to move towards the Grad School Strategic Plan
- Ideas/Suggestions
  - More funding needed for Grad Assistants
    - ✦ As pins are lost, consider hiring TA’s to cover undergrad courses
    - ✦ Grad Assistants are excellent recruiting tools and cost-effective way of teaching courses.
  - Fee discounts – Online students continue to complain for fees considering they will never use most services
  - Subsidize more community partnerships
  - More engagement with SU Foundation
  - Increase fellowship opportunities
  - Support targeted events

V. Elections

- Chair ○ M. Finch volunteered to serve as Chair. She was elected unanimously.
- Vice Chair ○ There were no nominees. Election for this position will be tabled until September.

#### VI. Marshalls for Graduate Commencement

- We will need 7 or 8 Marshalls for the grad ceremony. We currently only have 3. Please contact Scott Mazzetti if you're willing to serve.
- J. Bolton – It's challenging that final exams are scheduled during the grad ceremony on Wednesday evening.
- Added challenge when students need to be on campus for finals and parking lots are closed.

#### VII. Dean's Remarks

- We are closely monitoring enrollment and applications.
- Thanks to program directors for getting reviews done in a timely manner.
- Liz Geiger has accepted another position. Thanks to her for her excellent work during her time in OGS. We will begin the process of backfilling the position.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m. Submitted  
by Jessica Scott