

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

1:00 PM

110 GRINTER HALL

&

Teleconference (Via Zoom)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Nicole Stedman (Chair), Dr. Jörg Bungert, Dr. Hitomi Greenslet, Dr. Abdoulaye Kane, Dr. Andrei Kirilenko, Dr. Michael Martinez, Dr. Linjuan Rita Men, Dr. Connie Mulligan, Dr. Joni Williams Splett, Dr. Pilar Useche, Fatima Akinola (GSC rep), and Ali Mahmoudi (GSC alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Chris Janiszewski, Dr. James Jawitz, and Dr. Weizhou Zhang

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Lindsay Byron (College of Education), Dr. Casey Bullock (University Registrar), Dr. George Hack (College of Public Health and Health Professions), Diana Hull (Office of the Registrar), Emely McKitrick (College of Pharmacy), Jeanna Mastrodicasa (Office of Institutional Assessment), Chris Newsom (Office of the Provost/Teaching and Technology), Dr. Teresa Roane (College of Pharmacy), Mike Sisk (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Tobin Shorey (Assistant Provost, Curriculum and Academic Policy), Ashley Tidwell (Office of Admissions), and Dr. Julia Varnes (College of Public Health and Health Professions)

STAFF PRESENT: Lorna Dishman, Dr. Tom Kelleher, Megan Lewis, Chelsea Rojas, Frankie Tai (Recording), Dr. Judy Traveis, and Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Dr. Stedman welcomed everyone to this month's meeting of the Graduate Council and gave a brief summary of the pending proposals to be presented to the Council. (Zoom notified all participants that the meeting was being recorded.)

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the May 15, 2025, Graduate Council Meeting. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATES:

2. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences seeks to close the graduate certificate in Biodegradation and Bioremediation (#21613). Mike Sisk was present (via Zoom) for the discussion. He clarified that there is one active student, but they will graduate this semester. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of spring 2026.
3. The College of Pharmacy seeks to modify the curriculum for the graduate certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy (#21558). Emely McKitrick and Dr. Teresa Roane were

present (via Zoom) for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

4. The College of Public Health and Health Professions seeks to close the graduate certificate in Forensic Vocational Rehabilitation (#21673). Dr. George Hack was present for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.
5. The College of Public Health and Health Professions seeks to close the graduate certificate in Geriatric Care Management (#18745). Dr. George Hack was present for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.
6. The College of Public Health and Health Professions seeks to modify the curriculum for the graduate certificate in Public Health (#21378). Dr. Julia Varnes was present (via Zoom) for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

CONCENTRATION:

7. The College of Public Health and Health Professions seeks to modify the curriculum for the graduate concentration in Disability, Health, and Participation for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a major in Rehabilitation Science (#21778). Dr. George Hack was present for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

MAJOR:

8. The College of Education seeks to modify the curriculum for the major in Higher Education Administration for the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree (#21460). Dr. Lindsay Byron was present (via Zoom) for the discussion. Questions were raised regarding the curriculum change; and it was explained that while expanding the elective list, they were also shifting courses that were more focused toward the Ph.D. rather than the Ed.D. The transfer of credit policy was also discussed, including reference to 15-30 credits of “*MDA or Transfer Credit Hours*” in the appendix document. A councilmember suggested that the unit amend that part of the appendix document to clarify that those 15-30 credits are electives and do not need to exclusively come from transfer credits and are available to non-MDA students. A motion to approve (once amended) was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

DEGREE

9. The College of Public Health and Health Professions seeks to close the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a major in Communication Sciences and Disorders (#21788). Dr. George Hack was present for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed termination date of earliest available and a phase-out date of fall 2025.

II. INFORMATION ITEM / ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

10. Graduate Curriculum Committee – May Minutes and September Agenda (Enclosure 10)

11. Graduate Programs – Distance or Self-Supporting (No new items)
Chris Newsom was present (via Zoom) to confirm.

12. Graduate Student Success Center

Dr. Judy Traveis was present to announce Pallavi Eswara as the new Director of Prestigious Awards and Postdoctoral Affairs.

September 22nd is the first monthly meetup of The Exchange. This is a new Graduate School initiative to bring together campus partners in graduate education.

October 28th will be the Graduate School's fall Open House. This event is an opportunity to interact with our stakeholders from across campus

Dr. Stedman announced that we will host the 2026 Conference of Florida Graduate Schools. This will take place in April in Emerson Hall.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

13. Proposal to elevate the Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) to a joint committee parallel to UCC and PCC

Dr. Kelleher shared a draft of a proposal to make the Graduate Curriculum Committee constitutionally recognized. Rationale for the proposal includes:

- Better represent campus-wide colleges and graduate-degree-granting programs, in comparison to current six-member GCC.
- Formalize GCC as a constitutionally recognized committee, parallel to UCC and PCC.
- Allow Graduate Council to focus more on constitutional duties of representing Graduate School as an agent of the Graduate Faculty in supervision of graduate programs, maintaining standards, and establishing and executing policy.
- Operate more consistently with UCC and PCC for better user experience and clarity of process and purpose for graduate faculty and staff.

Under the proposal, GCC would review program proposals in addition to individual course proposals. The Graduate Council would continue to focus on policy and maintaining standards as an agent for all UF Graduate Faculty, per its mission in the UF Constitution. Dr. Kelleher shared the proposal he is bringing to the Faculty Senate (including the Committee on Committees, the Constitution and Regulations Committee, and the Senate Steering Committee). If approved, the new GCC would be elected via the senate's annual nomination and election cycle, making the earliest possible implementation either fall 2026 or fall 2027.

14. Catalog wording on full-time registration

Dr. Kelleher shared documents outlining the current language in the catalog and the proposed language updates. The updated language would align with the definition that enrollment management uses: "Full-time registration is 9 credits in fall and spring. In summer full-time

registration is 8 credits for any combination of A, B, and C terms.” This update will be presented as an action item at a future meeting, and discussions will also need to take place regarding part-time or minimum registration.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.