

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 12, 2025, 3:00 pm
3105 Gardner Commons

Chaired by: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

Council Members Present: Paul Stout, Jay Jordan, Donna Ziegenfuss, David Symons, José Gutiérrez, Codrina Rada, Glen Schmidt, Misty Smith, Robert Keiter, Kent Golic, Janet Lindsley, James Agutter, Kuby Balagurunathan

Student Representative Present: Steven Valdez

Ex Officio Members Present: Helene Shugart, Katrina Green, Anthony Jones, Karen Paisley, Erin Mason

Excused members: Julie Valentine, Ramesh Goel, Brijes Mishra

Graduate School Staff Present: Paula Spencer, Mary Anne Berzins

Welcome: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

Discussion: College Restructuring and Reorganization

Presenter: Peter Trapa, Vice Provost and Senior Dean of the Colleges and Schools of Liberal Arts and Sciences (via Zoom)

Discussion focused on structural and administrative changes related to or under the auspices of the newly established shared services structure referred to as the Colleges and Schools of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Units within this structure include the Colleges of Science, College Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science and the School for Cultural and Social Transformation. Salient points on changes include:

- Colleges and schools retain reporting structure, leadership, RPT and curriculum management.
- The change will facilitate coordination of services.
- The relocation of the Master of Statistics (MStat) and Professional Science Master's (PSM) programs is an administrative (not programmatic) change.
- Creation of the School of Economics is currently considered an administrative change – not yet a merger. A search is underway for a single person to chair both the Department of Economics and the Division of Quantitative Analysis of Markets & Organizations (QAMO).
- Surveys were conducted to collect faculty input on the position description for the common chair.
- Precedence was cited for a single administrator heading two units.

The Council discussed the following concerns and recommendations:

- Council members observed a lack of communication about changed processes and implications regarding these changes, in particular relevant to faculty's role and participation. The Council recommended that administration keep lines of communication with faculty as open as possible in order to reassure them of their role in shared governance.
- Council members suggested that forming a task force of faculty comprising members of both QAMO and the Department of Economics could be beneficial to aid in implementing the formal merger of the two units.
- The Council recommended development of messaging for students affected by structural changes (School of Economics; PSM and MSTAT) to reassure them of their academic degree program matriculation as well as to inform them of where to receive necessary services.
- Council members noted that there is a significant gap in communication with operational services (e.g., Curriculum Management and the Registrar's Office) regarding the logistical

implications of these changes for various systems of the university and how to implement those changes.

- Operational services requested a clear articulation and definition of evolving structures and process - for example, what constitutes a school or a college, a merger or a consolidation. A clear process should be articulated to avoid compliance gaps and disruption of services.
- It is unclear whether the Colleges and Schools of Liberal Arts and Sciences is a separate “academic unit,” or an umbrella structure that manages shared services. If it is a unit that awards degrees, such as PSM and MSTAT, it must be officially created as an academic unit.
- The nature and relevance of examples cited as precedence were discussed.

7-Year Review: Population Health Sciences

Presentation by Robert Keiter on behalf of review committee chair Ramesh Goel

Discussion took place about:

- Department’s growth trajectory
- High scholarly productivity of faculty
- Talented and diverse student body
- Generous stipends
- Strong culture of assessments
- Professional development opportunities for career-line faculty
- Advancement processes for mid-career tenure-line faculty
- Potential for collaboration with the School of Medicine

Suggested revisions to report:

- Modify a recommendation to encourage potential collaborations with the School of Medicine
- Modify a recommendation to include both (and distinguish between) “career-line and mid-career tenure-line faculty.

Motion to ratify report (with revisions): Kuby Balagurunathan

Second: David Symons

Vote: Yes-15, No-0, Abstain – 0

7-Year Review: Physician Assistant Program

Presentation by review committee chair: Glen Schmidt

Discussion took place about:

- Strong reputation of the program
- Impending transition to division status
- Difficulty finding clinical practicum training
- Pending renewal of MOU with St. George location
- Opportunities to grow and strengthen the program

Motion to ratify report: Robert Keiter

Second: Janet Lindsley

Vote: Yes-15, No-0, Abstain-0

Discussion: Role of Graduate Council

- Impacts on the Graduate Council in context of recent legislation
- Charge to maintain positivity

Adjourn