

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.
K-State Student Union, Room 227

Present: P. Adams, C. Alexis, T. Amtoft, M. Arthaud-Day, M. Basel, L. Bonella (K-State Libraries), C. Craft, H. Dogan, U. Emery-McClure, E. Geisbrecht, J. Gordon, A. Jha (GSC President-elect), S. Joseph, S. Kavimandan, M. Miller (Asst. Student Success Coord), B. Mirafzal, J. Nikkel (Academic Affairs & Innovation), B. Olson, V. Padilla Carroll, P. Payne (Assoc Dean), C. Petrescu (Dean), C. Pickens, S. Rishi, A. Sheshukov, T. Smock (Admin), J. Ulmer, D. walker, M. Wei, Z. Whitney (GSC President), H. Woods, T. Yang, S. Yelich Biniecki, U. Yucel
Absent: A. Ahlers, J. Li, M. Pakaste, J. Spencer
Guest: E. Sommer Good (Sr Assoc General Counsel)

1. Opening remarks.

2. Approval of Minutes. September 3, 2024 meeting. https://www.k-state.edu/grad/faculty-resources/graduate-council/agendaminutes/2024_agenda_minutes/GC2024_09_Minutes.pdf

Motion: Dr. Yelich Biniecki motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Dr. Dogan.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 20-0-0. Motion carried.

3. Graduate School Updates

- Presentation: *Speech on Campus - What Can (and Can't) Universities Do?* - Erin Good, Associate General Counsel

Erin Sommer Good, Senior Associate General Counsel in the Office of General Counsel, conducted a short brief on the First Amendment and the rights, roles, and responsibilities of the university and its students. She will also be a panel member at the inaugural Student Success Symposium this Friday in the Union. A link to her presentation is below.

MS Teams link: [Fall 2024 First Amendment Presentation for Colleges \(3\).pptx](#)

Dean Petrescu introduced the new [Mentoring and individual development plans website](#) as a tool for building and maintaining an effective mentor-mentee relationship. Faculty can find the graduate assistantship contract templates in the Grad-Resources MS Teams folder: [Grad Assistantships](#).

Dr. Miller noted that the Graduate School received 65 applications for the Student Parent Success Scholarship—the most received in one semester. There are a range of needs, a large part of which are for babysitting and daycare. However, many students highlighted health challenges, including lack of health insurance, food insecurity, clothing needs, and more. The Graduate School continues to work with the KSU Foundation and the Graduate School Advisory Board to explore ways to improve funding for this scholarship.

4. Council Chairs Meeting - 9/24/24.

5. Academic Affairs Committee – Matthew Basel, Chair

- Report.
- Action Items.

See Chapter 5, The Graduate Faculty, of the Graduate Handbook for eligibility and nomination requirements. <https://www.k-state.edu/grad/student-success/graduate-handbook/chapter5.html>

a. Graduate Faculty Nominations.

Name	Position	Department/Program	Type	Page
Trisha Barefield	Teaching Assistant Professor	Educational Leadership	Member	6
Tamara Bauer	Assistant Professor	Staley School of Leadership	Member	9
Todd Gunderson	Clinical Assistant Professor	Clinical Sciences	Member	13
William Holmes	Teaching Assistant Professor	Educational Leadership	Member	16
Ravneet Sandhu	Research Assistant Professor	Horticulture and Natural Sciences	Member	19
Ahmadreza Shamsi Yousefi (Keyhan Shams)	Research Assistant Professor	Staley School of Leadership	Member	22
Murry Streetman	Assistant Professor	Staley School of Leadership	Member	25
Danielle Schwartz	Clinical Assistant Professor	Applied Human Sciences	Clinical	28
Nicole Eastes	Teaching Assistant Professor	Food, Nutrition, Dietetics, and Health	Associate Teach & Serve	31
Nitzan Farfel	Visiting Assistant Professor	Architecture	Associate Teach	35
Katherine Jordan	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Agronomy	Associate Serve	39
Barbara Mink	Professor of Practice	Educational Leadership	Associate Serve	42
Timothy Tse	Visiting Assistant Professor	Architecture	Associate Teach	45
Gregory Yager	Visiting Assistant Professor	Architecture	Associate Teach	48
William Holmes	Teaching Assistant Professor	Educational Leadership	Certification	16
Deepak Joshi	Assistant Professor	Agronomy	Certification	52
Koffi Badou Jeremie Kouame	Assistant Professor	Agronomy	Certification	55
Andrew (Drew) Pearl	Associate Professor	Staley School of Leadership	Certification	58
Logan Simon	Assistant Professor	Agronomy	Certification	61
Anna (Sophie) Westbrook	Assistant Professor	Agronomy	Certification	64
Jikai Zhao	Assistant Professor	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	Certification	67

HLC equivalent experience memo for Danielle Schwartz (Clinical Faculty):
<https://ksuemailprod.sharepoint.com/:f/s/GraduateCouncil516/EnPMlf02NkVOhgi-X52UzCMBcVqDclN432QoZReigpwgcg?e=nCVjls>

Dr. Basel explained that academic units can and should submit equivalency experience processes in their departments, which have to be shared with the Graduate School and the Provost's Office. The purpose for these policies is to establish and approve standards of equivalent experience for instructors without terminal degrees to teach courses in their disciplines.

Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motions to approve all nominations for Membership.
Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0. Motion carried.



Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motions to approve Danielle Schwartz's nomination for Clinical membership.
Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0. Motion carried.

Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motions to approve all nominations for Associate membership.
Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0. Motion carried.

Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motions to approve all requests for Certification.
Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0. Motion carried.

b. Course and Curriculum Items.

Follow these steps to view the proposals in Curriculog:

- Login to Curriculog using your K-State eID and password: <https://kstate.curriculog.com>.
- Click the Curriculog agenda link in the table below.
- From the list of proposals, hover over the proposal and click the  *View Proposal* icon.
- In "User Tracking" (upper right corner), change "Show current" to "Show current with markup."
- View the proposal. To view attachments, click the  *Files* icon in the menu on the right side of the screen.
- Use the browser back button to return to the agenda and select the next proposal.

For more information on viewing proposals, see:

<http://www.k-state.edu/curriculog/training/view/index.html>

Course Changes - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:2473/form		
College	Course Number	Title
Arts and Sciences	MUSIC 731	Music Business I

Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motioned to approve all Course Change proposals as presented.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 20-0-0. Motion carried.

New Courses - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:2473/form		
College	Course Number	Title
Arts and Sciences	BIOL 607	Human Genetics
Arts and Sciences	BIOL 807	Human Genetics
Education	EDACE 833	Digital Leadership Development in Adult Education
Education	EDACE 866	Adult Learning: Training and Development in Organizations
Education	EDACE 867	Managing Change in Adult Learning & Leadership

Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motioned to approve all New Course proposals as presented.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0. Motion carried.

Note on new course [AP 637 - Introduction to Cell Physiology](#): Council approved this course on 5/7/24, but Faculty Senate Academic Affairs has sent it back to its College Faculty on 9/03/24 for additional discussion and changes.

Discontinued Courses - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:2473/form		
College	Course Number	Title
Veterinary Medicine	AP 804	Veterinary Physiology I
	AP 810	Microscopic Anatomy I
	AP 818	Veterinary Physiology II
	AP 836	RNA in Physiology, Biotechnology and Medicine

Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motioned to approve the discontinuation of AP 804, AP 810, AP 818, and AP 846.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0. Motion carried.

New Curricula - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:2473/form	
College	Title
Agriculture	Accelerated BS/MS in Entomology

Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee motioned to approve the New Curriculum proposal for the Accelerated BS/MS in Entomology.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0. Motion carried.

6. Student Affairs Committee – Bernadette Olson, Chair

- Report.

The committee has been assisting Dr. Miller with reviewing the Student Parent Success Scholarship and Bonebrake Award applications. They will continue with reviews for the RSCAD Grant and GSC/MAGS Graduate Teaching Award, which are due later this month. In terms of graduate policy, the committee continues to coordinate with the Planning Committee in benchmarking policies that are on the review list.

- Action Items.

7. Committee on Planning – Jonathan Ulmer, Chair

- Report.
- Action Items.

- a. Graduate Handbook changes.

Artificial Intelligence paragraph addition to Chapter 1, Section A “Admission Procedures” - use of AI in graduate admission - Reading One

Rationale: There is a basis in university policy for denying graduate applications that use AI-generated content, but the Graduate Handbook should clarify policy for its use in the graduate admissions process. The added verbiage seeks to clarify that submission of personal statements or writing samples that are written using artificial intelligence could be grounds for denying admission.

1. ADMISSIONS, ENROLLMENT, AND PROGRESS

A. ADMISSION PROCEDURES

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When an applicant is required to prepare a personal statement or writing sample as part of the admissions process, the applicant must be the author of the statement or sample in question. An applicant who submits a personal statement or writing sample that is not their original work, either because it was written by someone else or a software program utilizing artificial intelligence, the applicant will be deemed to have provided fraudulent information and may be denied admission or readmission on that basis.

Motion #1: Dr. Ulmer, on behalf of the Committee on Planning, moved to waive Reading Two of the Addition of the Artificial Intelligence paragraph to Chapter 1, Section A “Admission Procedures” in the Graduate Handbook.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 17-0-0. Motion carried.

Motion #2: Dr. Ulmer, on behalf of the Committee on Planning, moved to accept the addition of the Artificial Intelligence paragraph to Chapter 1, Section A “Admission Procedures” in the Graduate Handbook.

Discussion occurred following the presentation of Motion #2:

A Council member asked if the specific verbiage being added allows for the use of AI for basic

proofreading operations like grammar and typographical errors. Dr. Ulmer and Dean Petrescu responded that the language was developed in concert with the Office of General Counsel and is purposefully general to allow the use of AI for these reasons.

A Council member explained that they, as an AI researcher, feel that the new paragraph is too loose or vague on the following grounds: 1) Lacks language to mitigate confusion about what types of AI are/not permissible (e.g., Grammarly Pro, Microsoft Copilot, etc.); 2) Does not explain how graduate admissions personnel can detect the use of AI; 3) It does not address possible discriminatory harm that the use of AI can have against people of color and poorer students who cannot afford AI software or AI detection software. The Council member recommended that the language be re-worked to include these considerations.

Another Council member asked if there is an established appeal process for students whose admission is denied due to the improper use of AI. Dean Petrescu responded that Appendix A of the Graduate Handbook currently allows students to formally appeal directly to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Appropriate documentation must be submitted by the department to make a case for disallowing a student admission.

Another Council member noted that AI detection has not been reliable and remarked that the spirit of the added language is deterrence rather than punitive.

There were additional comments about the possibility of introducing risk on the issue of aesthetic judgment and whether additional verbiage could be added to indicate that a submission proven to be fully written using AI is not allowed. Dean Petrescu noted again that the policy language was approved by the Office of General Counsel.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 18-2-1. Motion carried.

Chapter 1, Section A of the current Graduate Handbook will be updated accordingly.

8. Assessment and Review Committee – Phillip Payne, Associate Dean

- Report.

The committee piloted a new Qualtrics review tool for the APRR reports submitted by departments in AY 23-24 (110 total reviewed). The committee will be working with 6 programs for the graduate program review/Enhanced APRR.

- Action Items.

9. Graduate Student Council – Zane Whitney, President

- Report.

On September 25 the GSC co-hosted the Journey to Leadership panel discussion featuring President Linton, Provost Mendez, and Deans Petrescu, Mercer, and Rush.

The submission deadline for Research and State has been extended to October 3 to allow for additional entries. The poster judging event will take place on October 30.

- Action Items.

10. Informational Items.

- Graduate faculty memberships approved by the Dean.

Name	Position	Department/Program
Shalene Allen	Assistant Professor	Psychological Sciences
Huan Cui	Assistant Professor	Geology
Deepak Joshi	Assistant Professor	Agronomy
Koffi Badou Jeremie Kouame	Assistant Professor	Agronomy
Aaron Kusmec	Assistant Professor	Agronomy
Andrew (Drew) Pearl	Associate Professor	Staley School of Leadership
Farhan Sadique	Assistant Professor	Educational Leadership
Logan Simon	Assistant Professor	Agronomy
Tina Sullivan	Assistant Professor	Agronomy/Northeast Research and Extension Center
Anna (Sophie) Westbrook	Assistant Professor	Agronomy
Jikai Zhao	Assistant Professor	Biological and Agricultural Engineering

11. Additional Discussion - Student Parent Success Scholarship

Dr. Geisbrecht recommended that the Student Parent Success Scholarship applications be expanded and/or standardized to make their assessment as objective as possible. Dr. Alexis volunteered to assist with this task.

12. Adjournment.

Council adjourned at 4:35 pm.