

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2026 – 3:30 pm
K-State Union, Room 227

Present: C. Alexis, T. Amtoft, M. Arthaud-Day, L. Olsen, C. Craft, H. Dogan, M. Elcioglu, E. Geisbrecht, J. Gordon, A. Heseltine, T. Jenkins, S. Joseph, S. Kavimandan, L. Larson, J. Li, M. Miller, T.G Nagaraja, J. Nikkel, M. Pakaste, P. Payne, C. Pickens, B. Schultz, A. Sheshukov, V. Trinetta, M. Veeman, D. Walker, A. Wefald, L. Yang, S. Yelich-Biniecki, U. Yucel, A. Hernandez, F. Sadique, N. Hill.

Absent: A. Ahlers, U. Emery-McClure, T. Felderhoff, T. Linnemann, S. Rishi, D. Rolles, S. Schlender, M. Wei.

1. Opening Remarks.

- Dean Payne called the meeting to order, expressed appreciation for members' time and service during the academic year, welcomed new Graduate Council members, and recognized outgoing members with certificates of appreciation.

2. Approval of Minutes. [April 7, 2026](#)

The body can approve the minutes by general (Unanimous) consent without a second. If corrections are offered, they can also be approved through general consent without a separate motion. However, if someone objects to an approval by general consent, then a second is required along with a vote.

- *The Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.*

3. Graduate School Updates.

- Updates were shared on recent Graduate School initiatives, noting the success of the revised Graduate School Know-How open house format in fostering more one-on-one engagement between faculty and staff, as well as productive discussions at the Graduate School Town Hall. It was also announced that two research mentors were recognized with the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award; Ganga Hettiarachchi and Ryan Rafferty.
- A. Heseltine introduced the new President-Elect Vydehi Gadiparthi. Alexa Heseltine is now the President of GSC.

4. Academic Affairs Committee - Hulya Dogan, Chair

- Report.
- Action Items.

Graduate Faculty Nominations. ← [Click the link to access nominations](#)

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>

Name	Position	Department/Program	Type	Page
Syneva Colle	Teaching Assistant Professor	The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance	Membership	1

Name	Position	Department/Program	Type	Page
Kate Mielitz	Professor of Practice	School of Consumer Sciences	Membership	7
Myron Bruce	Research Assistant Professor	Plant Pathology	Membership	10
Giovana Cruppe	Research Assistant Professor	Plant Pathology	Membership	13
Taylor Nading	Clinical Assistant Professor	Communication Sciences and Disorders	Clinical	24
Tim Cochran	Clinical Assistant Professor	Communication Sciences and Disorders	Clinical	27
Meaghan McCarthy	Assistant Professor	Clinical Sciences	Associate Teach and serve	30
Sara Kearns	Professor	Kansas State University Libraries	Associate serve	33
Blake Billings	Adjunct/Deputy General Council	Special Education, Counseling and Student Affairs	Associate Teach and serve	36
Kamilyah Miller	Assistant Professor	Diagnostic Medicine/Pathology	Associate Teach and Serve	39
Jing Ding	Research Assistant Professor	Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering	Associate Teach and serve	42
Sydney Cochran	Instructor	School of Human Sciences	Associate Teach	46
Buxin She	Assistant Professor	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Certification	49
Josefina Lacasa	Assistant Professor	Statistics	Certification	52
Brett Lane	Assistant Professor	Agronomy	Certification	56
Han Peng	Assistant Professor	Grain and Food Science	Certification	59
Jessika Rojas	Associate Professor	Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering	Certification	62
Carlos Castano	Associate Professor	Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering	Certification	66
Giovana Cruppe	Research Assistant Professor	Plant Pathology	Certification	13

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all member nominations as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all Clinicals as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 21-0-0

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all associate member nominations as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.



Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 22-0-0

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all certification requests as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 22-0-0

5. 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 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:3225/form		
College	Course Number	Title
Arts and Sciences	CHM 970	Selected Topics in Modern Chemistry
Agriculture	FDSCI 640	Research and Development of Food Products
Agriculture	FDSCI 711	Flavor Chemistry
Agriculture	FDSCI 730	A Multidisciplinary Overview of Food Safety and Security
Agriculture	FDSCI 731	Food Protection and Defense-Essential Concepts
Agriculture	FDSCI 750	Food Toxicants
Agriculture	FDSCI 751	Food Laws and the Regulatory Process
Agriculture	FDSCI 810	Fermented Foods
Agriculture	FDSCI 820	Advanced Food Microbiology & Biotechnology
Agriculture	FDSCI 915	Food Toxicology
Agriculture	FDSCI 907	Food Dispersions
Business Administration	MNGT 815	Advanced Management Consulting

Course Changes - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:3225/form		
College	Course Number	Title
Arts and Sciences	MUSIC 811	Pedagogy of Carl Orff

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all course changes as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 23-0-0

New Courses - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:3226/form		
School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies (Olathe Campus)	AAI 791	Emotional Intelligence
School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies (Olathe Campus)	AAI 792	Adaptability and Innovation in the Workplace
School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies (Olathe Campus)	AAI 799	Integrative Professional Portfolio
Agriculture	AGRON 875	Advanced Site-Specific Agriculture
Arts and Sciences	CHM 866	Advanced Instrumental Methods of Analysis
Arts and Sciences	CHM 896	Advanced Physical Methods Lab
Engineering	CIS 738	Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
Engineering	CIS 739	Natural Language Processing
Education	EDCI 861	Evaluating Educational Media Products
School of Health Sciences	KIN 630	Applied Health Behavior Counseling
Arts and Sciences	MUSIC 742	Wind Ensemble Pedagogy
Arts and Sciences	POLSC 850	US Foreign Policy
Arts and Sciences	PSYCH 800	Graduate Research and Development Series

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all new courses as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 23-0-0

Courses to Discontinue - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:3227/form		
Agriculture	FDSCI 840	Public Health Practice
School of Health Sciences	FNDH 718	Physical Health and Aging
School of Health Sciences	KIN 808	Social Epidemiology of Physical Activity
School of Health Sciences	KIN 830	Advanced Public Health Physical Activity
School of Health Sciences	KIN 845	Exercise Adherence
Agriculture	PLPTH 676	Fusarium Laboratory Workshop
Agriculture	PLPTH 850	Introduction to R Programming for Biologists

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve the courses to discontinue as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 23-0-0

Curricular Changes - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:3228/form	
Veterinary Medicine	Pathobiology (PHD)
Veterinary Medicine	Veterinary Medicine (DVM)
Veterinary Medicine	Veterinary Medicine (DVM)

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all the curricular changes as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 23-0-0

New Curricula - https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:3229/form	
College	Title
Arts and Sciences	Media and Communication (MS)
Integrated Studies (Salina)	Space Systems and Astrodynamics Graduate Certificate

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all new curricula as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 23-0-0

Curricula to Discontinue (See Links)	
College	Title
School of Consumer Science	Fashion Studies (MS)
School of Human Sciences	Human Developments and Family Science – Youth Development (MS)

Motion: The Academic Affairs committee moves to approve all Curricula to Discontinue as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

Vote (YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 23-0-0

6. Student Affairs Committee - Lotta Larson, Chair

- Report.
 - The committee continued benchmarking TOEFL score requirements, particularly for GTAs, and found that K-State’s ranges are generally consistent with peer and aspirant institutions. It was noted that the Duolingo English Test is becoming more widely accepted at other institutions, and the need for clearer GTA requirements on both the website and in the handbook was emphasized.
- Action Items. None.

7. Committee on Planning – Jonathan Ulmer, Chair

- Report:
 - The proposed changes are intended to streamline the approval process for tenure-track memberships by allowing departments to submit only a letter and CV, reflecting increased trust in departments to hire qualified faculty.
- Action Items:

Chapter 5 – The Graduate Faculty

A2. Regular Membership (Dean track): Procedures for Tenured Faculty and Faculty in the Probationary Period for a Tenured Position, ~~and Research Faculty~~

The Graduate Faculty assumes that the University's procedures for both tenuring faculty members as well as; appointing new faculty to tenure-earning positions, ~~and appointing research faculty~~ are sufficient to identify qualified members of the Graduate Faculty. Upon the hiring and appointment of ~~In the case of an~~ already-tenured or probationary faculty members both of whom hold a terminal degree, ~~holding the terminal degree,~~ ~~appointed research faculty,~~ ~~or a faculty member in the probationary period for a tenured faculty position who holds the terminal degree,~~ the head of the department may send written notification along with the candidate's CV to the Dean of the Graduate School for appointment to the Graduate Faculty. ~~nominations are sent to the Dean of the Graduate School by the head of the nominee's department or the chairperson of the nominee's program. In every case, the Graduate Faculty of the department or program must submit a written evaluation of the candidate, including the number of faculty at the nominating session, the number eligible to vote, the number of votes in favor, the number opposed, and the role in the graduate program to be pursued by the nominee. A copy of the nominee's curriculum vita should accompany the nomination. The Dean of the Graduate School will appoint the candidate to the Graduate Faculty.~~

Motion: The Committee on Planning moves to waive the second reading of *Chapter 5, Section A2 - Regular Membership (Dean track): Procedures for Tenured Faculty and Faculty in the Probationary Period for a Tenured Position, and Research Faculty*. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

(YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 19-1-3

Motion: The Committee on Planning moves to approve the revisions of *Chapter 5, Section A2 - Regular Membership (Dean track): Procedures for Tenured Faculty and Faculty in the Probationary Period for a Tenured Position, and Research Faculty*. Coming from a committee, the motion does not require a second.

(YES-NO-ABSTAIN): 20-0-3

8. Assessment and Review Committee – Umut Yucel, Chair

- Report:
 - The council received a debrief on the review of two curricula—Media and Communications and the Space Systems and Astrodynamics Graduate Certificate—and discussed the increasing prevalence of three-year bachelor's degrees and the need to consider updates to university policies in response.
- Action Items.

9. Graduate Student Council - Aditya Jha, President

- Report:
- Action Items. None.

10. Informational Items.

- a. Graduate Faculty membership approved by the Dean.

Name	Position	Department/Program	Date
Buxin She	Assistant Professor	Electrical and Computer Engineering	3/23/2026
Brett Lane	Assistant Professor	Agronomy	4/3/2026
Han Peng	Assistant Professor	Grain and Food Sciences	4/3/2026
Silvia Tovar	Assistant Professor	Clinical Sciences	4/3/2026
Cece Leung	Associate Professor & Program Chair	School of Consumer Sciences	4/13/2026
Jessika Rojas	Associate Professor	Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering	4/17/2026
Carlos Castano	Associate Professor	Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering	4/17/2026

11. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm.