

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

February 19, 2026; 2:30pm

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

Present: Gloria Sweida (Chair), Duff Wrobbel, Ram Madupalli, Beidi Qiang, Cinnamon VanPutte, Chin-Chuan Wei, Kyong-Sup Yoon, Dan Segrist, Carole Frick, Joe Kohlburn, Chris Slaten, Elizabeth Cali, Jill Smucker, Cheryl Borowiak

Excused: Saad Ullah, Jennifer Hookstra

Absent: Mary Frazier, Musah Sumaila, Andrea Keller, James Monahan

Call to Order – 2:30PM

- I. Announcements
 - a. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – No Report
 - b. Graduate Committee on Assessment (GCOA) Report – On Teams
 - c. Enrollment Management Report – Jim Monahan (not present)
 - a. Dean Slaten discussed the in-person Graduate School Open House taking place on Monday, March 23rd from 4-6pm in the MUC Legacy Room.
 - b. Dean Slaten also discussed the decline in graduate enrollment for the spring 2026, largely due to national international student visa challenges. The largest impact has been felt in the School of Engineering. The number of domestic student applications for fall 2026 has increased compared to this time last year.
 - d. Student Affairs Announcements – Mindy Dilley (not present)
 - a. Jill Smucker shared on behalf of Student Affairs that Dr. Mindy Dilley has transitioned to serve as the Interim Dean of Students due to Dr. Rony Die's departure from SIUE.
 - e. International Affairs Announcements – Cheryl Borowiak
 - a. Cheryl discussed hesitancy from international applicants to pay their SEVIS fee and proceed with visa appointment due to pending changes in national immigration regulations. She also mentioned that OPT processes are taking longer than normal, so current students interested in OPT should apply as soon as possible.
 - f. Graduate School Announcements – Chris Slaten
 - a. Dean Slaten mentioned that new initiatives are underway and more details will be shared with Graduate Council in the upcoming months. Associate Dean Cali shared that the initial cohort for the Prep to Submit program has launched.
 - b. Jill Smucker shared about the GradConnect sessions that are continuing in the spring semester. There has been an increase in attendance and a positive response from students. Dean Slaten also shared that he and Jill attended a Student Affairs Leadership meeting to strengthen partnerships in promoting resources and services for graduate students.
 - g. Other Announcements
 - a. Gloria Sweida shared that she learned through Faculty Senate that there is now a University-wide AI working group. She also shared that there is a subgroup that will be reviewing academic prioritization proposals.
- II. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2025 - Motion by Duff Wrobbel; Carole Frick seconded; minutes approved.

- III. Public Comments -none
- IV. Report of the Educational and Research Policies (ERP) Committee - Chairperson Chin-Chuan Wei
 - a. GR2526-07: Combined Baccalaureate and Graduate Degrees, Policy 1L17
 - i. Chin-Chuan Wei shared that the amended policy was approved by ERP.
- V. Report of the Programs Committee - Chairperson Duff Wrobbel
 - a. No report as committee did not meet in January due to no agenda items.
- VI. Course Retention Recommendations from Graduate Course Review Committee
 - a. FIN 544 approved for retention unanimously.
- VII. Continuing Business - none
- VIII. New Business – none
- IX. Adjournment-Motion by Duff Wrobbel; meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.