

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

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**Tuesday February 4, 2025**

**Members/Alternates Present:**

Godev, Concepcion, Chair – Languages & Culture Studies  
Bin Abdul Baten, Redwan - Health Management and Policy  
Cooper, Liz – Bioinformatics and Genomics  
Cox, Kyle – Educational Leadership  
Gall, David – Art & Art History  
Libby, Garrison – Atkins Library  
Montanaro, Erika – Psychological Science  
O’Bruba, Ashley – GPSG Student Representative  
Tolone, Bill – Dean of the Graduate School  
Troutman, Jay – Chemistry  
Xu, Terry – Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

**Also Attending:**

Coffey, Lauren – Graduate School  
Cottenoir, Mitch - Office of Assessment and Accreditation  
Goodliffe, Julie – Graduate School  
Hall-Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School  
Watson, Johnna – Graduate School  
Wyse, Matt – Academic Affairs, Faculty Governance Assistant

**Absent:**

Allan, Craig – Geography and Earth Sciences  
Brown, Dace – Public Health Sciences  
Johar, Monica – Bus Information Sys and Operations Management

## **I. Report of the Chair - Concepcion Godev**

### **A. Approval of the December 3, 2024, meeting minutes**

Chair Godev made a motion to vote on the December 3, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted. Montanaro made a motion to approve as submitted with a second from O'Bruba. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

### **B. Updates from Chair Godev**

- i. Chair Godev reported that since December she has approved 44 Curriculog proposals from her queue that did not need to be reviewed by the entire Graduate Council.
- ii. Chair Godev introduced Bill Tolone, the new Dean of the Graduate School. Since Dean Tolone just started his position in January, there will not be a performance review this spring.
- iii. Chair Godev reported that she sent Matt Wyse a draft of the ballot for the revisions to the Graduate Faculty Bylaws. The ballot is broken down by amendment so they can be voted on individually, rather than the entire revision being rejected over one issue. Matt Wyse confirmed he can send the ballot to the graduate faculty by Friday, February 7, 2025. Chair Godev would like the faculty members to have at least 2 weeks to complete the ballot, with a reminder email sent after one week.

## **II. Report of the Dean - Bill Tolone**

- A. Dean Tolone reminded the council that Friday, February 14, 2025, is the Graduate Education Summit. He asked the council members to remind everyone from their department about the summit. The summit will include updates from Legal Affairs, Research, the AI for Teaching and Learning Taskforce, and University Communications among others.
- B. Dean Tolone reported that a team from the Council of Graduate Schools met with people across campus and throughout the Graduate School. They will submit a list of recommendations for the Graduate School.
- C. The R1 announcement is on the horizon. This will create a significant opportunity around graduate education. The 27 programs whose websites receive the most traffic will receive upgraded websites. Johnna Watson added that these upgrades are designed to drive traffic to the websites and increase applications. She reported that applications are down 500 from last year, with domestic applications seeing an increase but international applications declining by more than 700.

## **III. Discussion Topics**

There were no discussion topics for this meeting.

#### **IV. Course and Curriculum Proposals**

##### **A. ESCI 5145 – Groundwater**

Originator: Terry Shirley, Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences

**Committee Member Assignments: O’Bruba, Cox and Gall**

Comments:

- The Proposal looks good

Troutman made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted with a second from Bin Abdul Baten. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

##### **B. GEOG 5340 - Urban Analytics**

Originator: Terry Shirley, Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences

**Committee Member Assignments: Johar and Cooper**

Comments:

- The Proposal looks good

Gall made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted with a second from Cooper. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

##### **C. MDSK 6262 - AI and EdTech in the Classroom**

Originator: Daniel Maxwell, Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education

**Committee Member Assignments: Allen, Troutman and Xu**

Comments:

- The Proposal looks good

Troutman made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted with a second from Bin Abdul Baten. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

##### **D. PHIL 6130 - Ethics, Security, Privacy, and Governance of Data for Social Good**

Originator: Trevor Pearce, Philosophy

**Committee Member Assignments: Brown and Montanaro**

Comments:

- The Proposal looks good

Troutman made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted with a second from Bin Abdul Baten. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

E. AEEE 5010 - Special Topics in Energy

Originator: Aidan Browne, Applied Energy and Electromechanical Engineering

**Committee Member Assignments: O’Bruba and Johar**

Comments:

- Repeat Limit ---98 is listed. Matt Wyse clarified that 98 is the number used to signify that there is no limit to the number of times a course may be repeated.
- Sections C2–C12 need to be completed for this proposal to advance. Since this is a topics class, that section is not necessary.

Bin Abdul Baten made a motion to approve this proposal once the corrections are made with a second from Troutman. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

F. AEEE 5020 - Special Topics in Electromechanical

Originator: Aidan Browne, Applied Energy and Electromechanical Engineering

**Committee Member Assignments: Gall and Cooper**

Comments:

- Repeat Limit ---98 is listed. Matt Wyse clarified that 98 is the number used to signify that there is no limit to the number of times a course may be repeated.
- Sections C2–C12 need to be completed for this proposal to advance. Since this is a topics class, that section is not necessary.

Cooper made a motion to approve this proposal once the corrections are made with a second from O’Bruba. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

G. MATH 5175 - Mathematical Foundations of Optimization

Originator: Adriana Ocejo Monge, Mathematics & Statistics

**Committee Member Assignments: Cox and Xu**

Comments:

- The list of objectives needs adequate elaboration.

- There are some typos in the course description, ". . . mathematical foundation (s missing), and "basis" should "basic."
- (A11.b) requires some discussion/justification of textbook cost

Confirm a separate proposal was submitted because this course is cross-listed with an undergraduate course

Other components reviewed by the Graduate Council for a new degree program are included or not applicable

- Does the course only serve early entry MS in Mathematics students?
- These comments were all corrected in the proposal prior to the vote by the council.

Xu made a motion to approve this proposal once the corrections are made with a second from Montanaro. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

#### H. MFPA 5321 - Community Threat Assessment and Mitigation

Originator: Michael Benjamin, Fire and Safety Engineering Technology

**Committee Member Assignments: Montanaro and Troutman**

Comments:

- Given that the Graduate aspect of the course is what is to be considered here, shouldn't the grading scale be A, B, C, U.? Other than this oversight, which can be corrected, the proposal meets the requirements for approval
- Grading should follow graduate school guidelines (already noted). Otherwise, the proposal looks good.
- Other than grading scale the proposal looks good
- Dan will contact the originator to correct the grading scale.

Gall made a motion to approve this proposal once the corrections are made with a second from Bin Abdul Baten. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

#### I. Mathematical Finance, M.S., and Finance, Master's, Dual Degree - (New Graduate Program)

Originator: Amy Riter, Economics and Business Administration

**Committee Member Assignments: Brown and Cooper**

Comments:

- The Proposal looks good

Troutman made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted with a second from Bin Abdul Baten. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

J. Mathematical Finance, M.S., and Quantitative Finance, Master's, Dual Degree - (New Graduate Program)

Originator: Amy Riter, Economics and Business Administration

**Committee Member Assignments: Allen and Cox**

Comments:

- The Proposal looks good

Troutman made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted with a second from Bin Abdul Baten. The Council approved by a unanimous vote.

**V. Other Business**

There was no other business

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Gall and seconded by O'Bruba.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.

The next Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Jones  
Graduate Council Secretary