Graduate Studies Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Time: 3:00pm
Location: Provost's Conference Room, Derryberry

Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHER ATTENDEES
Dr. Julie C. Baker—Executive Officer	Dr. Joseph Slater	Lucinda Morabito
Dr. Alice Camuti—Ex-Officio	Dr. John Zhu	Stephanie Flores
Dr. Allan Mills—Chair	Dr. Ashley Akenson	Irene Sullivan
Dr. Tammy Boles for Dr. Samantha Allen	Dr. Bedelia Russell (resource)	Tammy Dodson
Dr. Edwin Baidoo	Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu	Jacqueline Rush
Dr. William Eberle	Dr. Hayden Mattingly	Becky Blalock
Dr. Rachel Hall	Jemima Owusu-Tweneboah	Dr. Cara Sisk
Dr. Jonathan Wiley for Katherine Hermann-Turner		Dr. Kent Dollar
Dr. Samantha Hutson		Dr. Steven Thomas
Dr. Barbara Jared		
Dr. Justin Lee		
Dr. Thomas Payne		
Dr. Julie Pharr		
Dr. Michael Phillips		
Dr. Darron Smith		
Dr. Krystal Kennedy for Dr. Jeremy Wendt		
Dr. Kit Wheeler		
Dr. Karen Wright (resource)		
Dr. Lisa Zagumny		
McKenna Stevens		
Aiden Gillis		
Amaya Rosacia		

Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda.
   The motion to approve the agenda was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Smith. No comments or amendments were made in the meeting.

   The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

2. Approval of the minutes of the September 6, 2026, meeting.

   The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Smith.
   No comments or amendments were made in the meeting.

   The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

3. Proposal by the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of History to change the title of course HIST 5354. Effective Spring 2027 to align with undergraduate cross listed course.

   The motion to review the proposal was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Smith.
   Dr. Kent Dollar stated that the department likes to have cross-listed undergraduate and graduate courses available for students. If a special topics course does well, they will make it permanent. This course did well so they made it a permanent undergraduate course and graduate course. This proposal was to update the course title of the graduate course.

   The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

4. Proposal by the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English to add a new course PC 5960 Rhetoric and Health Professions. Effective Spring 2027 to align with undergraduate cross listed course.

   The motion to review the proposal was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Smith.
   Dr. Steven Thomas proposed the new course to fill a need as communications are expanding in health professions. This course could be used as an elective in other graduate programs. The cross-listed course was already approved at the undergraduate level. This change will align the two courses.
   Dr. Eberle inquired about the change being effective in spring.
   Dr. Camuti responded that it will not be in the catalog until Fall 2027.

   The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

5. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Curriculum and Instruction to update the graduate catalog regarding admission term for Applied Behavior Analysis programs to Fall only. Effective Fall 2027

   The motion to review the proposal was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Smith.
   Dr. Krystal Kennedy stated that as part of the accreditation for the ABA program it was determined that sequencing was needed to support successful program completion. The department proposed an update to the graduate catalog to identify the program as Fall Admission Only.

   The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

6. Proposal by the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, School of Human Ecology
    a. to change the title of course HEC 5100. Effective Fall 2027

       Note: program of study listed on memo was previously updated.

    b. update course prerequisites for HEC 5100, 5500, 5600, 6540, 6515, 6550, and 6535. Effective Fall 2027

       Note: Course prerequisites listed on the memo for HEC 6570, 6575, 6565 were updated previously.

   The motion to review the proposal was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Smith.
   Dr. Cara Sisk addressed the proposals. The course title change for HEC 5100, had already been changed at the undergraduate level and needed to be updated at the graduate level.
   Course prerequisites for the HEC courses listed above were required due to specific program requirements.

   The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

7. Proposal by the College of Graduate Studies to update Policy 270, Graduate Admissions.

   The motion to review the proposal was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Smith.
   Dr. Alice Camuti thanked the committee members who reviewed and revised Policy 270. Changes include wording regarding admission GPA for applicants with graduate and professional degrees. Revisions were also made to the Special Admissions requirements including non-degree seeking applicants and Fast Track participants.

   Dr. Boles asked if an applicant with a professional degree could be admitted using the professional degree GPA?
   Dr. Camuti responded that it may be used.

   The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

8. Informational Items

   Dr. Baker shared information about changes to the graduate assistantship hiring process effective November 2026. Departments will be responsible for providing GA's with the offer letter – it will no longer be produced through Talon. In addition, all departments will use the same offer letter (Docusign) which the College of Graduate Studies will provide. New GA assignments will be entered into Talon via the "Add Pending Worker" process which is what we use to hire a student worker today. For GA renewals, the reappointment worksheet will continue to be produced for processing all existing GA assignments.

9. Other Matters

   Dr. Baker posed several questions to the GSEC committee concerning the use of AI. Questions included how their departments will use it and monitor it within their courses, student papers, and other scholarly activities.

10. Adjourn

    The motion to approve the adjournment was moved by Dr. Zagumny and seconded by Dr. Eberle. No comments or discussion.

    The Committee voted and the motion was approved by **all** and opposed by none.

Minutes prepared by S. Flores, Reviewed by Dr. A. Camuti, Approved by GSEC on October 27, 2026.