

Meeting Minutes

Graduate Studies Executive Committee

Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 3:00pm

Provost's Conference Room, Derryberry

Members Present

Dr. Ashley Akenson
Dr. Julie Baker, Executive Officer
Dr. Alice Camuti, Ex-Officio
Dr. Dan Combs
Dr. Bill Eberle
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Rachel Hall
Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner
Dr. Samantha Hutson
Dr. Steve Isbell
Dr. Barbara Jared
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu
Dr. Hayden Mattingly
Dr. Allan Mills
Dr. Thomas Payne
Dr. Julie Pharr
Dr. Bedelia Russell, non-voting
Dr. Joseph Slater
Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Karen Wright, non-voting
Dr. John Zhu
McKenna Stevens
Kashina Nucum
Michele Niec
Braxton Westbrook

Members Absent

Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Dr. Michael Phillips

Other Attendees

Dr. John Liu
Shelia Kendrick
Stephanie Flores
Dr. Robby Sanders
Dr. Matt Smith
for Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Dr. Christy Killman
for Dr. Michael Phillips

1. Appointment of a Chairperson:

Dr. Wendt nominated Dr. Steve Isbell, which he accepted. No additional nominations were made.

The Committee voted and approved Dr. Isbell as the GSEC Chair beginning immediately.

2. Approval of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda: Dr. Gotcher

Seconded by: Dr. Hall

Comments/Amendments: None

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

3. Approval of the minutes from the July 1, 2025, meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes: Dr. Gotcher

Seconded by: Dr. Eberle

Comments/Amendments: None

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

4. Student Item:

Motion to approve the request: Dr. Gotcher

Seconded by: Braxton Westbrook

Comments/Amendments:

The Committee voted and the outcome was to Reinstate the student.

Approved by: Majority Opposed by: Two

5. Proposal by the College of Engineering to edit the Ph.D. in Engineering Admission and Degree Requirements information in the catalog for the Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering doctoral programs and the Computer Science doctoral program. Effective Summer 2026

Motion to approve the proposal: Braxton Westbrook

Seconded by: Dr. Hall

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Eberle proposed cleaning up old or irrelevant wording, such as specialization and banking, in the Engineering Doctoral requirements information in the graduate catalog. A table was inserted for easy reference of the requirements. Transfer information was also reviewed and updated,

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

6. Proposal by the College of Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering to update the name of the Cultural and Interdisciplinary Training at the Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Nexus Certificate, as well as revise the admission program statement, and define the required course for the certificate. Effective Summer 2026

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Hall

Seconded by: Michele Niec

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Robby Sanders proposed to change the admission guideline of specific approved programs to be a general statement of approved graduate programs and to speak with their advisor. The change in the name is to simplify the name. The changes to the courses include making courses permanent as well as adding options as courses in multiple colleges and schools have become available.

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

7. Proposal by the College of Graduate Studies for the revision of Policy 282: Graduate Faculty.

Motion to approve the proposal: Braxton Westbrook

Seconded by: Dr. Mattingly

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Alice Camuti provided an overview of the revisions made to the policy by the review committee which included reordering faculty types, faculty type name change from Adjunct to Affiliate, added clause about continuation of faculty for 1 year by approval of department after leaving, reviewed and edited responsibilities of advisory committee members as Policy 282 duplicated advisory committee content already covered in Policy 271.

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

8. Informational Items:
 - a. Repeatability, up to 6 credit hours, of each of the following courses: CSC 5900 unlimited up to 24 credits must be different topics, CSC 7970 up to 24 credits must be different topics, and CSC 7980 up to 6 credits.
 - b. Course description added to Engineering research, directed study, and special courses, due to Coursedog system requirements. Courses and Descriptions
9. Other Matters: None
10. Adjourn

Minutes prepared by S. Flores, Reviewed by Dr. A. Camuti, Approved by GSEC on October 7, 2025.