

**MINUTES  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES**

MEETING: February 23, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Adams, K. Bowers, T. Brewster, E. Delavega, A. Guthrie, V. Levin, T. McCuddy, J. McCutcheon, A. Mickelson, E. Nelson, M. Perez, H. Sable, K. Saghafi, C. Santo, X. Shen, S. Stanley, D. Venugopal, C. Woolner

MEMBERS ABSENT: P. Alcalde, S. George

GUESTS: Rosa Feleg (HIST)

PROXIES: Diana Ruggiero (WLL)

PRESIDING: R. Kreuz

**1. Approval of the minutes from the January 26, 2026 Council meeting**

M. Perez motioned to approve the minutes. J. McCutcheon seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

**2. Summary of the February 6 UCGS and February 12 GAAN meetings**

R. Kreuz reported the following:

On February 6, the UCGS had a presentation by Andrew Linn, the executive director of student financial aid and scholarships. He acknowledged the rocky rollout of CPOS at the graduate level and says that there will be training sessions later this spring and during the summer. Darla Keel, the registrar, presented on a proposed revamping of the grading of dissertation hours (agenda item 5a).

At the February 12 GAAN meeting (Graduate Academic Advising Network), Ryan Crews and Beverly McPhail talked about CPOS and the proposed changes to the catalog (agenda items 5b, 5c).

Across the university, Beverly reported that nearly a million dollars were being spent on unnecessary GA funding (late-stage doctoral student enrolled in excess dissertation hours); early-stage doctoral students enrolled in excess dissertation hours; and doctoral GAs enrolled in dissertation house despite already meeting the graduate school minimum.

Advisors should review the student's UMDegree at every advising appointment to make sure that everything is correct. Is the doctoral student earning a master's degree along the way? Are they enrolled in or plan to enroll in certificate programs?

Beverly also reminded us that, starting last term, there is a doctoral audit policy: doctoral students can audit up to two courses (undergraduate or graduate) without charge.

### **3. CPOS challenges**

CPOS at the graduate level has been implemented this term because of federal financial aid requirements. The process has exposed issues in UMDegree for several programs, and now that they've been addressed, there should be fewer problems going forward. If inaccuracies still occur because of UMDegree, please contact Keri Kerr, the systems support specialist who oversees it.

An important point to remember: Federal financial aid will not pay for more than the required dissertation hours in a degree program, so the goal should be to hit the numbers of required hours—and no more.

### **4. Advisor-advisee expectations**

Last week, R. Kreuz sent out two documents: a dissertation advisor-advisee expectations agreement, and a summary of best practices for dissertation advisors and advisees. The Graduate School expects departments to be using these.

Faculty should be meeting with their advisees at the beginning of each semester to lay out goals, and a meeting at the end of the semester to determine if the goals have been met.

### **5. For discussion and voting**

**The 3 items below are policy changes proposed by the Graduate School that will be voted on at the March 6 UCGS meeting. R. Kreuz will vote in accordance with the results of the discussions of this Council.**

**a) Proposed changes to thesis/dissertation grading** (document titled "Graduate Catalog Proposed Changes")

Under the current system, students who have passed their program's comprehensive exam or equivalent are considered late stage and can register for just one dissertation hour per term and have full-time status. None of that will change under the proposed system.

IP (in progress) grades for dissertation hours have traditionally been given each term once the student begins taking them. After a successful defense, the advisor

awards a grade of S (satisfactory) for the final term, and all the previous IPs become Ss and the credits are awarded in bulk.

There are problems with this system. Faculty sometimes forget to give the IP grade and enter an S instead, which awards the credits and creates all sorts of issues. A better system is needed.

Under the new procedure, the advisor must choose between giving an S and a U. A U will be used when insufficient progress toward the degree has been made.

The grading change would begin with the new catalog in the fall and would not be retractive. This would also apply to master's thesis hours, and the maximum for thesis hours is six.

VOTE: R. Adams motioned to approve, and V. Levin seconded. Fourteen voted in favor, four were opposed, and there was one abstention. APPROVED

#### **b) Proposed changes to academic standing**

A 'U' is the equivalent of an academic warning (probation), and a remediation plan must be put in place. Two Us in consecutive semesters could be grounds for dismissal. It does not mean that the student must be terminated, but the graduate school would require justification for retention.

In the discussion, T. Brewster suggested that the proposal be changed from "two Us in consecutive semesters" to "two Us," to avoid the issue of "yo-yo" students, who might change back and forth between satisfactory and unsatisfactory progress. R. Kreuz said he would propose this as a friendly amendment to the policy at the UCGS meeting.

VOTE: X. Shen motioned to approve, and M. Perez seconded. Eleven voted in favor, three were opposed, and there were five abstentions. APPROVED

#### **c) Proposed changes to the continuous enrollment policy**

Quoting from the proposal: "Once a student begins dissertation credits and assuming they are making satisfactory progress, they should remain enrolled in at least one hour of dissertation credit each fall and spring until they have completed the number of dissertation hours required for the degree."

"Students must be enrolled in the semester (including summer) in which they defend unless they are enrolled in the previous semester and have defended, and all documents are submitted prior to the first day of classes."

VOTE: H. Sable motioned to approve, and A. Guthrie seconded. Fourteen voted in favor, none were opposed, and there were five abstentions. APPROVED

**6. Adjournment** A. Guthrie motioned to adjourn. J. McCutcheon seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

*Minutes prepared by S. Warren from a recording of the meeting and noted provided by R. Kreuz; edited by R. Kreuz*