

Minutes of The University Graduate Council (UGC)

August 26, 2025

The University Graduate Council met on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 1:30 pm in INTDSB 280. Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Lisa Anderson presided.

Name	Unit	Attendance	
Michael Schoon	College of Global Futures	Y	In person
Visar Berisha	College of Health Solutions	Y	Zoom
Patience Akpan-Obong	College of Integrative Sciences and Arts	Y	Zoom
Diane Nuñez	Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation	Y	In person
	Graduate Student Government		
Karen Schupp	Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts	Y	In person
Patrick Phelan	Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering	Y	In person
Margarita Pivovarova	Mary Lou Fulton College for Teaching and Learning Innovation	Y	In person
Deborah Hall	New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences	Y	Zoom
Angela Banks	Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law	Y	Zoom
Bradley Greger	School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering	Y	Zoom
Diana Bowman	School of Technology for Public Health	Y	In person
Brad Ryner	The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Humanities	Y	In person
Cheryl Conrad	The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Natural Sciences	Y	In person
Daoqin Tong	The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Social Sciences	Y	In person
Sophal Ear	Thunderbird School of Global Management	Y	In person
Michele Pfund	W. P. Carey School of Business	N*	
Rebecca Blatt	Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication	Y	Zoom
Jacob Young	Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions	Y	Zoom

*excused absence

Graduate College Attendees: Amanda Morales-Calderon, Sophia McGovern, Kayla Durazo, Amy Glasscock

Other Attendees: Kate Eaton, future representative for College of Global Futures

Call to order: 1:32 pm by Dean Anderson

Introduction:

- Welcome to our new members: Cheryl Conrad, Deborah Hall, Bradley Greger, Michele Pfund, Karen Schupp, Diana Bowman, and Sophal Ear.
- Lisa provided an overview of the council and the governance process.

Approval of April 2025 Minutes: all approved, no nays, no abstentions

Overview of Kuali CM:

- Sophia gave a quick tutorial of Kuali Curriculum Management, the platform that houses all curriculum requests and transactions.

Proposals:

- MS in Artificial Intelligence Engineering (Aerospace Engineering)
 - Sophal asked similar questions about all the concentrations. His concern was the faculty workload given the influx of MS programs, and availability of FSE 560 and 561 since they're required for every concentration.
 - Margarita asks, how is FSE fusing the two disciplines in each degree? It seems like the AI component is additive.
 - Engineering dean wants the FSE colleges to consider an engineer in 2030, and what skills a graduate in that year should have.
 - Bradley G. believes that these concentrations weren't taking advantage of the synergies across campus. The courses in the Intelligent Biomedical Systems Engineering concentration were specific to mechanical and other areas of engineering.
 - Pat agrees. BME hasn't developed as many new courses as the other units. He anticipates that they will have more options in the future.
 - Motioned to vote – all approved, no nays, no abstentions
- MS in Artificial Intelligence Engineering (Chemical Engineering)
- MS in Artificial Intelligence Engineering (Intelligent Biomedical Systems Engineering)
 - Bradley G. suggests that there's not enough emphasis on the core AI skills in this program. The classes are a little redundant and focused more on computer stuff. BME 510 is way too niche to be the one required class of the concentration section. He suggests a more balanced course selection for this concentration.
- MS in Artificial Intelligence Engineering (Manufacturing)
- MS in Artificial Intelligence (Operations and Decision Science)
 - Motioned to vote on all concentrations of the MS in Artificial Intelligence Engineering – all approved, no opposed, no abstentions.
 - Motioned to vote on all concentrations – all approved, no nays, no abstentions.
- DHSc in Health Sciences
 - This program is meant for individuals that are already practicing. The established partnerships kind of come built in. UOEEE and the compliance office will help with evaluation of the program and ensuring compliance for out-of-state and international students.
 - Motioned to vote – all approved, no nays, no abstentions.
- PhD in Artificial Intelligence
 - Motioned to vote - all approved, no nays, no abstentions.

Open discussion:

- Diane asks, many of the nursing programs are going to be required to undergo significant curriculum changes due to new standards, is there a certain amount or percentage of changes that require the program to be reviewed again?
 - If 25% or more of the program is changing, then it will require HLC review. If the content remains the same, then smaller things like course numbers or course title changes don't matter as much. It would require a program change request but would not need to go through the governance process again.
- Pat asks, how are the graduate microcertificates doing and what are people's experiences with those?
 - They are still new and there's one microcertificate that fully launched last spring, Foundations in Gerontology. There are about 10 in the pipeline.
 - A regular graduate certificate is 15 credit hours minimum and are subject area focused. Microcertificates are 3 courses or 9 credit hours and are meant to meet industry needs quickly. For microcertificates, we can work with different companies to offer cohorts so they may not be as open to everyone. They go through the same governance process as a graduate certificate but can be submitted to academic plan three times per year instead. Microcertificates can be stacked into a master's program. Some units have used microcertificates to help students with a different educational background transition into their program, almost like an alternative path for admission. It's not officially set up to be an earned admission path yet, but it's in development. For now, a student can request those credits also apply to their master's. May be an earned admission pathway, but that's still in development.
 - Our website has a site about microcertificate section with best practices and guidance for units who want to create them.
 - <https://graduate.asu.edu/resources-faculty-and-staff/graduate-curriculum-development/establishing-new-microcertificate>
- Brad R. notes that ASU Personalized Graduate Admission (PGA) has been amazing for his department and increasing access to their master's programs. It would be nice if there was a way to designate specific classes as good predictors of success in a PGA master's program.
 - We can send that feedback to the Grad College IT team.
- Bradley G. believes there could be a use for microcertificates in the medical school since they are trying to satisfy both MD and engineering students. A microcertificate could help give them an equal footing without weighing them down with even more work.

Next meeting will be on September 30, 2025, over zoom!

Meeting Adjourned: 2:45 pm