

College of Arts and Sciences

Graduate Faculty Committee

Minutes

August 19, 2025

Kinard 018

- I. Welcome & Introduction of Officers – Julie Orme – Quorum was met.
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 10:48am. Julie Orme introduced herself as the new chair. Additional new committee members include – Ashley Garrick, Department of Social Work, Associate Practicum Director as Secretary and Evan Dewy, Department of Biology, Professor as Parliamentarian
- II. Approval of meeting minutes from March 7, 2025 – Appendix A
 - a. Minutes were approved (see attached)
- III. Curriculum Proposals or Modifications if any from April 15, 2025 meeting -Appendix B
 - a. None
- IV. Graduate Program Updates
 - a. Proposal to amend language in Social Work Practicum Office to change the word “field” to “practicum” to align with Council on Social Work Education. All were in favor, no opposition
 - b. Julie is open to feedback on suggestions and changes for the committee as needed and can be reached at ormej@winthrop.edu or 124 Bancroft Hall
- V. New Business
 - a. None
- VI. Old Business
 - a. None
- VII. Graduate Director’s Remarks — Dr. Gregory Oakes remarks
 - a. Dr. Oakes issued a thank you to all graduate faculty for their contributions.
 - b. Dr. Oakes thanked Chris Ward, former Graduate Program Director- Department of Social Work and Dustin Hoffman, former Director of Graduate Studies in English for their work during their time at Winthrop.
 - i. Kelly Richardson has assumed the role of Director of Graduate Studies in English. A replacement for Chris Ward has not been identified at the moment.
 - c. Special thanks were given to Dr. Anthony Hill, Shira Culbreath, Nikole Kidd Ashley Garrick, Joy Yousefian, and Christine Mason in the Department of Social Work for their

support with the Limestone student transfers.

- d. Enrollment is up university wide by 9.7%, total 460 Fall 2025
- e. There is a reception tonight to welcome all graduate students in Richardson Ballroom from 6-7pm, food will be provided.
- f. Announcements
 - i. Dr. Kori Bloomquist shared that the Title IV E Child Welfare Scholars Program - a partnership with the SC Department of Social Services - is continuing. Students employed with DSS receive tuition assistance to earn an MSW degree. Out of 15 allotted slots, Winthrop's Department of Social Work has 14 new scholars. Final numbers are likely to be 12 or 13 scholars.
 - 1. Kudos to Dr. Bloomquist!

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.

Appendix A

College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Faculty Committee Minutes

March 7, 2025

Kinard 018

I. Call meeting to Order at 3:45 pm and Agenda has been approved. 27 graduate faculty members were present so Quorum was met.

II. Minutes, January 24, 2025 (see Attached) were approved.

III. Curriculum Proposals

Wanda presented for FYI to the graduate faculty that a blanket petition from the Department of Political Science, Philosophy, Religion, and Legal Studies that applies to the graduate catalog was approved for the MLA program.

IV. Old Business-None

V. New Business-None

VI. Graduate Director's Remarks —

Dr. Oakes discussed graduate enrollment, and it is positive overall for 2024.

Dr. Van Delden will discuss low enrollment programs on Monday March 10 at 11:00 a.m.

The budgets submitted by divisions for 2025-26 were too high, so the divisions are being asked to reduce their proposals. The Provost has asked the Deans to submit revised, lower budgets, and so Dr. Oakes has been asked to find savings in the GA budget for the 2025-26 academic year.

Dr Oakes reviewed further online forms that are being developed to make it easier to submit forms for graduate students. The one presented today to the graduate faculty is the form on undergraduates desiring to take courses for graduate credit.

Dr Oakes announced that graduate awareness week is coming up and asked faculty and directors please to encourage students to submit work for the Three Minute Graduate Showcase; March 15 is the date for the Graduate Studies and Hope Reed fellowship applications. Also, on March 15 the scholarship application for summer is due. June 15 is the deadline for Fall applications.

Appendix B

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Committee Minutes
April 15, 2025 @ 11:00 am
Kinard 105

Attendees: Veronica Ahadzie, Gwen Daley, Sara English, Heather Listhartke, Greg Oakes (representing the Dean's Office; also representing the Bachelor of General Studies committee), Tom Polaski, Jenny Schafer, Clara Whitehead (student representative).

1. WELCOME

- Jennifer Schafer, Chair, opened meeting, at 11:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Approval of minutes, without dissent.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- The committee was scheduled to discuss the proposed new program of the **Bachelor of General Studies**; however, that program is, currently, suspended and no discussion is warranted at this time.

4. NEW PROGRAMS

- No business

5. CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMS

Department of Nutrition

- Approved proposal to add "nutrition communication"

Department of Social Work

- Approved name change of "field" programming to "practicum" programming, aligning with CSWE guidelines

6. MODIFIED COURSES

Department of Social Work

- Approved name change of "field" related courses to "practicum" related courses, aligning with CSWE guidelines.

7. INACTIVATED COURSES

- No business

8. NEW COURSES

- No business

9. BLANKET PETITIONS

- Three petitions were approved for Biology
 - Waiving BIOL 202 requirement, as course is no longer offered
 - Allowing BIOL 421 to count in Area B for BS Biology for students in previous catalogs
 - Counting MATH 241 as an approved Quantitative Skills course for BS Biology
- One petition was approved for Environmental Science

- Counting MATH 241 as Statistics requirement for Environmental Studies and Environmental Science

10. STUDENT PETITIONS

- Approved, petition to substitute two global studies courses for a foreign language.
- Not approved, petition to waive required foreign language requirement.

NEXT MEETING: TBA