

**Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly
Agenda
October 9, 2026**

**(to immediately follow Faculty Conference)
Carroll Hall, Whitton Auditorium**

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 4:00 PM, by Jennifer
- II. Approval of minutes of the Graduate Faculty Assembly from April 24, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve, seconded, passed
- III. Welcoming Remarks O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, Graduate Faculty Assembly Chair
 - a. Jennifer thanks Kelly for agreeing to continue to serve as parliamentarian of GFA, respectively
 - b. Mentions that there is a need for a volunteer to fill the position of secretary for GFA
- IV. Report from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sebastian van Delden
 - a. Provost was absent from the meeting – no report
- V. Report from the Graduate Council Sherry Hoyle, Graduate Council Vice Chair
 - **Policies modifications requiring a vote**
 - None at this time.
 - **Curriculum Action requiring vote by GFA**
 - Modify Program: Certificate in Arts Administration – reduction of hours from 18 credit hours to 15 credit hours – approved
 - **Review of other curriculum items approved by Graduate council *not requiring a vote by GFA* (see curriculum action system)**
 - 600-Level Curriculum Changes (See curriculum action system for details)
 - 500-Level Curriculum Changes (Sent forward to CUC; see curriculum action system for details)
 - **Petitions** – 15 petitions reviewed since last meeting of GFA – 12 approved and 3 denied
- VI. Report from the Dean of the School of Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education Melissa McCartney
 - a. Enrollment
 - a. Summer enrollment – up by 15 with 106 total
 - b. Fall enrollment – down by 15 but still at 217 total
 - c. 1017 total graduate students
 - b. Recruitment
 - a. Last spring we had 13 events and 175 contacts
 - b. So far this fall we have attended 13 events and 7 more fairs coming up
 - c. New flyers – almost all of the flyers were updated this past summer

- d. Asking for faculty networking – if faculty had contacts at other institutions, please help the School of Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education make those connections
 - c. Financial Aid
 - a. Decreased full time credit from 9 to 6
 - b. Last year 693 part time students and that decreased by 68.4% to 290
 - c. More students have access to full loan amounts
 - d. Headcount is high but credit hour production is a little low
 - d. The deadline for the December graduation has passed but Brantley is waiving the late fee for applications for the time being
 - e. Deadline for accessibility has been pushed back to April 25, 2027
 - f. Gabby Jacobsen has moved to another department on campus. She is being replaced by Leigh Bailey who begins on October 15th.
- VII. Unfinished Business
- a. Graduate Faculty Assembly Secretary
 - i. Jennifer makes a request for volunteers for the position
 - ii. Jennifer will send out an email to GFA with a request
- VIII. New Business – no new business
- IX. Announcements
- a. Reminder to Deans: Please send an email to the Graduate School each year recommending your newest graduate faculty for inclusion in Graduate Faculty Assembly. [Current membership list](#) can be found online. Email Gabby Jacobsen if your information is incorrect.
 - b. The Graduate Faculty Assembly Member [list](#) needs to be updated. Access and review the list to ensure that your information is correct. If your information needs to be corrected, email O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, Graduate Faculty Assembly chair, at dmcknightoj@winthrop.edu with corrections by October 31, 2026.
 - i. Jennifer sent one request with the meeting announcement
 - ii. Jennifer will send another request via email
 - iii. Migration Conference February 25-27. Deadline for proposals is November 1.
- X. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn, approved at 4:30 PM