

**Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly
Agenda
April 24, 2026**

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

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 3:45 PM, by Jennifer
- II. Welcoming Remarks O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, Graduate Faculty Assembly Chair
 - a. Jennifer thanks Heather and Kelly for their service as secretary and parliamentarian of GFA, respectively
 - b. Greg Bell filled in as Secretary for Heather Listhartke, who has done a fine job as Secretary over the academic year and is much appreciated in this role
- III. Approval of [minutes](#) of the Graduate Faculty Assembly from February 27, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve, seconded, passed
- IV. Report from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sebastian van Delden
 - a. SACSCOC came to Winthrop to review the new Ed.D. in Leadership and Innovation degree program in the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences. Thanks to Drs. Melissa McCartney, Lisa Harris, Beth Costner, and Sherry Hoyle. Congratulations to the College of Education and all who participated in the process, having received accreditation from SACSCOC.
- V. Report from the Graduate Council E. Charles Randle, Graduate Council Chair
 - **Policies modifications requiring a vote**
 - None at this time.
 - **Curriculum Action requiring vote by GFA**
 - New Program: EdS in Counseling - approved
 - New Program: MLA in Liberal Arts – Criminology & Criminal Justice - approved
 - Modify Program: MEd in Counseling – Clinical Mental Health – reduction from 60 credit hours to 33 credit hours due to changes in the discipline and after receiving approval from crediting body - approved
 - Modify Program: MEd in Counseling – School Counseling – reduction from 60 credit hours to 33 credit hours due to changes in the discipline and after receiving approval from crediting body - 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** – 5 petitions reviewed since last meeting of GFA – many petitions due to closure of Limestone

- **Nominees for Graduate Faculty Assembly**
 - Chair of GFA – Dr. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight. No new nominees from the floor. Motion to close nominations. Motion to approve, seconded, passed.
 - GFA Rep to CUC – Dr. Allan Nail. No new nominees from the floor. Motion to close nominations. Motion to approve, seconded, passed.

- VI. Report from the Dean of the School of Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education
Melissa McCartney
- a. Enrollment – 299 admitted students and 290 already enrolled (up from last year). Appreciates being active working with recruits, as this used to be slower. Hunter Huggins made 288 contacts.
 - b. Recruitment materials and flyers
 - a. the graduate school will wait for undergraduate admissions to gain access to recruitment materials first and then launch its new materials
 - b. new materials will be available late summer or fall
 - c. The School of Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education needs volunteers for graduation day events. Graduate Celebration Reception is on Friday, May 8th, 2026, from 6 – 8 PM in Tuttle Dining Room in McBryde Hall.
 - d. Dean McCartney asked that the GA budget stay the same, but she will spend time looking at all budgets and current GAships
 - e. In the graduate school, looking at reducing required full time credit-hours from 9 credit hours to 6 credit hours. Financial Aid is looking at this and figure out how it would work.
 - f. Graduate Student Appreciation Week was a resounding success. 19 students participated
 - g. This was the last GFA of Dean McCartney's first year – Winthrop now feels like home
- VII. Unfinished Business – no unfinished business
- 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. Jennifer thanked her team (Dr. Kelly Costner, Parliamentarian, and Dr. Heather Listhartke, Secretary) for all their hard work this academic year. Dr. Kelly Costner has agreed to be Parliamentarian in the coming academic year. Jennifer announced the need for a secretary for GFA for the upcoming term.
- X. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn, approved at 4:05 PM