

GRADUATE COUNCIL
Winthrop University
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Tillman 308

Members present: Charles Randle, Melissa McCartney, Alice Burmeister, Sherry Hoyle, Jessica Dixon-McKnight, Philip Gibson, Brantley Therrell, Greg Oakes, Tracy Oakes, Gina Jones, Justice Odjeawo, and Gabby Jacobsen

I. Announcements

There are still two roles for this committee that need to be filled for voting to happen. One elected position from CAS and one appointment from CBT.

Dr. Hoffman did send in her votes for this meeting as she could not attend. Dr. Boddicker is out on medical leave.

II. Approval of minutes April 15, 2025. See the link below for minutes:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/sgco/graduatestudies/governance-minutes/grad-council-minutes/graduate-council-minutes-4-15-25.pdf>

Motion to approve: SH (Sherry Hoyle). Second: AB (Alice Burmeister). Approved by acclamation.

III. Report from the Graduate School Dean, Melissa McCartney

Quick bio: came from Queens University where she was the Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Dean for Online, so Winthrop seemed like the natural step. Before Queens she was at the University of Phoenix, before that a technical institution, and before that K-12 teacher. Currently the focus of the SGCO is working on the synergies between the three areas (graduate, online, and continuing) and working on being efficient.

Fall enrollment is very good – currently 990, up 8.3% from last fall. This is due mostly to degree-seeking with new programs like EdD, CSDV online, and MSW doing very well. Non-degree fell a little. But this enrollment increase is much higher than the national average for growth. It's not expected to continue but it's best to see a slow growth giving time to make sure they are all taken care of.

The Grad Welcome Reception was held at a new date (Tuesday instead of Thursday) and time (6pm instead of 5:30pm) which we feel had better results for those commuting from work. Current grads were also invited, as opposed to just the new, and this is something that we'll continue with as the students really enjoyed interacting with each other.

Currently working on fall events, so if there is something your area has ideas about or wants to collaborate on, reach out. Including Graduate Student Appreciation Week, and if there is any opportunity for you to include the 3MGS in your curriculums. The newest Graduate Studies Newsletter was sent and it included an event survey to try and get a better feel for how and when the students want to interact.

Recruiting – Hunter is going to 13 fairs this semester and hopefully the same amount in the spring – if there are flyers or swag or anything else that you want to include to push your program, reach out to her. Or if there are ideas for events or locations where you'd like to see your program represented. You can also join Hunter at any events – there are a few dates where we have multiple locations at the same time, and Philip and Shira are each attending one. GSO does print all the

program flyers, but feel free to stop by the office to see what we have and whether any changes need to be made.

GA working group – acknowledge that there was work done on this committee and it is in the plans to fully review all the information.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

1. Replace Chris Ward an ex-officio member of this committee. We need nominees.
Chris Ward had one year left in his term so this would be to serve out the remainder of the term. It would be ideal to have two nominees. Solicit from the colleges. CR (Charles Randle) will then present them at the next GFA.
2. Proposed amendment to the GFA Bylaws to add clarity about this process.
 - i. Clarity about GC Nomination Process
 - ii. Clarity about FCUP nomination and GC involvement
This amendment is looking to clarify the responsibility of Grad Council as it pertains to the nomination process with these elections and how it's supposed to be carried out, so that Tim does not need to weigh in each time. CR proposes to send these by the Rule Committee for review and then add to the next Graduate Faculty Assembly agenda.

VI. Curriculum Action

Curriculum Changes Requiring a Vote:

Program

1. Edit Program - MFA In Studio Art - Modify Program
Motion to approve: SH. Second: AB. Approved by acclimation.
2. Edit Program - MS In Nutrition - Modify Program
Motion to approve: SH. Second: CR. Approved by acclimation.

Course

1. Edit Course - ARTS536 - Inactivate Course
2. Edit Course - ARTS536H - Inactivate Course
3. Edit Course - ARTS570 - Inactivate Course
Motion to approve: CR. Second: SH. Approved by acclimation.

Curriculum Changes NOT Requiring a Vote:

Course

1. Edit Course - ARTH683 - Inactivate Course
2. Edit Course - SCWK612G - Modify Course Form
3. Edit Course - SCWK622 - Modify Course Form
4. Edit Course - SCWK622E - Modify Course Form
5. Edit Course - SCWK622F - Modify Course Form
6. Edit Course - SCWK632E - Modify Course Form

VII. Graduate Petitions (None)

VIII. Adjournment

2025-2026 Meeting Dates

September 16, Tuesday, 11:00 am: Tillman 308

October 31, Friday, 2:00 pm: Zoom (**Teams**)

December 9, Tuesday, 11:00 am: Tillman 308

January 23, Friday, 2:00 pm: Zoom (**Teams**)

March 10, Tuesday, 11:00 am: Tillman 308

April 14, Tuesday, 11:00 am: Tillman 308

Graduate Faculty Assembly and Graduate Council Website:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/graduateschool/graduate-faculty-governance.aspx>

CourseDog

<https://app.coursedog.com/#/login>

| 2025-2026 Committee | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------|
| Voting Members <i>*The voting members of the Graduate Council also serve as the Graduate Petitions Committee.</i> | | | Term Expires |
| Charles Randle, CBT, Chair | randlee@winthrop.edu | Appointed (VPAA) | 2026 |
| Jessie Hoffman, CAS, Vice Chair | hoffmanjb@winthrop.edu | Appointed (VPAA) | 2026 |
| CAS | | Elected (CAS) | 2028 |
| Alice Burmeister, CVPA | burmeistera@winthrop.edu | Elected (CVPA) | 2028 |
| CBT | | Elected (CBA) | 2027 |
| Anna Boddicker, COE | boddickera@winthrop.edu | Appointed (COE) | 2027 |
| Sherry Hoyle, COE | hoyles@winthrop.edu | Elected (COE) | 2027 |
| Ex Officio, non-voting, and other invitees | | | |
| Cody Walters | waltersw@winthrop.edu | Elected, Library Faculty, Non-voting | 2027 |
| Chris Ward (see agenda) | warde@winthrop.edu | Elected, GFA (from CUC), Ex Officio | 2026 |
| Melissa McCartney | mccartneym@winthrop.edu | Dean of Graduate Studies, Online Learning, and Extended Education | |
| Gabby Jacobson | jacobseng@winthrop.edu | Grad School, Appointed Ex Officio | |
| Will need replacement | | Student, COE Appt. Ex Officio | ??????? |
| Justice Odjeawo | odjeawoj2@mailbox.winthrop.edu | Student, CBT Appt. Ex Officio | |
| O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight | dmcknightoj@winthrop.edu | GFA Chair | |
| Tim Druke | drueket@winthrop.edu | Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Program Support | |
| Gina Jones | jonesgg@winthrop.edu | Registrar | |
| Maria D'Agostino | dagostinom@winthrop.edu | Associate Registrar | |
| Tracy Patterson | pattersonont@winthrop.edu | Graduate Director, CVPA | |
| Greg Oakes | oakesm@winthrop.edu | Graduate Director, CAS | |
| Lisa Harris | harrisl@winthrop.edu | Graduate Director, COE | |
| Philip Gibson | gibsonp@winthrop.edu | Graduate Director, CBA | |
| Brantley Therrell | therrellb@winthrop.edu | Graduate Petitions Coordinator | |
| Adam Glover | glovera@winthrop.edu | Faculty Conference Chair | |