

Graduate Council Minutes
Monday, November 3, 2025
12:00pm Via Zoom

Committee members in attendance: Emily Grant, Danny Funk, Jim Schnoebelen, Pat Dahl, Becky Dodge, Zenova Williams, Michele Reisinger, Michael McGuire, Tracy Routsong, Sarah Holt

Not in attendance: Melanie Worsley, Leah Brown, Michael Rettig, Tracy Davies, Jenny Lamb

Guest: Ginger McBride, Assistant Director Financial Aid Advising

- I. Call to Order: Michele Reisinger called the meeting to order at 12:00pm
- II. Old Business: None
- III. New Business:
 - a. Financial aid for graduate students – McBride shared that eligibility for financial aid in the current year is:
 - i. 5 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters
 - ii. 3 credit hours in the summer semester
 - iii. Students are required to be enrolled at least half time (not part-time)
 - iv. Eligibility may change in 2026-2027 but financial aid is still getting clarification and will disseminate the information when received
 - v. Students can review their accounts through My Washburn, and they should also review their account balance with the business office
 - b. Graduate Teaching Assistant Roles was briefly discussed with members sharing their experiences and how funding might work. Members confirmed that none of their graduate students are teaching but they are used more in a tutor role.
 - c. Tuition Waivers
 - i. Financial Aid is not the department that determines waivers, but they do review whether eligibility is met based on the requirements of the funding source

- ii. It was noted that eligibility may take up some of the student’s financial aid available funds
- d. Full time vs. part-time hours requirements to maintain financial aid again is determined by number of credit hours attending. Note the difference between “part-time” and “half-time” for credit hour requirements.
- e. Other Information:
 - i. Emily Shaw, Assistant Director Financial Aid Scholarships, would be the person to contact regarding scholarships. McBride is to follow up on data regarding where to find scholarships and how many are available for graduate students.
 - ii. Appeals for out-of-state tuition waivers are processed through the Registrar’s office.
 - iii. Federal student loans for graduate students are available through unsubsidized loans. There is a possibility that the Graduate Plus loans may be going away in 2026-2027.

IV. Discussion

- a. Graduate data from recent Town Hall meetings
 - i. Jenny Lamb shared an email outlining the decline in graduate program enrollment numbers and the need to understand the trend particularly in observing the undergraduate and law school upward trends

1. 2021	504
2. 2022	428
3. 2023	425
4. 2024	376
5. 2025	357
 - ii. Emily Grant shared that SOL applications are up in general and might be attributed to political climate, law school building, and rural law program
 - iii. Grant also shared that typically the division of students are 60% in-state and 40% are out of state. This year, 75% of students are in-state.
- b. Recruitment events and career fairs
 - i. Brief discussion by the committee and members shared some of the things their respective departments were doing to recruit

- ii. Danny Funk shared he has tried to get the university to commit to scholarship funding for all graduate students. Individual program scholarships may also be awarded.
 - iii. Leah Brown was not in attendance today, so this topic will be tabled to another date
- V. Announcements
- a. Graduate Fair will be held on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025, from 10am to 2pm in Washburn B at the Memorial Union**
 - b. Next meeting – **Monday, December 1, 2025, at 12:00pm via Zoom**

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm

Minutes taken by Beth Mathews