

Graduate Council Minutes

Monday, February 2, 2026

12:00pm Via Zoom

Committee members in attendance: Michele Reisinger, Melanie Worsley, Emily Grant, Leah Brown, Danny Funk, Jim Schnoebelen, Pat Dahl, Michael Rettig, Becky Dodge, Zenova Williams, Tracy Davies, Michael McGuire, Jenny Lamb, Tracy Routsong, Sarah Holt

Guests: Dr. Stephen Terry, Andy Fogel, Darcy Johnson, Amy Memmer, Carolyn Carlson

- I. Call to Order: Michele Reisinger called the meeting to order at 12:00pm
- II. Approval of Minutes: Michael McGuire made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 3, 2025, and it was seconded by Jim Schnoebelen. There was no discussion. Motion passed.
- III. Old Business: None
- IV. New Business:
 - a. Dr. Stephen Terry, VP-Strategic Enrollment Management shared an overview of the department and their role in assistance with recruitment, however, relies mostly on departments to do their own recruitment. Committee questions were raised concerning academic scholarships for graduate students and use of Slate.
 - b. Andy Fogel, Director of Student Financial Aid and Darcy Johnson, Financial Aid Compliance Assistant Director presented information relating to new federal guidelines on professional degree definitions and related information concerning financial aid.
 - i. Johnson explained the new professional degree definitions comparing the existing definitions vs. the new proposed definitions. She also provided a timeline for comments before publication. Johnson also provided information regarding certain federal student loans.
 - ii. A PowerPoint presentation was shared with committee members.

- iii. There was questions and discussions by the committee.
Johnson asked that student questions concerning their financial aid should be directed to the financial aid office.
 - c. Courses presented for review and vote. After discussion of each course and input from representatives of each the Chair called for a vote.
 - i. Graduate Certificate Health Care Education: Jim Schnoebelen made motion to approve the course as presented and was seconded by Tracy Routsong. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.
 - ii. Graduate Certificate in Health Science: Jim Schnoebelen made motion to approve the course as presented and was seconded by Michael McGuire. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.
 - iii. Master's in Health Science: Jim Schnoebelen made motion to approve the course as presented and was seconded by Michael McGuire. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.
 - iv. Graduate Certificate Higher Education Teaching: Jim Schnoebelen made motion to approve the course as presented and was seconded by Michael McGuire. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.
 - v. Graduate Certificate in Science of Literacy: Jim Schnoebelen made motion to approve the course as presented and was seconded by Michael McGuire. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.
 - vi. Master's In Science of Literacy: Michael Rettig made motion to approve the course as presented and was seconded by Michael McGuire. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.
- V. Discussion
 - a. Early graduation for students with pending credits was addressed by Jim Schnoebelen. There is no official policy, but it seems to stem from graduation logistics. If students wish to not graduate until all their credits are completed, they need to be sure and let their departments and advisors know.
 - b. HB2468 – Jim Schnoebelen shared a simplified version of the bill relating to DEI-CRT related courses in postsecondary education. There are essentially two parts 1) a ban on any required DEI-CRT

courses as requirements for graduation (except in those cases where it is necessitated by the degree or credential itself—i.e., WAGS Minor, AS/ADS Minor, etc.). We can still have these classes; they just can't be required for graduating. And 2) required training on the foundational documents (bill of rights, federalist papers, declaration of independence, etc.) This training would need to be incorporated into New Student Orientations and made into a class that would be a requirement for graduation. It doesn't necessarily have to be a brand-new class if we have one that we think meets this requirement, but it might be a brand-new course, as well. Schnoebelen will provide any updates at the March meeting.

- c. Recruitment Update – Leah Brown shared that general admission acceptance letters for each program should be sent to her by Friday, **February 13, 2026**, for sending out through Slate.

VI. Announcements

- a. Next meeting – **Monday, March 2, 2026, at 12:00pm via Zoom**

There being no further business to discuss Becky Dodge moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Michael Retting. Meeting was adjourned at 12:57pm

Minutes taken by Beth Mathews