

Graduate Council Minutes

Monday, April 6, 2026

12:00pm Via Zoom

Committee members in attendance: Michele Reisinger, Emily Grant, Leah Brown, Danny Funk, Jim Schnoebelen, Michael Rettig, Becky Dodge, Zenova Williams, Michael McGuire, Jenny Lamb, Sarah Holt

Members not in attendance: Melanie Worsley, Pat Dahl, Tracy Davies, Tracy Routsong

- I. Call to Order: Michele Reisinger called the meeting to order at 12:00pm
- II. Approval of Minutes: Jim Schnoebelen made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2026, and it was seconded by Michael McGuire. There was no discussion. Motion passed.
- III. Old Business: None
- IV. New Business:
 - a. Program Inactivation Proposal – Master of Education Reading Specialist. Michele Reisinger and Michael Rettig explained that this program is being replaced with a new one. Michael Rettig moved to approve the inactivation, and it was seconded by Jim Schnoebelen. No further discussion. Motion passed.
- V. Discussion:
 - a. HB2468 – Jim Schnoebelen reported that the bill, as originally proposed, is no longer moving forward. However, he noted that related provisions or similar initiatives could still emerge in other committees, such as the budget committee. For example, a recent budget cut through KBOR included language suggesting that some funds could be restored if a university is not actively engaged in DEI activities (pending how that is ultimately defined). It remains unclear how this might impact WU. Additionally, he cited the 90-hour bachelor’s degree proposal from Kansas State University as another example of potential changes. Michele Reisinger shared a related example from the School of Nursing

(SON), noting proposals that could allow for reduced rigor in degree requirements for teaching programs.

- b. Degree seeking students – Jim Schnoebelen had nothing new to report at this time.
- c. Recruitment Update – Leah Brown shared there is a test pilot being initiated in SOBU for International graduate students. Josh Rouse has taken over the position of Enrollment Marketing and Communications Coordinator.
- d. Accredited universities – Michael McGuire asked if there was a way to verify whether a graduate applicant has obtained a degree from an accredited university. Leah Brown said they are working on a way to incorporate that information within Slate but it is still in process with no time frame for completion at this time. In the meantime, she indicated that the transcript key should show the accreditation or faculty are welcome to contact her and she is able to look it up.
- e. Approval of minutes via email – Beth Mathews asked for permission to circulate the minutes from this meeting via email approval so all minutes for the academic year are finalized before the end of the academic year. The committee agreed.

VI. Discussion:

- a. Defining “returning students” on graduate applications – Zenova Williams shared that WU undergraduates tend to mark themselves as returning students when applying for the graduate program. Jenny Lamb shared they experienced the same issue and added an additional question that when checked NO would direct the applicant to the proper application form. Leah Brown shared that their office would correct applications and/or notify applicants of the proper form to complete. She will also prepare a “wrong form” designation to the application for Family and Human Services.
- b. Graduate Fair invitations – Zenova Williams asked if new graduates are invited to the grad fairs. Leah Brown responded that she believed the list was provided to the bookstore from admissions, but she would follow up.
- c. Michael Rettig retirement – Michele Reisinger shared that this would be Michael’s last graduate council meeting since he would

be retiring at the end of this academic year. The committee wished him well.

- d. Last meeting of the academic year. Michele Reisinger shared this was the committee's last meeting for the academic year.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:18pm. Minutes taken by Beth Mathews