

Eastern Washington University
Graduate Affairs Council
Minutes of March 11, 2026

Members Present: D. Ayers, D. Semb, C. McNeely, T. Espinoza, D. Kinnunen, J. Lawlar, K. Hope, D. Vulcan, M. Black

University Officials: S. Eubanks

1. The meeting was called to order by D. Ayers at 3:09 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes of February 25, 2026. *Hearing no objections, the minutes are approved.*

3. Reports. a. Chairs Report. D. Ayers reported: he wasn't able to attend the Senate meeting, so S. Eubanks stepped in. AP 303-23 Classroom Attendance and AP 303-30 Registration; Sec 2-5 Course Loads; b. Graduate Students were both passed without controversy. AP 303-22 Graduate Students; Removal of Appendix A and AP 303-24 Grading, Grade Changes & Grade Appeals: Add Section 1-10 Graduate Students will come back as unfinished business at the next meeting. At Rules, they're working on the First Year Seminars which doesn't affect GAC much. The One Calendar Committee is discussing the feedback they received from faculty and putting that together. It does seem there is support in going to one calendar, but the decision will be which calendar, e.g. quarters or semesters. It is still preliminary but they're weighing all the feedback from faculty at this point. The NSSE survey, which is for first-years and seniors, they would like you to encourage your students to take the survey. The link closes on March 21st.

b. Administrative Report. S. Eubanks reported: he went to Senate it was good. There was not one word spoken about anything they brought forward which is good. The provost's office will be sending out a Graduate Studies survey to all the program directors and graduate faculty. They want to ask how the Graduate Studies Office is doing. How do we do Admissions? How do we support student while they're here? How do we graduate those students? The goal is to make it better. The new Graduate Dean is Sushma Krishnamurthy who will be starting on July 1st. He and D. Ayers met with the provost yesterday to discuss the Graduate Faculty policy, and he believes they should wait until the new dean comes in to make any changes.

c. ASEWU Graduate Affairs Report. None.

4. Unfinished Business. a. CPAC Updates.

AP 303-22 Graduate Students; Sec 2-5a. English Language Proficiency. D. Ayers stated the change they are suggesting is to make the IELTS score higher to match other institutions and to add Duolingo as a test. **D. Semb moved to approve. C. McNeely seconded. Motion carried.**

b. AP 303-26 Graduate Faculty. D. Ayers stated he and S. Eubanks met with the provost to get a sense of what he is thinking with regard to Graduate Faculty Requirements. He was in favor of having stricter standards and wants to require more of graduate faculty. He said they should draft some ideas but wait to pass anything until the new Dean of Graduate Studies and Research comes in July 1st.

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c. New CPAC Rubrics.

5. New Business. None.

6. Good of the Order. a. C. McNeely stated she just wants to bring to the attention of the committee the amount of insurance premiums Graduate students have to pay for insurance through the university, which is \$8,163 a year. This is a big deal for international students who may have to show that they have insurance to get a VISA to come to the U.S. and don't have the same options outside the university as U.S. students. S. Eubanks said that over the past five years they've had about 0 to 3 graduate students who actually pay for medical care and for the most part they are international students who have to have healthcare as part of coming over here. The premiums have gone up yearly, but last year they had one student and this year they didn't have any. D. Ayers asked who sets the rates. S. Eubanks stated it is Human Resources who shops around for the best price. D. Ayers asked who sets the requirement. S. Eubanks stated it is not a requirement but rather an elective.

7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 8, 2026.