

Eastern Washington University
Graduate Affairs Council
Minutes of October 8, 2025

Members Present: D. Ayers, K. Hope, D. Semb, J. Lawlar, C. McNeely, B. Davenport, T. Espinoza, D. Vulcan

University Officials: S. Eubanks, G. Cash-James

1. The meeting was called to order by D. Ayers at 3:15 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes of May 14, 2025. *Hearing no objections, the minutes are approved.*

3. Orientation to Graduate Affairs Council.

a. Academic Policy 301-21, Ch. 14: Faculty Organization & the Academic Senate

b. Academic Policy 303-22, Graduate Students

c. Academic Policy 303-35, Program & Course Management

d. Academic Policy 303-26, Graduate Faculty

4. Reports. a. Chairs Report. i. D. Ayers stated he would like to thank everyone for serving on the Graduate Affairs Council. Hopefully the course approvals will be better this year since they don't have FLAC (Faculty Load & Compensation). **ii.** Orientation will be tabled until the next meeting since they don't have full membership here today. There are several faculty who will be approved by the Academic Senate on 5/13/25.

b. Administrative Report. S. Eubanks reported: i. the provost is going to build a Research and Graduate School or College, and they have already convened a search for a dean. That person will begin in fall, 2026 and would be the person who should be attending GAC meetings. This new position will allow him to focus on managing the office, their processes, how we serve our constituents across campus, and our students. They need a larger strategic advocate across campus, and that is what the new dean will do. They will come to GAC but if they want, he is willing to come to GAC if needed. They will still have to have staff and faculty collaboration to make sure things get done. **ii.** They have not been following the policy for Graduate Faculty nominations. They will be retooling the process but, in the meantime, they will not penalize faculty. They will get a list of who is approved to teach and then they will email and say they didn't get the paperwork done but they will give them grace. It isn't fair if they don't get approved since the process isn't right, but they will track them better and be more proactive with communications. K. Hope stated there was a lack of people who wanted to be primary, and they didn't have any publications that were less than 5 years. You need to be publishing or there should be some consequences. J. Lawlar stated they have a lecturer who has to teach in the graduate program, but she doesn't have to publish because she is a lecturer. S. Eubanks stated that is something the provost wants to work with Senate to do. The goal is quality and research. D. Ayers stated when PRC was reviewing, they would say these people aren't publishing and they aren't approved but there wasn't anything done and they are still teaching. This is coming from the provost so this will need to be acted on. S. Eubanks stated this isn't urgent, but it is something they will be working on this year. D. Ayers stated faculty can still teach but they can't lead as a primary. D. Ayers stated they want graduate faculty to be current and up to date. D. Ayers asked if they could get a survey of the graduate programs, what they are actually doing and what do they need. They don't have a good idea of who is teaching, what level they are

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teaching, etc. S. Eubanks stated it has been muddy, but they will have a better idea soon. If they put a Graduate School together, they have to make sure they have it determined.

c. ASEWU Graduate Affairs Report. None.

5. Committee Assignments.

- a. Academic Program Assessment Committee (APAC)** D. Semb
- b. Course & Program Approval Committee (CPAC 1)** C. McNeely, D. Semb, B. Davenport
- c. Course & Program Approval Committee (CPAC 2)** D. Vulcan, T. Espinoza
- d. Program Development & Review Committee (PDRC)** D. Ayers, K. Hope, J. Lawlar
- e. Graduate Academic Appeals Board (AAB)** J. Lawlar, K. Hope
- g. Rules Committee** D. Ayers
- h. Medals & Awards Rep** D. Ayers

6. Unfinished Business. Traditionally, there is no unfinished business at the beginning of the academic year.

7. New Business. a. Revisit Probation and Dismissal (303-22, 4-2). S. Eubanks stated there was no resolution to their questions and concerns and no resolution that they wanted to add to the policy. This will be an ongoing conversation.

b. Policy Priorities:

- ***English Language Proficiency.*** S. Eubanks stated they need to update English Language proficiency, but it is mostly housekeeping. There's a table where they need to add Duolingo, they need to change the scores slightly and they want to add a section for Applied Doctorates. Our scores are lower than Central and Western for IELTS, and TOEFL.
- ***GSA Residency Tuition/Waiver.*** S. Eubanks stated the budget for waivers has been cut from between \$2.2 - \$4 million down to \$970,000. Out of state students cost a lot more so they want to pilot charging all GSAs in state tuition which would allow the budget to go a lot further.
- ***Applied Doctorate for Occupational Therapy.*** D. Vulcan stated he isn't sure if they will get this done because it is contingent on hiring a doctoral capstone coordinator.

8. Good of the Order. a. D. Ayers stated he would like to congratulate B. Davenport on his new position.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.