



## UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

February 4, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

OU Graduate College Conference Room, Robertson Hall 311

Guests: Contact Graduate Council secretary, [Elizabeth Irick](#), for information

### MINUTES

All actions taken by the Graduate Council will have a twenty-one (21) day faculty protest period except for new courses, course changes, and petitions, which will be considered approved by the Graduate Faculty if no written protest is received in the Graduate College within seven (7) days.

**Present:** Randy Hewes, Liz Karr, Amit Baishya, Loretta Bass, Summer Edwards, Mike Engel, Sara Ernst, Madalina Furis, Libby Ryan, Mrinal Saha, Brenda Salgado, Radhika Santhanam, Samer Shehata, Doyle Yoon

**Guests:** Elizabeth Irick, Kim Mahre, Kristi Meyers, Stephanie Powers, Karen Hennes

**Absent:** June Abbas, Caroline Lancaster, Jenny Sperling

#### General Business

1. The minutes from the January 21, 2026, meeting were unanimously approved.
2. All course modifications, proposals, and deletions (see last page) were unanimously approved.
3. Program modifications, proposals, and deletions:
  - The following program modifications, proposals, and deletions for the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture were unanimously approved:
    - Environmental Systems & Sustainability, B.S.-M.R.C.P. accelerated, program requirement change
    - Geospatial Science B.S.-M.R.C.P. accelerated, program requirement change
  - The following program modifications, proposals, and deletions for the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences were unanimously approved:
    - Clinical Mental Health Counseling M.H.R., program inactivation
  - The following program modifications, proposals, and deletions for the Price College of Business were unanimously approved:
    - Wealth Management Graduate Certificate, program proposal

- The following program modifications, proposals, and deletions for the Graduate College were unanimously approved:
  - Earth Observation Science for Society & Sustainability Graduate Certificate, program inactivation
  - Interdisciplinary Programs, M.A., program inactivation
  - Interdisciplinary Programs, M.S., program inactivation

4. New business:

- The document, "Notification and Endorsement of Revised Graduate Withdrawal Policy and Timeline" was reviewed and unanimously approved. The Council also discussed policy for reviews triggered by repeated course withdrawals and incompletes in graduate programs (attached).

The following course modifications and proposals have been approved by the Graduate Council and will be forwarded to the Provost's Office for further approval after the seven (7) day protest period. Only brief information regarding approved changes follows; however, original course change proposals will be on file in the Graduate College through the seven-day protest period if you have questions or concerns about any of the following. Please contact the Graduate Council Secretary, Elizabeth Irick, at 405-325-3811, if you wish to review any of these materials.

ANTH 5033. Course change request.  
EACS 6223. Course change request.  
EDAH 5973. Course change request.  
EDAH 5543. Course change request.  
EDS 5833. Course change request.  
EDS 5943. Course change request.  
ENT 5102. Course change request.  
FIN 5212. New course proposal.  
FIN 5222. New course proposal.  
G E 5713. Course change request.  
H R 5033. Course change request.  
H R 5233. Course change request.  
H R 5753. Course change request.  
H R 5783. Course change request.  
HES 6253. New course proposal.  
JMC 5403. Course change request.  
MATH 5143. New course proposal.  
MKT 5762. New course proposal.  
MST 5763. Course change request.  
MST 5173. Course change request.  
MST 5403. Course change request.



MUED 5632. Course change request.

MUSC 5463. New course proposal.

P E 5693. Course change request.

PSY 6443. Course change request.

SDI 5313. Course change request.

Reports: Dean Hewes discussed the differences and similarities between the Norman and HC Campus Graduate Councils. No new information to share for Faculty Senate.

- OUHSC Graduate Council
- OU Faculty Senate

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 4, 2026.

Distributed: February 6, 2026

To view past agendas, minutes, and other information about the University of Oklahoma Graduate Council, visit: <https://www.ou.edu/gradcollege/faculty-and-staff/graduate-council>

## Notification and Endorsement of Revised Graduate Withdrawal Policy and Timeline

The Graduate College has reviewed graduate course withdrawal practices across SEC and AAU peer institutions and identified a need to simplify the structure of withdrawal periods and, if possible, transcript notations.

The current structure of four withdrawal periods has introduced procedural and interpretive complexity without clearly advancing student success. The Graduate College has revised its internal policy to strengthen oversight of course withdrawals for students under academic monitoring, including those on academic warning or continuation status, by requiring academic success/support plans and graduate dean approval for withdrawal requests. These items were approved by the Graduate Council at the [November 5, 2025, meeting](#).

Therefore,

1. The Graduate Council acknowledges and endorses the transition from four to three official withdrawal periods for graduate students, effective **Fall 2026**, as implemented by the Registrar's Office through revisions to the academic calendar.
2. Under the revised framework:
  - Period I (Drop/Add Week): no changes to current operating procedures.
  - Period II (Weeks 3-10): Withdrawals result in a "W" grade.
    - *While we had hoped to align Period II with the undergraduate Period II (Weeks 3-12), the recent merger of the Norman and Health Graduate Colleges makes it more pertinent to keep the graduate withdraw periods aligned. Shifting from week 10 to 12 on the Health campus also impacts Professional students and will require broader conversations.*
    - Per updates to the Graduate Bulletin approved by the Graduate Council in November 2025, students under academic monitoring (academic warning or continuation status) must obtain Graduate Dean approval and submit or update an academic success and support plan.
  - Period III (Weeks 11-16): All withdrawals require Graduate Dean approval and must be supported by documentation.
    - Per updates to the Graduate Bulletin approved by the Graduate Council in November 2025, students under monitoring also require an updated support plan.

3. To maintain continuity across student populations and campuses, we will keep the W/F grading option in place during Period III.

Additional policy regarding monitoring of withdrawals and incompletes:

### **Course Withdrawals and Incompletes in Graduate Programs**

While there is no fixed limit on course withdrawals or incompletes, patterns of repeated use, such as across multiple terms or clustered within a single academic year, may prompt review. The Graduate College or an academic unit may initiate such a review when these patterns are observed.

Reviews are intended to be supportive and may include outreach to the student and program to assess academic progress, identify potential barriers, and determine whether additional advising or resources are needed. This process is non-punitive and aims to promote student success and academic continuity.

Policy regarding withdrawals from non-thesis culminating experiences still needs additional time to review and draft.