

**Graduate Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2026
UC 221, 4:00-5:00**

Members Present: Kurt Haas, Austin Hanson, Tess Shideler, Erik Packard, Thomas Raffin, John Reece, Bridget Marshall, Tara Carleo, DJ Rew, and Justin Pomeranz

Members Absent: Cynthia Chovich and Jonathan Hinkle

Ex-officio members present: Janel Davis, Maygen Simm, Barbara Borst, and Mary Jo Stanley

Recording Secretary: Lisa Bessette

Janel Davis requested that a committee member preside over the meeting because the committee currently has neither a Chair or Vice Chair. Dr. Kurt Haas volunteered to preside and called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

I. Announcements

A. Introduction of all committee members and ex-officio members present.

II. Old Business

A. Due to Chair Chovich stepping down from the role and no Vice Chair being elected at the final meeting of the 2025-2026 academic year, the election of a Chair and Vice Chair was identified as the first item of business. Dr. Haas briefly reviewed the roles and discussed the benefits of serving as Chair or Vice Chair. He asked whether anyone was interested and willing to self-nominate. There were no volunteers. Dr. Haas encouraged committee members whose departments have graduate programs to consider volunteering for a leadership role, noting that these members have a sense of program responsibility and understand the processes and responsibilities associated with the Graduate Curriculum Committee. The committee reviewed the Policy and Procedures Manual for Faculty Senate Standing Committees for a formal explanation of the duties of Chair and Vice Chair. Discussion ensued among the members; however, the committee was unable to identify anyone willing to assume either the Chair or Vice Chair roles. Members expressed concerns that those serving on the committee whose departments have graduate programs were either new to the committee or planning to retire after the fall semester. It was suggested that committee members return to their departments to further discuss whether there are faculty members who may be interested in assuming a leadership role on the committee and taking over one of the committee seats. Marshall motioned to send a notice to Faculty Senate indicating that the committee was unable to reach a consensus and elect a Chair and Vice Chair, and to request guidance from Faculty Senate identifying members to fill these roles. Pomeranz seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

III. Adjournment

Haas motioned to adjourn, Pomeranz seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.