

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, July 31, 2025 email meeting

VOTING MEMBERS: Ngan Chau, Bree Dority, Janet Graham, Mary Harner, Angela Hollman, Torsten Homberger, Miechelle McKelvey, Whitney Schneider-Cline, Christopher Strickland, Erin Sweeney, Doug Tillman, Michelle Warren, Melissa Wuellner,

NOT VOTING: Brooke Envick, Austin Nuxoll, Laurinda Weisse, Chloe Dakan, Elizabeth Neukirch

I. Approval of the May Minutes– approved via email.

II. Graduate Dean’s Report

A. Summer Office Updates

Effective July 30, a leadership transition occurred in our office. Mark Ellis is no longer serving in this role as Dean, and Megan Adkins has been appointed by SVCAA Shaffer to serve as Interim Dean effective August 1, 2025.

Megan shared she wanted to take a moment to recognize Mark’s contributions to our office and the work completed to advance Graduate Studies at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. His ideation and forward-thinking approach have helped shape the foundation of our work and have brought UNK to a place where we can continue building with momentum and purpose. She personally thanked Mark for taking a chance on her to serve in a leadership role when others did not.

Mark had intended to announce at this meeting that Erin Sweeney was appointed as an Assistant Dean to help with Graduate Studies, which began in July. Although she has held the role since then, this is the first opportunity to formally share the update with the council. She will continue to serve in this role moving forward.

Mark and Megan both extended thanks and appreciation to the outgoing assistant deans:

- Rebecca Nelson (College of Education)
- Todd Bartee (College of Arts and Sciences)
- Dustin Favinger (College of Business and Technology)

Their time, dedication, and efforts have been instrumental in advancing our graduate programs and supporting our students and faculty. We are grateful for their service and leadership.

B. Approval of 2024 Summer Graduates

The council reviewed the updated list of summer graduates. Michelle Warren noted that one of her students was in the process of rewriting their comprehensive exam. She voted to approve the slate, contingent upon the student successfully passing the exam.

Motion to approve the updated slate with this condition was made by Erin Sweeney and seconded by Whitney Schneider-Cline. Motion carried

III. Committee Reports

A. Policy & Planning Committee – no action items to discuss.

B. Academic Programs Committee – This is just to inform the council and no vote is required.

Program Title Discrepancy

Discrepancy between CIM and SIS systems regarding the program name for the MAED in Art Education, Currently, the program is listed as “Art” in one system, while the official program tile is “Art Education.”

The department is requesting to Discontinue the art code ART-MAE and change the description of the art code ARTONL-MAE to be Art Education.

C. Faculty & Student Affairs Committee – no action items to discuss.

IV. Other Business

GA Orientation will be held August 18 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM in Ockinga Auditorium

Trainings for Graduate Council and GPC

Friday, August 22, 2025

9:00 – 10:00 AM New GPC Orientation & Courseleaf Training – CMCT 101

10:00 – 11:00 AM All GPC Meeting – CMCT 101

11:00 – 11:30 AM Graduate Faculty Courseleaf refresher – CMCT 101

Schedules for GPC and Graduate Council meetings will be provided by email.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Rhinehart