

Report for Graduate Council, April 10, 2025

1. Call to Order at 3:00pm

Members present: Kirk Atkinson, Whitley Stone, Jeremy Logsdon, Tonya Bragg-Underwood, Jessi Thomsen, Dan Strunk, Phillip Gunter, Leslee Tarbett, Erin Warfel, Jonathan Ross, Wes Cottingham, Ray Blankenship, Catherine Wilson, Angie Jerome (proxy: Jieyoung Kong) Birhanu Gessese, Elnad Jasarevic, Madalynn Alt

Past Chair: Sarah Bonis; **New Members:** Jason Bergner, Jerry Brotzge, Daniel Keller

Guests: Jennifer Hammonds, Cathleen Webb, Danita Kelley, Merrell Price, Beth Laves, Alex Lebedinsky

2. Consideration of March 13, 2025 Minutes

- Motion to consider - Strunk. Approved unanimously with friendly amendment.

3. Reports from standing committees

- a. Graduate Council Executive Committee
 - i. Introduction of New Members
 - Leslie Tarbert, Jerry Brotzge, Jason Bergner, Daniel Keller, Whitley Stone (returning member)
 - ii. Vice Chair and Secretary for AY26 election
 - Logsdon nominated Stone for Vice Chair, nomination accepted; no other nominations were made. Approved unanimously
 - Logsdon nominated Bragg-Underwood for a second term of secretary, nomination accepted; no other nominations were made. Approved unanimously
- b. Graduate Council Policy Committee (No report)
- c. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee
 - Motion to approve minutes – Stone. Approved unanimously.
- d. Graduate Council Research Committee (No report)
- e. Ad Hoc R2 Committee
 - Motion to approve minutes – Thomsen. Approved unanimously.

4. Reports from Graduate Studies

- Hammonds – Reviewing applications for the first-gen research fellowship in collaboration with ORCA. Ten will be awarded – aiming for five 1st year and five 2nd year students.
- Nine graduate programs were ranked by U.S. News. Article is available for review from the WKU website: U.S. News ranks 9 WKU graduate programs among nation's best | Western Kentucky University
- Graduate applications continue to be sent to programs for decisions.

5. Announcements

None

6. Informational Items

TBD Graduate Council meeting will need to occur this month prior to 4/25/25 due to late curricular items that GC Curriculum Committee have agreed to meet and review. Meeting will most likely be via email vote for approval (could also be Zoom or in-person)

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 1st/2nd Atkinson/Cottingham at 3:18pm