

Graduate Council

August 2025 Report (September Senate Meeting)

8/25/2025

Kirk Atkinson, Chair

The Graduate Council met on August 14th, 2025 at 3 PM. The meeting occurred using Zoom technology due to a perceived shortage of available conference room space. All future meetings will be held in-person. The minutes from the April 2025 Special Meeting were approved.

The three standing committees of Graduate Council, Policy, Research, and Curriculum were formed.

The officers of this year's Council are:

Kirk Atkinson, Chair

Whitley Stone, Vice Chair

Tonya Bragg-Underwood, Secretary

Erin Warfel, Chair - Curriculum Committee

Wes Cottongim, Chair – Policy Committee

Jeremy Logsdon, Chair – Research Committee

Jeremy Logsdon, Current Past Chair

There were no curricular, policy, or research related items requiring approval this month.

Dr. Jenni Redifer, Associate Provost, Research presented briefly discussing the importance of the Graduate Research Committee. Special thanks to last years Chair, Dr. Lance Hahn who retired in June 2025.

Dr. Rheanna Plemons, Assistant Provost for Accreditation and Assessment presented briefly regarding a new program proposal process in the works at CPE. This program is not implemented at this time.

The Graduate Council listserv updating process was assigned to the Vice Chair by the Chair.

The Graduate Council membership list updating process was assigned to the Secretary by the Chair. This list, once complete, also goes to Jessica Steenbergen in Academic Affairs so the Graduate Council website can be updated.

The minutes from this meeting are attached and available on the shared drive at:

S:\UNIVERSITY-WIDE-SHARED\Graduate Council\Council Committee\25-26

Graduate Council



Topic: Graduate Council
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025
Time/Location: 3:00 p.m/Zoom

Members present: Kirk Atkinson, Whitley Stone, Jeremy Logsdon, Tonya Bragg-Underwood, Jessi Thomsen, Dan Strunk, Leslee Tarbett, Erin Warfel, Wes Cottingham, Jieyoung Kong, Jason Bergner, Jerry Brotzge, Daniel Keller, Sara McCaslin, Elnad Jasarevic

Guests: Jennifer Hammonds, Cathleen Webb, Merrell Price, Jenni Redifer, Rheanna Plemons, Jessica Doris, Scott Gordon, Erica Billingsley, Jennifer Klemm, Kenzie Jessup, Stephen King, Catherine Wilson, Martha Sales, Donte McGee

Call to Order at 3:00pm

1. Consideration of April 17, 2025 Minutes (APPENDIX A)
Motion to consider 1st/2nd – Stone/Logsdon, Approved unanimously
2. Introductions and welcome to new members
 - a. Sign-in sheet - Zoom
 - b. Name tents - Zoom
3. Dr. Jenni Redifer, Associate Provost for Research – Dr. Redifer discussed the importance and provided an overview of the Research Committee.
4. Committee Formations – Breakout rooms for 25-26AY committee formations

Curriculum	Research	Policy
Erin Warfel - Chair	Jeremy Logsdon - Chair	Wes Cottingham - Chair
Jessi Thomsen	Jerry Brotzge	JieYoung Kong
Leslee Tarbett	Daniel Keller	Jason Bergner
Dan Strunk	Sara McCaslin	

5. New Academic Program Approval Policy: in-progress ; Dr. Rheanna Plemons, Assistant Provost for Accreditation & Assessment – Dr. Plemons discussed upcoming changes from CPE regarding program development, contact Dr. Plemons if planning new program. October 2025 will be last date for program implementation in Fa26.
6. Calendar and next meeting – Meeting calendars discussed.
7. Other business- None

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Stone at 3:45pm

APPENDIX A

Graduate Council



Topic: Graduate Council
Date: April 17, 2025
Electronic Vote

1. Call to Order – Motion carried 12/0/0 for electronic vote for April 17, 2025 meeting
2. Consideration of April 10, 2025 Minutes (APPENDIX A)
 - a. Approved unanimously
3. Reports from standing committees
 - a. Graduate Council Executive Committee (No report)
 - b. Graduate Council Policy Committee (No report)
 - c. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee (APPENDIX B)
Approved unanimously
 - d. Graduate Council Research Committee (No report)
4. Reports from the Graduate School - None
5. Announcements - None
6. Adjournment – Electronic ballot

Please enter your name.

Please refer to the agenda sent on the listserv.
Approval of April 10, 2025 minutes.

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Abstain

Please refer to the agenda sent on the listserv.

Approval of April 2025, 2nd Meeting, Graduate Council Curriculum Committee report.

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Abstain

Please share any questions or concerns here.

If you have any additional questions or issues, please email me (jeremy.logsdon@wku.edu). Thank you very much for your participation in this vote, and your work all year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and I look forward to seeing you at our grad council next year!

