

# Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly

November 17, 2023  
Carroll Hall, Whitton Auditorium

## Graduate Faculty Assembly Minutes

Prepared by Amanda Hiner, Chair and Professor of English  
Business was conducted in the presence of a quorum.

### **I. Welcoming Remarks and Call to Order by Dr. Tracy Griggs, Graduate Faculty Assembly Chair**

- a. Dr. Griggs thanked Dr. Hannah Richards (Accounting), GFA Secretary, and Dr. Kent Miller (Business Law), GFA Parliamentarian for their service to the Graduate Faculty Assembly.
- b. Dr. Griggs called for a volunteer to take minutes in the absence of Dr. Hannah Richards, and Dr. Amanda Hiner (English) volunteered to take meeting minutes.

### **II. Approval of the Graduate Faculty Assembly Minutes from the April 21, 2023 Meeting**

- a. A motion to approve the minutes was offered and seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

### **III. Report from the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Peter Judge**

- a. There was no report from Dr. Peter Judge, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

### **IV. Report from the Graduate Council Chair, Dr. Dustin Hoffman**

- a. In the absence of Graduate Council Chair Dr. Dustin Hoffman, Associate Dean Greg Oakes gave the Graduate Council Report.
  - i. There were no policy modifications requiring a vote from GFA members.
  - ii. There were 34 course curriculum actions and one program curriculum action addressed by Graduate Council, but these actions did not require a vote from GFA members (see curriculum action system).
    1. 600-Level Curriculum Changes (See curriculum action system for details).
    2. 500-Level Curriculum Changes (Sent forward to CUC; see curriculum action system for details).
  - iii. Graduate Council reviewed and voted on six graduate petitions since the last Graduate Faculty Assembly meeting.

### **V. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Jack DeRochi**

- a. Graduate School Enrollment Update:
  - i. Fall 2023 graduate student enrollment is 792, down 10% from last year.
  - ii. Spring 2024 graduate student enrollment is projected to be down 9-11% from last spring.
  - iii. Around 70-75 graduate students will be graduating in December.
- b. The Graduate school is developing two new entirely online programs that will be supported by Wiley.

- c. The Office of Institutional Research has provided a set of detailed data on graduate school enrollment that will help Graduate Directors manage program enrollment and recruitment:
  - i. Reveals students who have not yet registered for the spring
  - ii. Reveals graduation rates by program
  - iii. Offers other sets of important data for Graduate Directors
- d. Spring Graduate School Open House will be held February 6, 2024.
- e. Spring marketing rollout will take place over the holidays and into January.
- f. The Graduate School is going to be renamed the School for Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education.
  - i. The BPS program will move to this new school in the next academic year and will merge curriculum with the new CBE program. These changes will have to go through the faculty governance approval system.
  - ii. The new school will not impact graduate faculty governance in any way, as Graduate Council and GFA are not attached to any one college or school.
  - iii. This new school will include all adult education and will make our considerable online options more visible.
  - iv. This strategic move will also make our outreach to and focus on adult learners more visible.
- g. A company called Academic Partnerships has acquired Wiley, but this acquisition will not affect the Wiley team members we work with or our prior agreements or contracts with Wiley.

**VI. Recognition of Graduate School Support Team:**

- a. Graduate Faculty Assembly Chair Tracy Griggs recognized and thanked the following members of the Graduate School Team:
  - i. Gabby Jacobsen, Assistant to the Dean
  - ii. Brantley Therrell, Admissions and Records Coordinator
  - iii. Hunter Huggins, Recruiter and Communications Coordinator

**VII. Unfinished Business**

- a. There was no unfinished business.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. There was no new business.

**IX. Announcements**

- a. Dr. Tim Druke announced that the graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies will be held together in one ceremony on Saturday, December 16, 2023. He encouraged faculty members to attend commencement to celebrate our graduates.
- b. Dr. Tracy Griggs reminded faculty members that Graduate Faculty status is now a streamlined process. Deans recommend membership for graduate faculty status to the Graduate School. There is no longer an application and voting process. The [current membership list](#) can be found online.

**X. Adjournment**

- a. A motion to adjourn was offered and seconded, and faculty members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.