College of Education (COE) Graduate Programs Committee (GPC)

Meeting Minutes

August 2026

Call to order: The COE-GPC meeting was called to order via Zoom videoconference at 1:02 p.m. on August 26, 2026.

In Attendance: Melissa Antonelli (DCI), Maysaa Barakat (ELRM), Rina Bousalis (DCI), Hannah Bowers Parker (CE), Sharon Darling (DSE), Lisa Finnegan (DSE), Katie Friesen (ELRM), Deborah Shepherd (Dean's Representative), Victoria Siegel (CE), Christy Timm Fulkerson (CSD), and Lilyanna Zmijak (CSD).

1. **Welcome.** Lisa F, COE GPC Chair, welcomed committee representatives to the GPC and the new school year.
2. **Minutes Approval.** The April 2026 minutes were presented for review. Sharon D. moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Lilyanna Z. Motion carried.
3. **Recorder for Minutes.** The minutes recorder role rotates among COE GPC members. Sharon D. volunteered to record the meeting minutes.
4. **Curriculum Subcommittee Report.** Presented by Lisa F, Curriculum Subcommittee Chair.
   The Curriculum Subcommittee reviewed two proposed new courses to meet new licensure requirements for marriage and family therapy students. The courses were approved with minor syllabus amendments, including correcting assignment point totals and clarifying asynchronous delivery via recorded lectures. The Subcommittee Chair moved (and seconded) to accept the subcommittee's recommendation for approval. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Student Petitions Subcommittee Report.** Presented by Sharon D, Petitions Subcommittee Chair.
   The Petitions Subcommittee reviewed one EDRM petition to waive the university cap on GTA hours, increasing the limit from 20 to 30 hours. The Subcommittee Chair moved (and seconded) to accept the subcommittee's recommendation for approval. Motion passed unanimously.
   Additionally, the Petitions Subcommittee Chair reviewed the types of petitions routinely considered and the guidelines used in decision-making. The subcommittee recommends approval, denial, or a request for additional information to the COE-GPC, which then makes a recommendation to the Graduate College. She emphasized that each level of review is independent and that the Graduate College makes the final decision.
6. **University Graduate Council (UGC)/University Graduate Programs Committee (UGPC) Updates**
   Lisa F. and Melissa A. are UGC Representatives of 2026-2027. Two representatives are required per College.
   They reported that the BECE 4+1 program received positive feedback from the UGPC, particularly regarding the exemplar template and packet.
   Other UGPC discussion items included:
   - Challenges facing international students related to visa restrictions.
   - Proposed changes to Graduate College governance documents regarding graduate faculty status, which will be presented to the UGC and colleges for input.
   - Graduate student travel funding of up to $800. The UGC student representative encouraged students to apply early, particularly for summer travel, as funding is limited.
   - Potential changes to the availability of the "preliminary catalog," which currently reflects curriculum changes as they occur. Lisa F will seek clarification after concerns were raised

about the ability to track curriculum changes if updates are not visible until the next academic year.

7. **Other Business.** None.
8. **Adjourn:** Melissa A. moved to adjourn, seconded by Christy T.F. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.