

## Council on Graduate Studies

Minutes: February 24, 2026

2:00 p.m. | 2116 Blair Hall

### Attendance

Members Present: Dr. Elizabeth Gill, Dr. Maranda Schaljo, Dr. Wesley Allan, Dr. Toqeer Israr, Mr. Eric Senyo

Members Absent: Mr. Jeff Cranstoun, Dr. Alexis Jones, Dr. Chris Laingen

Guests: Dr. Nikki Hillier, Dr. Matt Gill

Staff Present: Mr. Brad Bennington, Ms. Melanee Bates, Dr. Angela Jacobs, Ms. Myra Taylor

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Finding no errors or corrections, the minutes stand as written.

### 2. Communications

- a. **EA-26-LCBT-18:** Add TEC 5883 as Elective to Computer Technology Certificate
- b. CLAS Curriculum Committee Minutes, January 21, 2026

Motion to accept communication items made by Dr. Israr; seconded by Dr. Allan. Motion carried by acclamation.

### 3. Items to be Added to the Agenda

- a. **26-35:** KSR 5225 Exercise & Physical Activity for Older Adults (Course Revision)
- b. **26-36:** CMN 4980 Social/Digital Media Analytics (New Course)

Motion to add items 26-35 and 26-36 made by Dr. Allan; seconded by Dr. Schaljo. Motion carried (5-0-0).

### 4. Items to be Acted Upon

- a. **26-30:** MS Health Promotion Program Revision Proposal

Motion: Dr. Allan; seconded by Dr. Israr. Motion carried (5-0-0).

- b. **26-31:** PUBH 5770 Health Leadership & Ethics (Course Revision)

Motion: Dr. Schaljo; seconded by Dr. Allan. Motion carried (5-0-0).

- c. **26-32:** Health & Human Services Administration Microcredentials & Certificate

Motion: Dr. Israr; seconded by Dr. Schaljo. Motion carried (5-0-0) with requested revision to include PUBH 5770 in the Operations and Performance Management in Health and Human Services microcredential and to require students be admitted as non-degree seeking.

- d. **26-33:** JOU 4751 Advanced Photojournalism (Course Revision)

Motion: Dr. Allan; seconded by Dr. Israr. Motion carried (5-0-0).

- e. **26-34:** Admission GPA for Accelerated Programs Revision Proposal

Motion: Dr. Schaljo; seconded by Dr. Allan. Motion carried (5-0-0).

### 5. Items Pending

None.

## 6. Other

None.

## 7. Committee Reports

- a. Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC): No report.
- b. Booth Collaborative Advisory Committee: No report.
- c. Textbook Rental Advisory: Dr. Schaljo stated a meeting is scheduled for the end of March.

## 8. Dean's Report

- a. **GA Allocations:** GA allocations for FY27 have been distributed to programs. Although a four percent decrease in GA funding had been requested, all GA positions were maintained as some programs no longer utilized a GA or reduced their total number.
- b. **MAGS Award Winners:** For the second consecutive year, a graduate student received Honorable Mention in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Excellence in Teaching competition. This year's recipient was EJ Newton (Communication Studies). Additionally, for the first time in EIU Graduate School history, a student won the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Distinguished Master's Thesis Competition. Brooke Wilson received the honor and previously earned Honorable Mention in the 2025 Excellence in Teaching competition.
- c. **Williams Travel/Research & Creative Activity Applications:** Twenty-five Williams grant applications and three Research/Creative Activity Grant applications have been submitted. Submissions are under review, and funding is available for awards.
- d. **Fall Enrollment:** Graduate applications decreased by over five percent. A 39 percent decline in international student applications significantly impacted totals. However, international student admits are up 11 percent.
- e. **Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Fellowship:** The Fellowship, previously on hiatus, has been approved to move forward. Dean Jacobs will work with graduate coordinators to identify applicants for the next fiscal year.
- f. **Microcredential Curriculum Process Update:** Dean Jacobs shared a proposed microcredential approval process outlining procedural steps to ensure approvals are completed correctly. This does not alter the CGS-approved process. The information will be added to the Graduate School website.

## 9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Israr; seconded by Dr. Allan. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

## Summary of Motions and Outcomes

Item	Mover	Secunder	Outcome
Communications	Israr	Allan	Acclamation
Add 26-35 & 26-36	Allan	Schaljo	5-0-0
26-30	Allan	Israr	5-0-0
26-31	Schaljo	Allan	5-0-0
26-32	Israr	Schaljo	5-0-0 w/revision
26-33	Allan	Israr	5-0-0
26-34	Schaljo	Allan	5-0-0
Adjournment	Israr	Allan	Passed