

Graduate Council Meeting No. 570 March 31, 2025 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: Emilijia Djurdjevic, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Marc Hutchison, Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely, Brett Still, Marie Mortreux, Quinn Tucker, Ami Vyas, Karolina Wojcik, Yang Shen, Susan DeSanto-Madeya, T Deeney, David Rowley, Karen Morse, Ali S Akanda, Emmett Goods,

Council Members Absent: Sarah Behm, Minsuk Shim, Araceli Bonifant,

Graduate School Present: Jessica Coyle, Cara Mitnick, Colleen Mouw, Brenton DeBoef, Kimberly Jimenez, Corinne Kulesh, Cara Mitnick, Eric Beretta

I. Call to order

★ *The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Chair Saint-Eloi Cadely.*

II. Approval of Minutes - [Meeting No. 569, February 24, 2025](#)

★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting no. 569*

○ *Approved*

III. Announcements

A. 3MT Recap (*Mitnick*)

1. This year's event had ten finalists and three winners. Katherine Overstrum won first place, Retno WulannSeptiani was the runner-up and Ololade Gbadebo was the audience's favorite

B. Professional Development (*Mitnick*)

1. Upcoming events list was shared. International students are encouraged to apply for or to present at the international student showcase at Grad Con.

C. Fall 2025 Application Data (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef discussed the current status of applications for fall admission, noting that URI is ahead of last year's numbers, with 2,000 applications received. However, the number of offers made to students is lower than last year, with a 15% decrease. Despite this, it was encouraged to continue recruitment efforts. He also mentioned that URI is supporting students who have lost funding and that the admission cycle is expected to last longer than usual due to hesitancy on the student's and the principal investigator's side.

D. Scholarship and Fellowship Update (*Mouw*)

1. Associate Dean Mouw announced the selection of recipients for the Dean's Fellowship for New Students and the deadline of applications for summer stipend support. She also mentioned that the graduate school will review the stipend applications and make decisions as soon as possible.

E. Commencement Celebration (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef discussed the upcoming commencement celebration for graduating students, which will be held at the URI Welcome Center and will include a plus one for each student.

F. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty (*Mouw*)

Michelle Passerotti, Outside Scholar, GSO *Deanna L. Bergondo, Outside Scholar, GSO*

Tingting Zhao, Assistant Professor, COB *Stephanie Akunvabey, Outside Scholar, COB*

Jason Oliver, Outside Scholar, COB *Peter Ijomah, Outside Scholar, COB*

Meghan Quinn, Outside Scholar, COE *Tammy Warner, Outside Scholar, COB*

Chao Hu, Associate Professor, COE *Aceer Nadeem, Post Doc Fellow, COE*

Kathleen A Carroll, Assistant Professor, CELS *Johanna A Harvey, Assistant Professor, CELS*

Sarah Kienle, Assistant Professor, CELS *Daniel Palacios, Outside Scholar, CELS*

Gretchen H. Roffler, Outside Scholar, CELS *Rachael E. Bonoan, Outside Scholar, CELS*

Shahla Yekta, Teaching Professor, CAS *Karen Sweeting, Assistant Professor, CAS*

Roya Izadi, Assistant Professor, CAS *Margaret Frost, Assistant Professor, CAS*

Daniel Carrigg, Assistant Teaching Professor, CAS *Daniel S. Hunt, Professor, CAS*

Devina Kumar, Assistant Professor, CHS

IV. New Business

A. Discussion of External Evaluation (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef discussed the recent visit of external reviewers from the University of Michigan and the University of Illinois. The reviewers provided a report with recommendations, including the importance of the graduate school's central role in overseeing all graduate programs at the university. They also suggested that the dean of the graduate school should be made a vice provost to ensure the graduate school's presence in large-scale university decision-making. The reviewers emphasized the need for a communication strategy to market graduate programs and proposed the addition of a communications staff member to the graduate school. They also supported the modernization of the university's systems, including the implementation of Slate for enrollment management. Lastly, they discussed the growing importance of online programs and the need to integrate them more into the university's daily operations. The report also included student housing as a problem.

B. Proposal to remove [12.24 & 12.25](#) from the Graduate Manual (*Mouw*)

1. Associate Dean Mouw proposed amendments to the Graduate Manual, specifically sections 12.2 4 and 12.2 5, which were approved for removal. The

changes were made to reflect the current state of graduate fellowships and to remove outdated references.

V. Graduate Curriculum (Kuali Agenda) (Mouw)

COURSE CHANGES (vote by college)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

COM 501 | Communication Theory, Effective Fall 2025

Change in modality

(3 crs.) Discusses the significance of theory to the understanding of communication. Gives an overview of select major theories applicable to the study of communication. Explores the relationship between theory and research and investigates emerging theories and applications of theory to emerging forms of communication. (Seminar/Online)

★ *Approved*

MUS 548 | Research in Music Effective Fall 2025

Change prerequisites, change course title or course description

3 crs.) Study of research techniques as applied to the art of music. Major project procedures and data collection and examination in the following research categories: historical, philosophical, clinical, and empirical. (Lec. 3) Pre: graduate standing in music or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MBA 565 | Strategic Management, Effective Fall 2025

Change in modality, Change in general education qualifications

(3 crs.) Integration of functional areas of business through case studies and simulation-based explorations of management problems, and the evaluation of alternative solutions. Discussion of the competitive, social and environmental challenges of domestic and multinational firms. (Lec. 3/Online) Service learning. Pre: All MBA 500 first level courses or equivalent and a minimum of 21 MBA credits which must include MBA502 or MBA532, and MBA503 or MBA533, and MBA504 or MBA534, and MBA505, or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

MKT 475 | Digital Marketing: Analytics and Strategy, Effective Spring 2026

Change in modality, change to allow for graduate credit

(3 crs.) Analyze ways marketers adapt their strategies in digital environments. Apply analytical skills, digital marketing tools, and tactics. Develop strategies for digital marketing that help meet broad marketing objectives. (Lec. 3/Online) Pre: MKT265 or MKT265H or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

EDC 588 | Disability Sports, Effective Summer 2025

Add online modality to existing in-person course

(3 crs.) Sports and recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities; federal legislation effecting participation opportunities; spectrum of participation in community recreation to elite athletic opportunities within various disability sports organizations and events. (Lec. 3/Online)

★ *Approved*

EDC 625 | Engaged Research Apprenticeship in Education, Effective Fall 2025

Add online modality to existing in-person course, Change prerequisites

(3 crs.) The course offers students an opportunity to delve deeply into an educational research project under the supervision of a faculty member. This course is designed to foster robust research skills and a holistic learning community where students learn from their faculty mentor and each other. Working in teams, students will develop research skills such as: data collection, data analysis, and manuscript writing. (Lec. 3) Pre: Admission to the Education PhD Program or permission of instructor. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits.

★ *Approved*

EDC 684 | The Analysis of Data: A Hands-On Approach, Effective Fall 2025

Change in course description, Add online modality to existing in-person course, Change prerequisites

(3 crs.) Students will practice data analysis using three specific qualitative methodologies, noting that each of these methodologies offers a unique lens on phenomena. (Lec. 3) Pre: Admission to PhD in Education Program; and successful completion of EDP612 or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

EDP 600 | Academic Reading & Writing for Doctoral Studies, Effective Fall 2025

Change prerequisites, change in modality

(3 crs.) Students develop and practice academic reading, writing, and thinking skills involved in professional practices of educational research and publishing communities. Course emphasizes scholarly identity and writing cogent literature reviews. (Lec.3/Online) Pre: admission to the Ph. D. program in education or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

EDP 612 | Qualitative Research Methods in Education, Effective Summer 2025

Add online modality to existing in-person course, Change prerequisites

(3 crs.) Survey of qualitative methods of educational research: terminology, historical development, assumptions, and models of inquiry. (Lec. 3) Pre: Current enrollment in the Ph.D. Program in education; or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

EDP 623 | Research Design, Effective Fall 2025

Change in course description, Change prerequisites

(3 crs.) Research design process including developing problem statements, research questions, hypotheses and appropriate methods (i.e., qualitative, quantitative, or mixed). Course considers philosophical worldviews, literature reviews, theory use, and research ethics. (Lec. 3) Pre: Admission to Ph.D. in Education program or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

CHE 503 (AMS503, EGR503) Mathematical Methods for Advanced Engineering Problems, Effective Spring 2026

Change courselevel number, Change course description, change general education qualifications

(3 crs.) Cross-listed as (CHE) EGR503, AMS503. Emphasizes analytical and numerical techniques commonly used in solving problems in engineering applications; including linear algebra and ordinary and partial differential equations. (Lec. 3)

★ *Approved*

TABLED CVE 579 | Advanced Soil Mechanics, Effective Spring 2026

Change course credits, change in method of instruction

(4 crs.) Physico-chemical properties of soils, hydraulic conductivity, consolidation, and shear strength. (Lec. 3, Lab. 3) Pre: CVE381 or equivalent and graduate standing.

ELE 568 | Neural Engineering, Effective Spring 2026

Change in prerequisites, corequisites

(3 crs.) Principles and technologies of neuroengineering and clinical applications; brain stimulator, spinal cord stimulation, functional electrical stimulation (FES), neural-machine interface for motor prosthesis control, artificial visual/auditory devices for augmented sensory perception. (Lec. 3) Pre: Graduate standing in Electrical Engineering or permission of instructor. May not be taken by students who have credit in BME468.

★ *Approved*

ELE 573 | Brain Signal Processing and Applications, Effective Spring 2026

Change in prerequisites, corequisites

(4 crs.) This course presents advanced techniques in brain signal processing including time-frequency analysis (e.g., wavelet), spatial filters (e.g., Laplacian filters), data reduction techniques (e.g., PCA), and machine learning algorithms (e.g., LDA). (Lec. 3, Rec. 1) Pre: {(MTH 243 or equivalent), MT 451 or STA409 or ISE311 or equivalent), (ELE314 or equivalent), and Matlab programming} or permission of instructor. Familiarity with topics in ELE501, ELE506, and ELE509 is highly recommended. May not be taken by students who have credit in BME473.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES

LAR 444 | Studio 5: Regenerative Landscape Systems Effective Fall 2025

Change in course title or description, change general education qualifications to this course.

(4 crs.) Sustainable design principles and practices. Theoretical and real-world problem solving for individual sites and local communities. Explore sustainability practices, green infrastructure, and public participation. (Lec. 2, Studio 4) Intended for LAR majors, MESM students, or with permission of instructor. Pre: LAR344 and LAR346 or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

NRS 402 (NRS502) | Quantitative Ecology I, Effective Winter 2026

Change 400 level course to qualify for graduate credit

(3 crs.) Cross-listed as (NRS) NRS502. Overview of statistical design and analysis of ecological field measurements, emphasizing probabilistic models used in wildlife population research and conservation. (Lec. 2, Lab. 2) Pre: BIO262 or NRS223, and STA308 or STA409, or by permission of instructor. Graduate students must enroll in NRS502 for credit.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

KIN 570 | Biomechanical Aspects of Kinesiology, Effective Fall 2026

Change in course title or description, Change a temporary course (x-course) to a permanent course

(3 crs.) Study of the mechanical principles, analytical methods, and instrumentation systems involved in the analysis of human movement. Emphasis on application of these principles to movements including gait and physical activity. (Lec. 3) Pre: MTH103 or MTH111; PHY111; and KIN370 or BME207; and or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

KIN 591 | Special Problems, Effective Spring 2026

Change in course title or description

(3 crs.) Written paper reporting an in-depth investigation of a pertinent problem in the field, including a review of relevant literature, analysis, and solution of the problem based on scientific methodology, with recommendations for improved practices. (Independent Study) Pre: Limited to and required of all graduate students in Kinesiology education who elect the non-thesis option.

★ *Approved*

PHT 518 | Communication and Education in Physical Therapy, Effective Spring 2026

Change course credits, Change prerequisites, Change course description

(2 crs.) Topics include teaching and learning strategies for classroom and clinical settings, communication skills, working with interpreters, documentation in the electronic medical record (EMR), and strategies for telehealth. (Lec. 2) Pre: DPT student in good standing, or permission of the chairperson.

★ *Approved*

PHT 536 | Pathophysiology: Implications for Physical Therapy, Effective Spring 2026

Change course credits, Change prerequisites, Change course description

(3 crs.) This course provides an overview of pathophysiology across the life span from the biological life processes perspective. Pathophysiology across body systems in relation to physical therapy practice is emphasized. (Lec. 3) Pre: DPT student in good standing or early contingent admit DPT ,PHT512, or permission of the chairperson.

★ *Approved*

PHT 544 | Health Promotion in Physical Therapy, Effective Spring 2026

Change in modality, Change prerequisites

(2 crs.) Provides physical therapy students with an understanding of their role in wellness and health promotion across systems and the lifespan. Content includes health behavior and health education. (Lec. 2/Online) Pre: DPT student in good standing, PHT536, or permission of the chairperson.

★ *Approved*

PHT 552 | Musculoskeletal Therapeutics II: The Spine, Effective Spring 2026

Change prerequisites

(5 crs.) Physical Therapy management of individuals with, and the prevention of, impaired joint mobility, motor function, muscle performance, range of motion, and reflex integrity associated with musculoskeletal dysfunction in the spine. (Lec. 5) Pre: DPT student in good standing, PHT522, PHT536, PHT550, PHT570, or by permission of the chairperson.

★ *Approved*

NEW COURSES (vote by college)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

★ *Approved*

NEW 620 | Empirical Modeling of Social Science Theory, Effective Fall 2025

(3 crs.) This course teaches specifying, estimating, interpreting, and presenting empirical models that reflect complex, context-dependent causal relationships, including temporal, spatial, and spatiotemporal dynamics, and endogeneity. (Seminar) Pre: EEC 576, EEC 676, and graduate standing

NEW 630 | Computational Social Science Integrative Theories, Effective Fall 2025

(3 crs.) This course is a shell course and it introduces different social science theories and how these theories can be studied with computational methods and techniques. (Seminar) Pre: Graduate standing
May be repeated for credit.

NEW 650 | Computational Social Science Methods, Effective Fall 2025

(3 crs.) This course is designed for the Computational Social Science PhD program, and it introduces the most up-to-date methods in the discipline. This is a shell course for various different types of methods in the field of Computational Social Science. (Seminar 2, Lab. 1) Pre: EEC 522, EEC 576, and graduate standing.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

★ *Approved*

MBA 512 | Introduction to Financial Data Analytics, Effective Fall 2025

(3 crs.) This course offers graduate students a robust foundation in financial theories, statistical methodologies, and practical data analysis skills. (Lec. 3/Online) Pre: Enrolled in the MBA program.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

★ *Approved*

OCE 540 | Coastal Dynamics and Resilience with Nature, Effective Fall 2025

(3 crs.) Coastal hydrodynamics and morphodynamics with natural and nature-based features. Exploration of their roles in coastal protection and resilience enhancement; discussions of recent advancements in laboratory, numerical, and field research. (Lec. 3) Pre: OCE408 or by permission of instructor.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE

★ *Approved*

PSY 688 | Grant Writing Seminar I, Effective Fall 2025

(3 crs.) Students are guided through completion of a Kirschstein-NRSA grant (F31), or similar grant, over two semesters. Presentation of initial ideas shaped into aims suitable for a research proposal, and portions of application drafted. (Seminar) May be repeated for a total of 6 credits.

PSY 689 | Grant Writing Seminar II, Effective Spring 2026

(3 crs.) Continuation of PSY 688. Drafted sections of application are peer-reviewed and scored, resulting in completion of main grant application documents. (Seminar) Pre: PSY688. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

★ *Approved*

PHP 426 | Scientific Writing & Publication for HC Professionals

(3 crs.) This course is for students who look to improve their scientific writing and publication skills. This course will help students to develop the skills necessary to effectively formulate sound arguments and convey scientific messages. Students will practice writing using clear and thoughtful language. This is a workshop and project-oriented course in scientific writing and publication. Students will primarily focus on writing a draft of a journal article in a format for publication to a scientific journal. Students are expected to participate fully, and individual feedback and guidance on writing will be provided by the instructor. (Online) Pre: Second professional year of Doctor of Pharmacy; or health science majors in their third year or higher; or pre-health students in their third year or higher, or current healthcare professional; or permission of instructor.

VI. Graduate New Program & Tracks (Kuali Agenda) (DeBoef)

PROGRAMS MODIFICATIONS (vote by program)

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Human Development and Family Science ABM, Effective Fall 2025

Changing to dual degree, updating classes required for the specialization

This ABM program will provide highly motivated Human Development and Family Science undergraduate majors and minors with an option to extend their expertise in the field and obtain a Master's degree with only

adding one additional year to their programs. In this ABM program, the student's final year will be fully online and thus this will be more readily available for students applying for jobs or starting their first career jobs.

The list of courses allowed for double-counting include: HDF 400, HDF 418, HDF 421, HDF 430, HDF 431, HDF 432, HDF 434, HDF 437, HDF 440, HDF 450, HDF 451, HDF 460, HDF 472

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Nursing Practice - DNP, Effective Fall 2025

Changing number of credits, changing program description, updating classes required

There was an error discovered in the program requirements that needed to be deleted. Specific information not applicable to this program was a requirement of 30 credit post-MS and a total of 68 credits for the program.

★ *Approved*

NEW CERTIFICATES OR SPECIALIZATIONS *(vote by program)*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Underwater Acoustics - Cert, Effective Fall 2025

This graduate certificate is an option for students from engineering, oceanography, or other fields who would like to have graduate preparation in underwater acoustics.

Program Requirements

OCE571, and three (3) courses from the following: OCE472, OCE555, OCE561, OCE572, OCE575, ~~OCE576~~, OCE661, OCE672, OCE673

★ *Approved*

Approved based on the removal of OCE576

NEW PROGRAMS *(vote by program)*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

TABLED - Master of Engineering Management and Leadership

Program Description - The Master of Engineering Management and Leadership (MEML) is designed for practicing engineering professionals who aim to secure a competitive edge. The program integrates leadership and business acumen with the advanced technical skills required to excel in today's technology-driven industries. This interdisciplinary program, developed in collaboration between the College of Engineering and the College of Business, bridges the gap between engineering and management, enabling students to lead complex projects, manage teams, and make data-driven decisions in high-impact environments.

Specializations in Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Industry 4.0, and Ocean Engineering.

Program Requirements:

Engineering Courses - ISE500, and 4 additional courses depending on specialization

Business Courses - MBA502, MBA504, BUS502, and BUS509

Electives - One of the following: BUS506, ISE540, ISE552, MBA560

★ *Tabled*

VII. Adjournment

★ *Dean DeBoef asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.*