



Graduate School

Date: October 20, 2025

To: Members of the UAMS Graduate Council

From: Dr. Latrina Prince

Subject: Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2025, 1:00-2:00

Members Present: Drs. Jure Baloh, Mathias Brochhausen, Lu Dai, Brian Fairman, Abdelrahman Fouda, Horacio Gomez-Acevedo, Lisa Jansen, Lin-Xi Li, Brooke Montgomery, Sayem Miah, Angela Odle, Jacob Painter, Martha Rojo, Patricia Wight

Non-voting Members Present: Dr. Sean Taverna, Dr. Latrina Prince, and Nadine Ledet

Members Absent: Drs. Sam Atcherson, Mick Tilford

Non-voting Members Absent: Lokesh Akana

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Dr. Latrina Prince started the meeting by requesting approval of the September 2025 minutes. The minutes were 1st approved by Dr. Patricia Wight and 2nd approved by Dr. Mathias Brochhausen.

Administrative Items

Dr. Sean Taverna

1. Winter Awards Reception- coming up on December 4th; can turn in names through Friday 10/24.
2. Student Emergency Fund is available per Dr. Gardner.
3. Next Lunch with the Dean is scheduled for November 4th.
4. HR is hosting seminars 12:00-1:00 and Graduate School is providing lunch: one seminar in Fall and one in Spring. All Graduate School students are invited.
5. Grant/Funding for Summer Program
Discussion: Dr. Taverna: Are we allowed to get a no cost extension?
Dr. Prince: Funds will carry over.

Dr. Latrina Prince

1. Recruiting schedule spreadsheet is accessible and interested faculty is welcome to participate in any recruiting events.

2. Immigration Updates- HR seminar this week; shared info and email to Grad Council group.
3. New Curriculum Committee Chair- Dr. Odle has volunteered to serve as chair.

Other Administrative Items

There were no other administrative items to discuss, so the meeting moved to the committee reports.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee

Discussion:

Dr. Li: Thesis change from pass/fail to graded—is this approved?

Faculty Committee – Dr. Patricia Wight, Chair

Committee is reviewing Kelsey Osley.

Academic Senate – Drs. Lin-Xi Li and Martha Rojo, GS Representatives

Academic Affairs is reviewing and renewing the AI policy and UAMS Handbook

Discussion:

Dr. Montgomery: Do changes to dissertation or comp exam using AI need to go to the committee?

Dr. Prince: No, only major changes such as title, credit hours go to the committee.

Concerns/Discussion:

- Faculty Concerns About Funding:

Dr. Wight: There is concern from faculty on the number of GPIBS students and faculty coming to the end of their funds to support students. Can we survey faculty to see what their funding status is now to identify who may be in jeopardy of being able to fund existing students?

Dr. Taverna: We have underrecruited GPIBS, so funding should be okay. There is a grant students can submit for some external funding also. We are increasing our capacity to fund students. Mentors who are concerned about their funding ability can reach out to discuss. Dr. Gardner is



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interested in maintaining the number of graduate students at UAMS. Will ask department chairs for their insight on this issue.

- Immigration Mandates:

Dr. Taverna: We do not know the full effects the mandates will have on our programs and international students.

Dr. Prince: Visa applications and approvals are being delayed. However, students who already have visas can easily be transferred.

Dr. Miah: Will graduate admissions be held to 15% international admissions?

Dr. Taverna: Not at this time, but as rules change we will share. Please share if you hear of any changes as well.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM