



Date: March 16, 2026

To: Members of the UAMS Graduate Council

From: Dr. Latrina Prince

Subject: Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2026, 1:00-2:00

Members Present: Drs. Jure Baloh, Lu Dai, Adbel Fouda, Lin-Xi Li, Brooke Montgomery, Sayem Miah, Angela Odle, Martha Rojo, Patricia Wight

Non-voting Members Present: Dr. Sean Taverna, Dr. Latrina Prince, Ms. Nadine Ledet, Mr. Lokesh Akana

Members Absent: Drs. Sam Atcherson, Ann Chou, Mathias Brochhausen, Brian Fairman, Horacio Gomez-Acevedo, Lisa Jansen, Jacob Painter

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Dr. Latrina Prince started the meeting by requesting approval of the February 2025 minutes. Dr. Lin-Xi Li approved the minutes. Dr. Martha Rojo seconded the approval.

Graduate Student Association Report

Lokesh Akana, GSA President

1. GSA will have an educational event with speaker on April 6, 2026.
2. Art From the Heart event will be on April 9, 2026

Administrative Items

Dr. Sean Taverna

1. Academic Affairs/ Provost Office is working on an initiative to cover student insurance for PhD, COM students for the first 2 years. Years 3 and 4 should be covered by mentor funding.
 - o Jure Baloh: Will grants fund the insurance for the departments?
 - o Dr Miah: What is the estimated cost per year?
 - o Dr. Taverna: estimated 3800 per year.
2. GRS Spring Awards Reception is on April 15, 2026.
3. Graduate School Graduation is on May 14, 2026, Spine Institute 12th floor.
4. Student Rights: Harassment Complaint Policy—faculty has 24 hours to notify Dean’s Office of a student’s complaint.



Dr. Latrina Prince

1. Dr. Prince will be sending emails out to faculty mentors for students who are receiving awards at the Spring Awards Reception.
2. May Commencement includes Fall 2025, Spring 2026 & Summer 2026. Summer graduates also must go into WD and apply to graduate. One program faculty will need to be on stage to hood their students. All persons on stage need to wear regalia. Ordering information was emailed.
3. Tax law seminar was held and was extremely helpful to students. All students who attended the seminar were offered free tax preparation.
4. Social Media access was granted for students who have requested access. A couple have started posting on Grad school social media site.

Other Administrative Items

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Angela Odle

1. No report

Faculty Committee – Dr. Patricia Wight, Chair

Several faculty are being considered. Once finalized the names will be shared at the next meeting.

Academic Senate – Dr. Martha Rojo, GS Representative

1. Stocked and Ready: Accepting donation for UAMS Stocked and Ready food pantry. Boxes are located throughout campus. Non-perishable, unexpired food is appreciated.

Open Discussion:

Dr. Prince opened the floor for questions:

- Patty Wight: Unemployment compensation is being taken out for graduate students out of the PI's grant. Who to reach out to ask about this?
- Dr. Prince suggested Dr Wight follow up with AskHR or Payroll department.



- Dr. Taverna: Thanks to everyone who helped make student research day a success, and please consider volunteering next year.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM