

## **Graduate Council Meeting**

Monday, December 1, 2025 ~ 3:00 – 4:00 pm  
Couper Administration Building, AD-148

### **MINUTES**

**PRESIDING:** Terrence Deak, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

**STAFF:** Joshua Reno, Mohamadreza Babaee, Courtney Ignarri, Yongabi Ngoh, Erica Sausner, Kim Yousef-Elsener, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Ann Marie Kellogg (recorder)

**PRESENT:** Pegor Aynajian, Christopher Bartlette, David Bisaha, Samiksha Gaur, Guy German, Debjit Gupta, Yetrib Hathout, Michael Jacobson, Yvonne Johnston, Carmen Jones, Hyejung Kim, Loretta Mason-Williams, Matthew McConn, Vladimir Nikulin, Andreas Pape, Aravind Prakash, Nicole Rouhana, Hiroki Sayama, Kevin Seeber, Haley Thayer, Cihan Uzmanoglu, Sara Wozniak, Tao Zhang, Ning Zhou

**ABSENT:** Prabhu Anil Bhor, Heather Bragg, Kathleen Brunt, Judith DeLuca, Heidi Ewen, Carl Lipo, Jacqueline McGinley, Jeffrey Pietras, Joseph Roth, Pamela Smart, Rosko Tzolov, Katherine Wander,

Call to Order:

Dr. Reno called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

#### **1. Minutes of Meeting on November 3, 2025**

Dr. Reno asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 3, 2025. A member made a motion to approve the minutes and another member seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. The minutes of the meeting were approved as written.

#### **2. Report from the Dean:**

Dean Deak welcomed the committee and reported

##### **a. Announcing the New Doctoral Focus Fellowship**

The Doctoral Focus Fellowship is a competitive summer program created for newly ABD students who need time, funding, and structure to push their research forward. Fellows receive an \$8,000 summer stipend and join a supportive 10-week framework designed to accelerate research progress, strengthen writing productivity, and amplify the scholarly impact of their work. Students who reach ABD status after January 1, 2025, and who are not holding paid TA/GAships or sponsored research positions during the summer of 2026 are eligible. The deadline to apply is January 5, 2026.

##### **b. Notes from Meeting with the New President**

President D'Alleva met with the Graduate School staff on November 21. Dean Deak had a one-on-one meeting with her first, which was followed by a meeting with the Graduate School team. It was a positive meeting, and the president made clear that graduate

programs are a priority as we move forward. Graduate Council will be integral to the process. Dean Deak stressed that we need to get better before we get bigger.

**c. Update on Time-to-Degree**

Letters were sent in late March/early April to students in violation of the 5-year policy of achieving ABD status, with a deadline of December 1. A review will be done in the coming week of the students still in violation to determine the right path.

**d. First Look at Graduate Student Success**

Dean Deak shared a PowerPoint he prepared and recently presented to the Harpur Chairs and Directors meeting. The presentation outlined the rapidly changing landscape of graduate education; Financial Value Transparency (FVT) and Gainful Employment (GE) regulations and statistics; a breakdown of the cost of doctoral education; statistics on achieving ABD status; time to ABD by cohort; doctoral degrees conferred data; completion rates by cohort; graduate student success metrics for doctoral programs; Doctoral Focus Fellowship; and highlights of the Graduate Center for Professional Development and Postdoctoral Affairs.

**3. Subcommittee Updates:**

- a. Academic Standards Committee – did not meet.
- b. Diversity Committee – Clark awards reviewed; decisions made.
- c. Professional Development Committee – Excellence Awards nominations received; will review by December 8.
- d. Budget Advisory Committee – Travel Grants reviewed; decisions made
- e. Grievance Committee – met on November 14.
- f. Strategic Planning Committee – did not meet; will review new Doctoral Focus Fellowships.

**4. Upcoming Deadlines:**

- a. Doctoral Focus Fellowship – January 5; students [apply through the online portal](#), faculty nominators must prepare a mentorship plan
- b. Digital Scholarship & Communication Fellowship – January 5; [students apply through online portal](#), faculty nominators must prepare a letter of support
- c. Three Minute Thesis - February 9; [more details here](#)
- d. Clark Fellowship – February 15; only two students nominated per department/program

**5. Any Other Business:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**\*\*\*Next Meeting: Monday, February 2, 2026 ~ 3:00-4:00 p.m.\*\*\***  
**Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences, HSB-301**