Graduate Council Agenda

November 12, 2026

Weatherby 227 3:00pm CST

1) Call to Order:
2) Approval of Oct 8, 2026 minutes (Appendix A)
3) Sign-in sheet for attendance
4) Executive Committee Notes
    1. Chair: Whitley Stone
    2. Vice-Chair: Daniel Keller
    3. Secretary: Melissa Tolbert
5) Committee Reports
    1. Research:
        a. Report Attached (Appendix B)
    2. Policy: Report attached
        i. Second reading of revisions (Appendix C)
        ii. Proposed policy update related to vacancies (Appendix D)
    3. Curriculum: Report attached (Appendix E)
6) Note(s) from Graduate Studies
    1. Jennifer Hammonds and/or Scott Gordon
7) Other business
8) Adjournment

Appendix A

Graduate Council Agenda

October 8, 2026

Zoom 3:00pm CST

https://wku.zoom.us/j/94333675840

Members Present: Missy Travelsted, Jason Bergner, Peter Lin, Jonathan Ross, Leslee Tarbett, Jeremy Logsdon, Monica Burke, Elnad Jašarević, Jerry Brotzge, Michael Smith, Dan Strunk, Daniel Keller, Jie-Young Kong, Jessi Thomsen, Debra Murray, Whitley Stone, Erin Warfel, Melissa Tolbert, Jacob Gillespie, Tony Paganelli

Ex-Officio: Jennifer Hammonds, Kirk Atkinson

Guests: Cathleen Webb, Merrall Price, Scott Gordon, Jennifer Klemm, Crissy Priddy, David Brown, Mary Jane Gardner

9) Call to Order: 3:01 by Whitley Stone
10) Approval of September 10, 2026 minutes (Appendix A)
    1. 1st: Whitley Stone
    2. 2nd: Michael Smith
    3. Vote: All approved, unanimously
11) Sign-in sheet for attendance (via chat)
12) Executive Committee Notes
    4. Chair: Whitley Stone
        i. Link to Senate Committee Master Schedule
        ii. Update on chat with Provost Fischer regarding PhD program development and Graduate Council's role in process
            1. W. Stone provided brief synopsis of the conversation.
        iii. Motion to charge the Policy Committee with conducting a needs analysis of university policies and procedures governing graduate education as they relate to proposed PhD programs. The committee shall review current graduate requirements, examining Ed.D. and DPT policies and expectations, and identify any gaps or additional standards needed for Graduate Council's academic review of PhD proposals.
            1. Initial vote to discuss motion:
                a. 1st: W. Stone
                b. 2nd: E. Warfel
            2. Discussion

a. Several attendees (C. Webb, J. Thomsen, J. Hammonds) suggested friendly amendment to add Doctor of Nursing, relevant Master's degrees that are research oriented, and Psych D program.
b. Questions related to current status of Data Science program and status of any future programs.
c. Dean Brown answered several questions regarding current status: Data Science to potentially begin Fall 2027 and future PhD programs potentially in Fall 2028
d. J. Hammonds proposed advisory members to be on policy committee and J. Kong will follow up.

3. Vote on motion: All approved, unanimously

5. Vice-Chair: Daniel Keller
   i. Reflection from Senate 9/24/26
      1. Visit from President Caboni
         a. Encouraged Department Chairs make use of flexible workforce policy
         b. Data Science moving forward
6. Secretary: Melissa Tolbert (no report)

13) Committee Reports
4. Research:
   i. Deadline just passed for travel grant, they will be meeting to make decisions in the next 2 weeks
5. Policy: Report attached (Appendix B)
   iii. First reading of revisions – vote on revisions in November, if moved.
   iv. Initiating motion: J. Kong for report to be shared
      1. 2nd – W. Stone
      2. All changes were in regards to formatting
      3. Discussion regarding vacancies. No formal motion, but looking into a potential threshold to trigger the non-participation of absence.
      4. Meeting again in 2 weeks. If there are any concerns – reach out to **Jieyoung Kong by October 19.**
      5. Vote on report: All approved, unanimously
6. Curriculum: Report attached (Appendix C)
   i. 1st – E. Warfel
   ii. 2nd – W. Stone
   iii. Report shared. No discussion.
   iv. Vote on report: All approved, unanimously

14) Note(s) from Graduate Studies
2. Jennifer Hammonds and/or Scott Gordon

i. Report by S. Gordon regarding minor changes in enrollment
    1. 4 students above our goal, 387 credit hour increase from last year

15) Other business
    1. None

16) Adjournment
    1. Motion – M. Travelsted
    2. 2nd: L. Tarbett

Respectfully recorded and submitted,
GCEC Secretary
Melissa Tolbert

Appendix B

Graduate Council

Graduate Student Research

Agenda — October 22, 2026

Members Present: Jerry Brotzge, Alex Cook, Jake Gillespie, Peter Lin, Jeremy Logsdon (chair), Tony Paganelli, Michael Smith

I. New Business:

- 60 applications were submitted requesting funding
  - 30 applications classified as "research"
  - 30 applications classified as "travel"
- Total Funds Requested = $69,454.15
  - Total Research Funds Requested = $54,552.15
  - Total Travel Funds Requested = $14,902.00
- Total Funds Recommended by GCRC = $31,068.62
  - Total Research Funds Recommended = $21,146.62
  - Total Travel Funds Recommended = $9,922.00

Notes on Decision Making Process

Due to the number of research grant applications and the limited funding available, the committee developed a standardized evaluation rubric to facilitate a fair and consistent review process. The rubric established five evaluation criteria, each scored on a 0–3 scale, allowing committee members to assess applications individually before comparing scores and reaching a consensus on funding recommendations. This process helped ensure that funding decisions were based on clearly defined criteria and collective committee judgment.

Research Applications Recommended for Full Funding

Fully Funded

1. Billah, Sajid Mehran. Biological Sciences (Dr. Liwei Fang) "Functional Characterization of a Conserved Non-Catalytic Residue in the Staphylococcus aureus MroQ Protease" [Requesting $2000 for research]
2. Jerome, Sophie. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Matthew Woodward) "PTSD and Romantic Relationship Quality: Examining the Role of Intimacy and Communication Difficulties" [Requesting $2000 for research]

3. Kumar, Sandesh. Agriculture (Dr. Navdeep Singh) “Linking Soil Strength and Biology to Infiltration Under Cover Crops” [Requesting $2000 for research]
4. Montgomery, Jackson. Biological Sciences (Dr. Simran Banga) “Enzymatic Elucidation of Legionella pneumophila Nuclear Effectors” [Requesting $1821.95 for research]
5. Rahaman, Md Jiad Ur. Agriculture (Dr. Navdeep Singh) “Assessing Long-Term Soil Management Impacts on Soil Health Indicators” [Requesting $2000 for research]
6. Rauch, Conrad. Biological Sciences (Dr. Noah Ashley) “Cytokine Expression Following Sleep Fragmentation in Mice” [Requesting $1996 for research]
7. Scheffel, Reagan. Biological Sciences (Dr. Steve Huskey) “Quantifying Claw Stress in the Florida Stone Crab (Menippe mercenaria)” [Requesting $2000 for research]
8. Wodrich, David. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Katrina Burch) “Workplace Color, State Affect, and Job Attitudes” [Requesting $1978.67 for research]

Partially Funded

In an effort to maximize the number of graduate students receiving research support, the committee considered partial funding for applications when appropriate. These recommendations were informed by the committee's evaluation rubric, individual reviewer comments, proposed budgets, and the potential for projects to proceed with reduced funding. Partial awards were considered selectively rather than applied uniformly, with particular attention to opportunities to reduce expenses or support specific components of a proposed project. Through this approach, the committee was able to recommend funding for 12 research applicants, including four partial awards, allowing two additional students to receive research support beyond what would have been possible through full funding alone.

1. Denney, Jessye. Psychology (Dr. Christopher Peters) “The Defendant Went Viral: Media’s Impact on Pretrial Publicity and Insanity Pleas” [Requesting $1906.53 for research; suggested partial award of $1200]
2. Firkaly-Paciera, Joseph. EEAS (Dr. Giliane Rasbold) “Cave Sediments as a Flood Archive: Hidden River Cave, Kentucky” [Requesting $1998 for research; suggested partial award of $1250]
3. Stewart, Ralph. Psychology (Dr. Amber Giacona) “Caught in the Prints: Race, Ambiguity, and Confidence in Fingerprint Identification” [Requesting $1740 for research; suggested partial award of $1400]
4. Walker, Easton. Biological Sciences (Dr. Jarrett Johnson) “Phylogeography and Landscape Genetics of the Blanchard’s and Northern Cricket Frogs (Genus Acris)” [Requesting $2000 for research; suggested partial award of $1500]

Not Funded

Due to the number of competitive research applications and the limited funding available, the committee was unable to recommend funding for all applicants. Funding recommendations were guided primarily by the applicants' collective evaluation scores, with consideration given to the

feasibility of partial awards. Applications not recommended for funding were generally those that fell below the available funding threshold after higher-ranked proposals had been considered. These decisions reflect the limitations of available funding and should not necessarily be interpreted as deficiencies in the quality or merit of the proposed research.

1. Anatune, Chibuzor. Chemistry (Dr. Lei Li) “Functionalizing Artificial Molecular Muscles with Self-Healing Properties” [Requesting $2000 for research]
2. Biddle, Erika. Teacher Education (Dr. Mindy Waldrop) “Risk Behaviors in College Students with ADHD” [Requesting $1000 for research]
3. Bow, Amber. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Amy Brausch) “Sexual Minority Identity and Nonsuicidal Self-injury: Examining Risk Factors for Plurisexual and Monosexual Individuals” [Requesting $1500 for research]
4. Brannon, Kaylee. Biological Sciences (Dr. Joseph Marquardt) “Coordination of Cell Growth by Two Yeast Kinases to Control Cell Shape” [Requesting $2000 for research]
5. Deo, Amanda. Biological Sciences (Dr. Joseph Marquardt) “Investigating Interactions between Elm1 and Ede1 in Morphogenesis” [Requesting $2000 for research]
6. Dixon, Cy. Computer Science (Dr. Jeffrey Galloway) “Smart Manufacturing Lab Research Grant Fall 2026” [Requesting $2000 for research]
7. Frzidy, Dzenita. Psychology (Dr. Christopher Peters) “Dark Triad Traits & Support for Punitive Justice: A Quantitative Study of Public Attitudes Toward Criminal Punishment” [Requesting $1200 for research]
8. Gioia, Teraesa. Biological Sciences (Dr. Scott Grubbs) “A molecular phylogeographic study of the endemic Nearctic stonefly species Diura washingtoniana (Hanson, 1940)” [Requesting $2000 for research]
9. Green, Lucas. Ed Leadership (Dr. Daniel Super) “Preparing Educational Leaders: Examining Program Evaluation Inclusion in Ed.D. Programs” [Requesting $2000 for research]
10. Ivanov, Sergey. Clinical Psychology (Dr. Christopher Peters) “The Impact of Video Resolution on Perceptions of Recorded Forensic Interrogations” [Requesting $1470 for research]
11. Jones, Grant. Computer Science (Dr. Guangming Xing) “An LLM Voice Control Layer over a Golf Club-Recommendation Engine; Caddy Ai” [Requesting $1529 for research]
12. Khattab, Raja Umar. Computer Science (Dr. Jeffrey Galloway) “IMU-Based Joint Motion Monitoring of an Industrial Robot for Predictive Maintenance” [Requesting $1912 for research]
13. Li, Na. Ed Leadership (Dr. Gary Houchens) “Leading AI-supported Oral Practice to increase Access to Chinese Oral Resource” [Requesting $2000 for research]
14. Poston, Abby. Biological Sciences (Dr. Scott Grubbs) “A Phylogenetic Analysis of the Leuctra tenuis (Pictet 1841) Species Group (Plecoptera: Leuctridae)” [Requesting $2000 for research]
15. Robinson, Jayde. Psychology (Dr. Rick Grieve) “Eating disorders in males” [Requesting $500 for research]
16. Turner, Luke. Biological Sciences (Dr. Keith Philips) “Spider beetle diversity of coastal Peru” [Requesting $2000 for research]

17. Walker, Luke. Biological Sciences (Dr. Joseph Marquardt) “Investigating Elm1's capacity to interact with and regulate Hsl7 directly” [Requesting $2000 for research]
18. Wright, Johnathan. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Aaron Wichman) “Does Controllability of Course Impact Affective Reactions and Behavioral Intentions?” [Requesting $2000 for research]

Travel Applications Recommended for Funding

1. Billah, Sajid Mehran. Biological Sciences (Dr. Liwei Fang) “Functional Characterization of a Conserved Non-Catalytic Residue in the Staphylococcus aureus MroQ Protease” [Requesting $500 for travel]
2. Biswakarma, Kamal. EEAS (Dr. Jerald Brotzge) “Spatial and Temporal Patterns in Climate across a Small Urban Area: A Case Study from a New Micronet Deployed across Bowling Green, Kentucky” [Requesting $500 for travel]
3. Brannon, Kaylee. Biological Sciences (Dr. Joseph Marquardt) “Coordination of Cell Growth by Two Yeast Kinases to Control Cell Shape” [Requesting $500 for travel]
4. Donnelly, Rose. History (Dr. Audra Jennings) ““Spicy as Usual”: Local Media responses to an Asylum Periodical Printed in the Alabama Insane Hospital, 1872-1881” [Requesting $500 for travel]
5. Enem, Ifechukwu. Chemistry (Dr. Jeremy Maddox) “Computational Study of Bis-Adduct Formation Between L-Ascorbic Acid and Discarbonyl C…” [Requesting $500 for travel]
6. Fox, Tristan. History (Dr. Audra Jennings) “Locked Down: The 1898 Smallpox Quarantine of Jackson County, Kentucky” [Requesting $500 for travel]
7. Herrmann-Holt, Benjamin. Homeland Security (Dr. Steven J. Gibson) “Spectral Analysis of a Cold, CO-Dark Cloud in HI Emission” [Requesting $500 for travel]
8. Jackson, Andrew. Biological Sciences (Dr. Jason Stewart) “Defining the Roles of STN1’s Winged-Helix Domains is CST-Mediated Telomere Maintenance and Genome Stability” [Requesting $474 for travel]
9. Jerome, Sophie. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Matthew Woodward) “PTSD and Romantic Relationship Quality: Examining the Role of Intimacy and Communication Difficulties” [Requesting $500 for travel]
10. Kelley, Morgan. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Amy Brausch) “Reasons for Living and Current Suicide Ideation in Adolescents with Self-Harm History” [Requesting $500 for travel]
11. Kennedy, Anthony. School Psychology (Dr. Sarah Bonis) “Teacher and Parent Perspectives of School Based Suicide Prevention” [Requesting $500 for travel]
12. Koirala, Sandesh. Biological Sciences (Dr. Simran Banga) “Legionella pneumophila Pathogenesis and Host DNA Methylation” [Requesting $474 for travel]
13. Lamb, Ashley. School Psychology (Dr. Sarah Bonis) “Impacts of Orthorexia in School Psychology” [Requesting $500 for travel]
14. Luitel, Somnath. EEAS (Dr. Manmeet Singh) “GraphCast Skill and Systematic Biases in Indian Summer Monsoon Forecasts: Evaluation against ERA5 and IMERG” [Requesting $500 for travel]

15. Montgomery, Jackson. Biological Sciences (Dr. Simran Banga) “Enzymatic Elucidation of Legionella pneumophila Nuclear Effectors” [Requesting $474 for travel]
16. Pinkrah, Nana. EEAS (Dr. Xingang Fan) “Spatiotemporal Variability of ERA5-Derived Severe-Convective Environments and Their Association with Reported Hazards across the Ohio River Basin and Surrounding Region” [Requesting $500 for travel]
17. Pirakov, Rustam. Homeland Security (Dr. Ali Oguz Er) “Pulsed Laser Ablation for Pt-Ni Nanoparticle Synthesis and Enhanced Hydrocarbon Conversion Efficiency” [Requesting $500 for travel]
18. Rominger, Ryder. History (Dr. Audra Jennings) “Down by the Green River: A Study of Labor, Mechanization, and Capital in the Western Kentucky Coalfields; 1890-1950” [Requesting $500 for travel]
19. Spalding, Grant. Biological Sciences (Dr. Keith Philips) “The strange evolution of myrmecophily in spider beetles (Coleoptera: Ptinidae)” [Requesting $500 for travel]
20. Wilhelm, Mark. Biological Sciences (Dr. Keith Philips) “Phylogeography and species delineation of Pseudanophthalmus Jeannel, 1920 (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Trechinae) from Indiana, and adjacent regions” [Requesting $500 for travel]

Not Funded, Deferred

The following proposals were recommended to be deferred to a future semester.

1. Anatune, Chibuzor. Chemistry (Dr. Lei Li) “Functionalizing Artificial Molecular Muscles with Self-Healing Properties” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]
2. Meadows, Adam. Chemistry (Dr. Lawrence Hill) “Towards vitamin C-containing polymers” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]
3. Rahaman, Md Jiad Ur. Agriculture (Dr. Navdeep Singh) “Assessing Long-Term Soil Management Impacts on Soil Health Indicators” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]

Not Funded, Denied

The following proposals were not recommended for funding solely due to limited available funds and the applicants' prior receipt of travel grant support. While students are permitted to receive travel funding more than once during their degree programs, the committee elected to prioritize applicants who had not previously received funding. These decisions should not be interpreted as reflecting deficiencies in the proposals themselves.

1. Adhikari, Sujan. EEAS (Dr. Nahid Gani) “Deep Learning-Based Mapping of Potentially Fault-Related Lineaments in the Rough Creek Graben using LiDAR and Residual Attention U-Net” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]

2. Bow, Amber. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Amy Brausch) “Sexual Minority Identity and Nonsuicidal Self-injury: Examining Risk Factors for Plurisexual and Monosexual Individuals” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]
3. Forrest, Hanna. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Matthew Woodward) “Effectiveness of a Peer-Supported Digital Brief Intervention Compared to a Standard Brief Intervention In Reducing Alcohol-Related Outcome” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]
4. Guercio, Harmony. Homeland Security/EEAS (Dr. Josh Durkee) “Advancing Emergency Management Through Meteorology: Operations, Research, and Disaster Resilience” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]
5. Kumar, Sandesh. Agriculture (Dr. Navdeep Singh) “Linking Soil Strength and Biology to Water Infiltration Under Cover Crops” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]
6. Meredith, Nathan. Psychological Sciences (Dr. Amy Brausch) “From problems to ideation: Interoceptive deficits as an indirect pathway in cannabis-related suicide risk” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]
7. Soliman, Nesma. Political Science (Dr. Blair Thomas) “Filling the Gap: Community-Based Nonprofits as Frontline Educators in Adult Refugee Integration” [Requesting $500 for travel, Committee recommending $0 for travel.]

Research Proposal Rubric

1. Quality of Application – Is the application complete, clearly written, well-organized, and sufficiently detailed to communicate the proposed research?
2. Research Merit – Does the proposal establish a clear research purpose, describe a reasonable approach, and demonstrate that the project is feasible (keeping in mind that reviewers are not expected to evaluate discipline-specific methodologies or technical expertise).
3. Advisor Endorsement – Does the faculty advisor provide a meaningful endorsement of the proposed research?
4. Impact of Funding/Financial Need – How essential is the requested funding to the completion of the project? Are other funding sources available or secured? Could the project proceed with partial funding? (Note: Having other funding should not automatically equal a lower score.)
5. Budget Justification – Is the proposed budget clearly explained, reasonable, and appropriately aligned with the research activities? Are the requested expenses sufficiently justified?

Utilize a 0-3 scale to rank
0 = Missing or insufficient evidence

1 = limited
2 = satisfactory
3 = strong

Scoring and Ranking

Each committee member will independently score applications using the five criteria, for a maximum of 15 points per application, and then shared with the entire committee. Individual committee members' total scores will then be averaged to determine each applicant's overall score. Applicants will be ranked according to these averages, with higher scores receiving greater priority for funding consideration.

Partial Funding Considerations

The possibility of partial funding should not preclude an application from receiving a score of 2 or 3 in any category. Applications should receive the same consideration regardless of whether full or partial funding is recommended.

Recommendations for partial funding should be noted separately from the rubric score. Following the evaluation process, the committee may recommend partial awards based on application scores, demonstrated funding needs, and available resources. A recommendation for partial funding must be supported by a majority vote of the committee.

Appendix C

Track Changes Version

GRADUATE COUNCIL

BYLAWS

The Graduate Council, serving as a Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate, is the official representative voice of the graduate faculty and graduate students. Graduate Council membership is comprised of three graduate faculty and one graduate student representing each of the academic colleges at Western Kentucky University. It also includes one full-time graduate faculty member from WKU Libraries who will be appointed by the Dean of Libraries for a one-year term and renewable at the discretion of the Dean. In addition, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall appoint one senator to serve as a voting member of the Graduate Council Faculty representatives must be members of the graduate faculty and employed full-time by WKU. Ex-officio members include the Executive Director for Graduate Studies and one graduate student representative from the Student Government Association (SGA). The elected chair of the Graduate Council will automatically be a member of Faculty Senate (if not already an elected departmental or at-large Senator).

The Graduate Council has general supervision and control over all matters of graduate instruction, including admission and degree requirements, curricula, and general academic regulations. The Graduate Council reports its curricular and policy actions to the Faculty Senate who reports to the Provost with recommendations for implementation or appropriate disposition.

Among the primary responsibilities of the Graduate Council are:

1) T~~1) t~~o advise the Executive Director for Graduate Studies on matters relating to the administration of graduate faculty, programs, and students including:
   a. ~~a.~~ research initiatives involving graduate faculty and graduate students;
   b. ~~b.~~ standards governing graduate student admission, financial support, and degree completion; and
   c. ~~c.~~ qualifications required for membership on the graduate faculty and participation in the graduate program, including the supervision and direction of theses and dissertations.

T~~2) t~~o receive, review, and act upon new or revised Graduate Program and curricula proposals.

2)

~~1)~~3) T~~3) t~~o monitor graduate issues and concerns and make policy, proposals, and resolutions concerning Graduate Studies research curricula and other issues and policies impacting the quality of graduate education at WKU

~~2)~~ To respond to requests about graduate matters from the Provost, Executive Director for Graduate Studies, Faculty Senate, or Council of Academic Deans and serve as liaison between Graduate Council and the University administration.

4)

5) T~~4) t~~o follow the established policy and procedures as established by the Graduate Council Guidelines, the Graduate School, and as published in the WKU Graduate Catalog.

The Chair of Graduate Council shall submit a report setting forth the consent and action items as approved by the Graduate Council to the Chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee at least seven days prior to the Executive Committee's meeting for approval to include the report on the Faculty Senate agenda. Upon approval by the graduate faculty members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the report shall be included on the Faculty Senate agenda for the next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting. Upon approval by the graduate faculty members of the Faculty Senate, the report shall be forwarded to the Provost.

Clean Version

GRADUATE COUNCIL

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    b. standards governing graduate student admission, financial support, and degree completion; and
    c. qualifications required for membership on the graduate faculty and participation in the graduate program, including the supervision and direction of theses and dissertations.
2.) To receive, review, and act upon new or revised Graduate Program and curricula proposals.
3.) To monitor graduate issues and concerns and make policy, proposals, and resolutions concerning Graduate Studies research curricula and other issues and policies impacting

the quality of graduate education at WKU

4.) To respond to requests about graduate matters from the Provost, Executive Director for Graduate Studies, Faculty Senate, or Council of Academic Deans and serve as liaison between Graduate Council and the University administration.

5.) To follow the established policy and procedures as established by the Graduate Council Guidelines, the Graduate School, and as published in the WKU Graduate Catalog.

The Chair of Graduate Council shall submit a report setting forth the consent and action items as approved by the Graduate Council to the Chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee at least seven days prior to the Executive Committee's meeting for approval to include the report on the Faculty Senate agenda. Upon approval by the graduate faculty members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the report shall be included on the Faculty Senate agenda for the next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting. Upon approval by the graduate faculty members of the Faculty Senate, the report shall be forwarded to the Provost.

Appendix D

Proposed Revision to Guidelines Document

- Addition of a new section under Article II, proposed as “Section VI: Vacancies”

A member who misses two regularly scheduled meetings of either the Graduate Council or a standing committee on which they serve during an academic year, whichever occurs first, without designating an alternate may have their position declared vacant by the Graduate Council Chair. Vacancies resulting from resignation or removal shall be filled as follows:

1.) College faculty and graduate student representatives shall be replaced by the respective college by means of a new election (faculty) or nomination (student) according to its established election procedures.
2.) WKU Libraries representative shall be appointed by the Dean of Libraries
3.) Faculty Senate representative shall be appointed by the Senate Executive Committee.

Members elected or appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term, and such service shall not count toward the limit of two consecutive terms.

Appendix E

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee

Minutes – November 5, 2026, 2:30 PM (CT)

Voting Members: Dan Strunk, Leslee Tarbett (Facilitator), Jessi Thomsen, Jason Bergner, and Eland Jasarevic, Lynn Hazlett (for Erin Warfel)

Advisory Members: Jennifer Klemm, LeAnne Coder, Mary Jane Gardner, Danita Kelley, Crissy Priddy, Rheanna Plemons, Jennifer Hammonds, Jessica Dorris, Jamie DeYoung, Merrall Price

Guests: Greg Arbuckle, Nicholas Fortune, Simran Banga, Ray Blankenship, Trini Stickle, Zachary Suriano, Robert Welsh, Kristina Arnold, Karen Schifferdecker, Zachary Lopes, Amber Giacona, Ashley Chance Fox, Kerron Joseph, Roberta Darnez Pope, Kimberly Pharris, Will Derryberry, Robert Welsh, Melanie Eaton, Aram Mohsen, Yaser Mowafi, Stuart Burris

Approval of Minutes- September 24, 2026 - 1st/2nd: Strunk/Thomsen **Vote:** Approved

Course Administration:

Graduate Curriculum Committee (16)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
ENG 517	ENG 517: Creative Writing Pedagogies	Added	trn69263	10/1/2026

Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen

Discussion: Stickle spoke, last year we approved creative writing or pedagogies concentration for the creative writing MFA. So, we had enough courses on the books to that to the choices of concentrations. So, MFA students can choose compret, literature, or TESOL. And then we added creative writing pedagogies or a pedagogies concentration. We always knew that we would add this, the creative writing course, but it needed developed. This is a class to teach our MFAs how best practices and different methods to teach creative writing. Some of our MFAs do get the chance to teach intro to creative writing. A couple of our best students, competitive that they put in an application, but many of them would like to teach this when they leave here. So, we thought this would be great concentration.

Vote: Approved

Graduate Curriculum Committee (16)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
PSY 850	PSY 850: Psychometrics for Clinical Psychology	Added	rbr30043	9/29/2026

Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Thomsen /Tarbett

Discussion: Welsh spoke, we just recently received APA accreditation and one of the content areas that we needed coverage for was psychometrics at the doctoral level. And so this course is a foundational graduate level course in psychometrics with applications towards clinical psychology.

Vote: Approved

Motion to Bundle all DATA courses – 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen

Vote: Approved

Motion to Approve Bundle – 1st/2nd:

Discussion: Blankenship spoke, we just recently received APA accreditation and one of the content areas that we needed coverage for was psychometrics at the doctoral level. And so, this course is a foundational graduate level course in psychometrics with applications towards clinical psychology. Webb stated, I owe thanks to Rheanna Plemons for helping us with the logistics of trying to run a major curricular program through two curricular committees and two different colleges simultaneously. There was a lot of manipulation on the backside of Course Leaf.

Vote: Approved

DATA 701	DATA 701: Programming and Computation for Data Science	Added	ryb41989	10/29/2026
DATA 702	DATA 702: Advanced Machine Learning and Applied Data Analytics	Added	ryb41989	10/29/2026
DATA 511	DATA 511: Computational Thinking for Data Science	Added	gng27220	10/29/2026

Discussion: Strunk spoke, the second SLO there doesn't really have the verb. So that would be, that's my only critique here. And then one other class, the SLO format, is

Graduate Curriculum Committee (16)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
slightly different than the rest of the courses. Otherwise, I don't have any real critique. And quite frankly, I don't understand what half of them the course descriptions mean. Webb asked if he's proposing a friendly Amendment. Struck, I would suggest that. Perhaps Ray could provide a verb to that number two there. Ray, maybe use Create. *Friendly Amendment – 2nd SLO – Start with verb "Create"*				
DATA 780	DATA 780: Data Science Research Seminar	Added	ryb41989	10/29/2026
Discussion: Strunk spoke, the format of the SLO's is fine just the formatting is different from all the rest of the data courses so that's just being nitpicky. Thomsen said it's fair to try and set this one up with a verb at the beginning, like all the rest, though. And that seems like that could be also maybe a friendly amendment. Coder asked, would you take present and critique? Or something like that, just take off the students are expected to. Blankenship, agreed. *Friendly Amendment – SLO's use present and critique, just take off the students are expected to.*				
DATA 799	DATA 799: Dissertation Research	Added	ryb41989	10/29/2026
Discussion: Blankenship spoke; it can be repeated multiple times up to 26 hours. We wanted to keep it at 26 hours, so the entire program would be 60 hours.				
DATA 731	DATA 731: Econometrics 1	Added	dvd19984	10/29/2026
DATA 732	DATA 732: Econometrics 2	Added	dvd19984	10/29/2026
DATA 751	DATA 751: Financial Economics 1	Added	dvd19984	10/29/2026
DATA 752	DATA 752: Financial Economics 2	Added	dvd19984	10/29/2026
MGT 562	MGT 562: Advanced Workforce Analytics	Added	lnn74813	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Thomsen /Strunk **Discussion:** Coder spoke; this is a brand-new course for our concentration, MBA concentration and certificate in advanced workforce strategic workforce management.				

Graduate Curriculum Committee (16)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
It's an analytics course to help students and MBA students learn about handling people data and people analytics. **Vote:** Approved				
Motion to Bundle all MGT 596D-E courses – 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Vote:** Approved **Motion to Approve Bundle – 1st/2nd:** **Discussion:** Coder spoke; this is a standalone traditional class. It will be looking at primarily HR analytics and analysis. Much conversation about SLO's for data courses and leading with the verb but since it's an assessment course, wondered if this was deliberate. Coder said, no, and because our curriculum committee brought up the same thing, and I must have missed this when I sent it through, but they said just get rid of the students' will and say demonstrate. Coder spoke; we're creating two new certificates with two new graduate certificates and two new concentrations in the MBA program. And the first one is Strategic Workforce Management, which is essentially a graduate certificate in human resource management. Thomsen mentioned, Erin had an email where she had posed a few questions, I think it was a combination of that it was listed for no credit hours, but because it's an assessment course, that seemed fine. I think this was sort of a back and forth that these two are fine, that you all already have a 596A and B. But there was some confusion as whether there was a 596C that existed. Coder, there will be eventually. Right now, it's still a BA 596C. Thomsen, Got it. So, it's still in development. So that would explain, Yeah, we're negotiating. *Friendly Amendment – SLO's use a verb.* **Vote:** Approved				
MGT 596D	MGT 596D: GFCB Graduate Certificate Assessment - Strategic Workforce Management	Added	lnn74813	10/29/2026

Graduate Curriculum Committee (16)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
MGT 596E	MGT 596E: GFCB Graduate Certificate Assessment - Continuity and Crisis Management	Added	lnn74813	10/29/2026
BIOL 516	BIOL 516: Investigations/Biology	Edited	smr85629	10/29/2026

Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen

Discussion: Banga spoke; It's not a new course. It's been existing for a long time. And so, what we have done on this course is that we've changed it from four credits to three credit hours. So, there's basically a credit hour change and is what this is about and why we are trying to do this credit hour change so this course is for the non-theses master's concentration and so they are supposed to so they basically sort of have a think about a proposal so development of proposal and this course is where they actually put together a proposal for a non-theses track And it used four credit hours, but we do some of its work in a 500-level course. And so, we are trying to make this to a 300-grade course because some part of it is already done. And we basically also are trying to uniform all the courses in our program to where they are three-credit hour courses so that it's easy for the calculation purposes. For the online students, they can just take 10 courses of three credit hours and be done with the program.

Vote: Approved

GEOS 541	GEOS 541: Hydroclimatology	Added	zch73137	10/29/2026

Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen

Discussion: Suriano spoke; this is a new course proposal within the GEOS program that was developed here actually a few years ago. And when we were assessing our program offerings and just trying to identify gaps within the curriculum, as this serves as a new focus area for our interdisciplinary program. The students certainly have a lot of disciplinary content but also get a lot of skills in research and communication because this course is taught under a service-learning based framework. I've piloted this course each of the last two cycles, so fall 23 and 25. We've had consistent enrollment and a lot of success in partnering with different groups across the state and not just meeting their needs and curriculum needs, but we've gotten three different manuscripts based on this

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research where the students are leading that work. So, of good things, and we at the point of making this a standalone course because we could demonstrate sustained engagement. **Vote:** Approved				

Review Program Changes:

Graduate Curriculum Committee (10)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
049	049: Mathematics	Edited	nch27153	10/14/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Discussion:** Fortune spoke, Quick program changes here. We received some feedback from Plemons on the SLOs. Over the last year, this program is going through APR this year. So last spring, we wanted to just tweak the two tiny changes to SL SLO3 and SLO4. Just wording changes to make them more clear and more easily accessible. And then we also had to delete one erroneous footnote in one of the program's notes, but that's it. **Vote:** Approved				
157	157: Social Work	Edited	jss08071	10/19/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Discussion:** Hazlett spoke, the change that we're making is to program admission requirements. Historically, programs across the nation and across the state of the nation have had anywhere between a five and a 10-year timeline for advanced standing. Students have earned their BSW. Ours was set at seven years, so a student would be able to apply for our advanced standing program if they earned their BSW within a seven-year-old timeline. However, CSWE, our accrediting body, does not have a specific timeline. And we're starting to see quite a few students applying that have earned a BSW just outside that seven-year				

Graduate Curriculum Committee (10)				
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minimum. And so, to help with that process we are removing, our program has voted to remove that seven-year minimum. **Vote:** Approved				
056	056: Biology	Edited	smr85629	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Thomsen /Tarbett **Discussion:** Banga spoke, for this program, we are basically trying to do some cleaning up and uniform. Uni-forming all the offerings. And so basically, here we had removed again, these are two different concentrations that we offer at the master's level. And so, 598 was a course that was more like a seminar attendance, and you know follow-up on that. And we have removed that. So, when that was a required course, so to remove that, now we had to just basically revise everything. And put it together. And similarly, we looked at 516 because that was converted to a three-credit hour course. And so that also reflected some of the changes that are proposed here. So basically, there are no major changes. One course was just deleted, and other, because the credit hours have been changed, we are just trying to revise that and reflect that on the program. **Vote:** Approved				
0447	0447: Engineering Management	Edited	grg81142	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Discussion:** Arbuckle spoke; this change comes about directly from an APR review. This program is an online program for students who mainly work in industry and are looking to get promotion within industry. Very few students, if there are any, we haven't had any in a while. We're doing the thesis option. So, the committee recommended that we just remove the thesis option completely. **Vote:** Approved				
/programadmin/431/index.html	: Strategic Workforce Management	Added	lnn74813	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen				

Graduate Curriculum Committee (10)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
Discussion: Coder spoke; this is the actual certificate that will mirror the MBA concentration. So, students don't have to get an MBA to get this experience. They can have a standalone graduate certificate. It'll be nine hours plus the assessment class. Two of the courses are existing. The one we just, you all approved of is the new one. Demand for this when we did the day, the gray data analysis was pretty much off the chart. I don't know if anybody looked at that. There's nobody around here doing graduate HR human resource management at all. **Vote:** Approved				
/programadmin/439/index.html	: Continuity and Crisis Management	Added	lnn74813	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Discussion:** Coder spoke; The Continuity and Crisis Management is kind of a co-program that was brought to me by David Oliver in disaster science. Will use one or two of their courses for students. They can take a required leadership class and then a required EMDS 500, and then they can choose from one of the electives between the two departments. So, either the data, the emergency management or the management department. So, this is, I think, going to be an interesting certificate, interesting market. Public sector employees, firefighters. Police officers, those types of folks, emergency management people, the people who set off the cows, among others, as well as industry professionals, safety professionals, we think might be interested in this one. **Vote:** Approved				
057	057: Business Administration	Edited	ktn64416	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Discussion:** Coder spoke; The MBA, the master's in business administration. We're making some changes and adding the two new certificates, and we are deleting dietetic practice. Danita put a comment in the chat about there/they approached us about getting rid of it, so they are completely in agreement with getting rid of the dietetic practice, which the demand for that has fallen off. With the changes to the MBA mirror the changes to the two				

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certificates, which we'll talk about here in a minute, the other two, and then introduce the two new programs as well as concentrations to the MBA. *Friendly Amendment - The team would also like to update SLOs two and three. Would it be possible to do a friendly amendment for those if I drop them in the chat? I'm like, it's going to feel weird making a friendly amendment to my own program, but here we are. So, one and four will stay the same. They would like two and three to change to what I just dropped in the chat.* *SLO 2: Demonstrate the skill of integrating discipline knowledge to identify, analyze, and offer solutions to business problems and situations.* *SLO 3: Employ appropriate tools and technology to effectively communicate analytical solutions to real-world business problems. .* . **Vote:** Approved				
/programadmin/436/index.html	: Data Science, Ph.D.	Added	ryb41989	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Discussion:** Blankenship spoke; is the actual program proposal, eight core classes, two. From four different departments, and then four seminar hours and 26 hours of dissertation and six hours in concentration for a 60-hour program. And we've done no advertising, and we probably already have four or five students that are interested. **Vote:** Approved				
1772	1772: Supply Chain Management	Edited	lnn74813	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Strunk/ Thomsen **Discussion:** Coder spoke, these changes to the certificates mirror the changes that we just made and approved through the concentration for the MBAs. So, it's kind of realigning. We've				

Graduate Curriculum Committee (10)				
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expanded our graduate offering, so it's incorporating some of those classes into those certificates. **Vote:** Approved				
1794	1794: Executive Decision Making	Edited	lnn74813	10/29/2026
Motion to Approve - 1st/2nd: Thomsen /Tarbett **Discussion:** Coder spoke; we're changing the certificate to match the MBA concentration that we just approved. **Vote:** Approved				

Informational Item(s): None

Other Business: None

Adjourn at 2:30pm - 1st/2nd – Strunk/ Thomsen

Respectfully submitted,

GCCC Recorder

Jessica Steenbergen