

Members Present:

Harold Pardue, Ashley Gibson, Rebecca Hogle, Norma Jean Tanner, Joyce Pittman, Jeremy Hatcher, Phil Smith, Ashley Suggs, Elizabeth Adams, Julie Estis, Katie McCarrison, Scott Liebertz, Jessica Franks, Eric Loomis, Ermanno Affuso, Debra Chapman, Ryan Benton, Sonya Sheffield, Nancy Rice, Shelley Holden, Tres Stefurak, Deanna Cobb

Guests: Aviv Segev, Mara Kozelsky

1. Introduction
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes October 30, 2025- Approved
3. Graduate Dean's Report— Harold Pardue
Dean search is going well, campus interviews begin next week. AVP search is underway.

The graduate school budget is now on the O&M, but as a result, we no longer have the flexibility within the tuition budget to use the entire 10 hours per semester.

There will now be a 2.9-million-dollar start-up fund, and Dr. Pardue and Dr. Parrish will review requests to approve within the budget.

For cost shares, the Office of Research will more closely monitor cost shares on a grant. Voluntary cost shares will not be permitted and grants with tuition allowances will be required to write it into the grant. Tuition requests will now need to come through the Dean because requests are made to Dr. Kent for approval.

Gray Associates contract will probably not be renewed. There was a presentation a few weeks ago, but the deans were not impressed based on the cost, but more information will come on the final decision. Dr. Loomis said A&S was using the system so Dr. Pardue suggested he work with his Dean on the usage and any concerns. Dr. Estis said Handshake and new dashboard may provide that information.

R1 progress: Dr. Pardue is working with the Dean at UAH to report DNP graduates as part of IPEDS for our R1 graduate count. Dr. Stefurak asked about the Carnegie classification as it relates to the EdD program and expectations surrounding that program. Dr. Loomis expressed concerns about funding for GA and faculty, and Dr. Pardue is going to express these concerns. Dr. Adams expressed concerns about doctoral programs within her college.

Graduate faculty teaching rank: The current practice, based on previous conversations at the graduate council, is that Dr. Pardue approves teaching appointments serving on thesis committees. The committee agreed with continuing this process.

Doctoral counts: Deanna reported around 30 dissertations for the spring but maybe more, and around the same number for thesis.

Fast track admissions: Education asked to use this model so that will move forward. Currently MCOB and Computing are using this model, but they said it has not been very effective, potentially due to the timing.

Transfer Credits: There is not a current check for a student who brings in credit from an already awarded degree to prevent double awarding a degree. The transfer credit form has been updated with a question related to this situation to prevent this from happening.

Graduate director duties: Dr. Loomis and Dr. Pardue are working on this, but the question has come up again to provide guidance on the duties of a graduate director within a college.

4. ACHE and GA update —Ashley Gibson

ACHE approved programs: EdD in Teacher Education, BS in Data Science and Applied Statistics, and Master of Public Health have all been approved. The following tracks have been approved: Sports Management to the MBA, Aerospace to the MS in Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering to the PhD in Systems Engineering, Industrial Organization to the MBA.

GA: The deadline for GA paperwork for summer is May 7th and the payroll deadline is June 9th. The deadline for fall paperwork is July 27th and the payroll deadline is August 19th. Please note the payroll deadline for fall is week classes begin so you will need to ensure EPAFs are submitted prior to classes starting.

Graduate faculty: We are working on a shared spreadsheet for graduate faculty where colleges can see who is coming up for renewal.

Student access to Canvas, banner, and Single Sign-On: GA access to Banner should be very limited. Beginning in the fall, GAs with access to student data will be added to the FERPA course. There is a box on the appointment form that will need to be marked if your GA falls within this category and will need access to the course.

5. ProQuest/Turn It In — Dr. Aviv Segev

Dr. Segev expressed concern with plagiarism concerns based on ProQuest submission because they put any submission into Turn It In, and it is flagging it as plagiarized. He is asking for submission to the Graduate School only after publication. Deanna suggested she could embargo upon request, for up to two years. At this time, ProQuest submission is a requirement.

A motion was made to allow the student to embargo their work for up to two years. Seconded. Motion carried.

6. AI Guidance Enclosure #1 – Harold Pardue

Dr. Pardue has met with all but two colleges to discuss the proposed guidance. He is encouraging departments or colleges to come up with their own policies.

Motion: Vote to endorse the guidance. Seconded. Motion carried.

7. Graduate Student Probation Policy-Dr. Mara Kozelsky

Dr. Kozelsky would like to revisit the graduate academic probation period. The current process is based on semesters rather than hours. She would like to calculate probation based on 12 credit hours. There is a concern about enabling students to continue to be unsuccessful. There was support for the masters level, but not at the doctoral level, and it was noted that programs can still have stricter dismissal policies. From Banner, status is based on level so it would be all or nothing for graduate programs. There is also the readmission after dismissal process that requires a plan to get the students back on track. The current dismissal policy could be updated to clarify the readmission after dismissal and appeal process.

Add a clause to preemptively readmit a student who will be dismissed. Dr. Chapman objected due to concerns of lowering standards. Another option of requesting an extended probationary period. Dr. Pardue is going to work on a revision and circulate it via email.

8. Defense Announcements – Harold Pardue

Deanna is not receiving announcements. She receives a report from the registrar's office, but it is not reliable for students close to graduating since that is only based on those who have applied for graduation. Dr. Pardue asked if the council valued the announcement. The current process is the department emails Deanna, and she puts it in the digest. Dr. Pardue is going to come up with a plan.

9. Other Business

Provisional admission: This was removed from the bulletin several years ago. Nursing needs language in the bulletin to support their program's placement requirements in the form of a conditional admission.

Motion: The graduate council will endorse a nursing conditional admission. Seconded. Approved.

10. Adjournment