

September 3, 2026

TO: Philip Auter, CMCN – Chair
Stephanie Arceneaux, NURS
Julius Austin, COUE
Robin Beacom, NURS
Maria Bracamonte Larios, MANG
Natalie Douglas, CODI
William Ferguson, ECFN
Natalie Keefer, EDCI
Erika LeBlanc, COUE
Robert McKinney, ARCH
Eddie Metrejean, ACCT
Robert Miller, CIVE
Jonathan Raush, MCHE
Kelly Robinson, BIOL

Catherine Roche-Wallace, MUS
Laurel Ryan, ENGL
Natalia Sidorovskaia, PHYS
Kaitlin Simpson, HIGP
Scott Sittig, HLSI
Abby South, MUS
Heather Stone, EDCI
Mehmet Tozal, CMIX
Amy Veprauskas, MATH
Mark Zappi, CHEE

Clement Okolo, PhD CMIX, GSO President
Sandy Brack, Graduate Student Representative

FROM: Mary Farmer-Kaiser
Dean of the Graduate School

The Graduate Council will meet in Alumni Center Board Room on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. On the Graduate Council Moodle Course, you will find the attached agenda as well as the minutes from our most recent meeting and other meeting materials.

Past Graduate Council meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Graduate School website at: [Graduate Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#).

C: Department Heads/School Directors (FYI and agenda only)
Graduate Coordinators (FYI and agenda only)
Academic Deans (FYI and agenda only)
Dr. Dianne Olivier, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (FYI and agenda only)

GRADUATE COUNCIL

September 8, 2026

AGENDA

- I. Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order..... Dr. Philip Auter
- II. Invited Guests
 - a. Dr. Dianne Olivier, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- III. Announcements and Approvals
 - a. Graduate Council Meeting Materials, Moodle Page and Communication
 - b. May 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Appeals Dr. Heather Stone
 - b. Curriculum Dr. Amy Brown
 - c. Fellowships and Awards..... Dr. Ryan Nelson
 - d. Graduate Faculty Membership Dr. Frances Stueben
- V. Old Business
 - a. University Fiscal Health and Graduate Education Updates
 - b. Review of 2025-2026 Reports and Recommendations
 - i. University Committee on Graduate Student Success and Retention Report
 - ii. Graduate Student Organization
 - iii. Ad Hoc Committee on Committees Final Report
 - c. Outside Observer Practices and Policy
- VI. New Business
 - a. Report on Summer Grad Council Executive Committee Actions
 - b. Graduate Council Goals and Objectives for 2026-2027
- VII. Good of the Order