

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24, 2026
Time: 1:30pm
Facilitator: Sabrina Taylor
Location: 256J Student Union

Attendance

Council Members	P/A/V	Council Members	P/A/V
Sabrina Taylor , Agriculture, Chair	P	Meghan Sanders , Mass Communication	P
Andreas Giger , Music & Dramatic Arts	P	Molly Quinn , Human Sciences & Education	P
Areendam Chanda , Business	P	Robert Rohli , Coast & Environment	A
Chad Seifried , Human Sciences & Education	P	Ryan Stoa , Law Center(Christine Corcos on his behalf)	P
Jeffrey Blackmon , Science	P	Samuel Stroope , Humanities & Social Sciences	A
Jim Spencer , Art & Design	P	Shengli Chen , Engineering	P
Ken Reichelt , Business	P		
Louay Mohammad , Engineering	P		
Mark Mitchell , Veterinary Medicine	A		

Call to Order

Sabrina Taylor, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed members to the fall semester. The meeting began with brief introductions of new and returning Council members and guests.

Last Meeting Minutes

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Andreas Giger moved to approve the May 13, 2026 meeting minutes. **Chad Seifried** seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed with no opposition and no abstentions.

Associate Chair Election

Mark Mitchell was nominated to serve as Associate Chair. No additional nominations were offered. **Areendam Chanda** moved to approve his election and was seconded by **Jeff Blackmon**, and the Council elected **Mark Mitchell** with no opposition and no abstentions.

Old Business

1. *Curriculum Proposal*

Form D - Geology and Geophysics, M.S.

The Council reconsidered the Geology and Geophysics master's proposal after the program revised language concerning the professional geology licensure examination. Members discussed whether the state examination is required to earn the degree or is instead a professional licensure requirement that students may not yet be eligible to take because of required years of experience. The clarification indicated that all graduates who practice geology in Louisiana will ultimately need licensure, but the timing of the examination depends on eligibility requirements established outside the university.

Chad Seifried moved to approve the revised proposal. **Jim Spencer** seconded the motion. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor, one opposed, and no abstentions.

New Business

1. *Curriculum Proposals*

Computational Molecular Medicine Minor

The Council reviewed the proposal for a minor in Computational Molecular Medicine. No substantive concerns were raised during discussion. **Andreas Giger** moved to approve the proposal. **Meghan Sanders** seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with 11 votes in favor, one abstention, and no opposition.

Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence

The Council reviewed the proposal for the Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence. **Molly Quinn** moved to approve the proposal. **Andreas Giger** seconded the motion. The proposal was approved with 11 votes in favor, one abstention, and no opposition.

Form E - School of Music - Composition

The Council reviewed School of Music program changes involving multiple areas of concentration. Discussion identified two concentrations that listed 51 credit hours rather than the required 54 credit hours. Members also discussed how Modern Campus brings the full catalog description into review when a program change is submitted, even when a department is seeking to revise only one concentration. The Council agreed to advance the proposal conditionally, with a notation in Modern Campus requiring three additional MUSIC 9000 dissertation credit hours to be added to each of the two 51-credit-hour concentrations. The Council was informed that a separate Music Education credit-hour issue had already been corrected through an earlier approval but had not yet appeared in the published catalog. **Andreas Giger** moved to approve the proposal. **Louay Mohammad** seconded the motion. The conditional motion passed with no opposition and no abstentions.

Ph.D. Program – School of Renewable Natural Resource

The Council reviewed revisions to the Natural Resource Ecology and Management Ph.D. program. The proposal removes the existing areas of concentration and instead establishes core requirements with greater elective flexibility. The program would require two quantitative courses, seminar coursework, and a newly developed seminar, while allowing the research methodology requirement to be waived in appropriate cases based on prior graduate preparation or publication experience. The proposal also includes a requirement that doctoral students submit a paper to a reputable journal before graduation. Members requested that credit hours be listed for individual courses and that courses with variable credit hours be clearly identified. **Meghan Sanders** moved to approve the proposal. **Louay Mohammad** seconded the motion. With those corrections to be made in Modern Campus, the motion to approve passed with no opposition and no abstentions.

MS Program – School of Renewable Natural Resource

The Council reviewed corresponding revisions to the Natural Resource Ecology and Management M.S. program, including removal of areas of concentration and revised quantitative and seminar requirements. As with the Ph.D. proposal, members requested that individual course credit hours be included and that variable-hour courses be identified. **Chad Seifried** moved to approve the proposal. **Louay Mohammad** seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with no opposition and no abstentions.

Graduate Certificate in Records and Information Management

The Council reviewed the proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Records and Information Management. No substantive concerns were raised. **Andreas Giger** moved to approve the proposal. **Molly Quinn** seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with no opposition and one abstention.

Industrial Engineering, Ph.D.

The Council reviewed the Industrial Engineering Ph.D. proposal but noted that no department representative was present to answer questions. Members also identified an apparent credit-hour discrepancy in the Information Technology Engineering concentration, which appeared to total 57 rather

than 54 credit hours, and requested stronger clarification of the proposal's justification and totals before further consideration.

A motion was made by **Jim Spencer** and seconded by **Andreas Giger** to table the proposal. The motion to table passed with no opposition and no abstentions. The proposal will return to the Council after the program verifies the credit-hour totals, strengthens the supporting justification as needed, and provides representation to address questions.

Other Business

Transfer Credit Wording Modification

The Council discussed a proposed clarification to existing transfer-credit language. The intent is not to change the transfer-credit policy or level-to-level transfer expectations, but to make clear when transfer credits must be verified and documented. Members discussed the advantages of completing transfer review early enough for students and programs to respond if credits are not accepted, while avoiding an inflexible first-year deadline.

The Council reached general agreement around language requiring transfer credits to be verified and documented no later than the degree audit. Members asked to review the revised wording before voting, so the item will return at a future meeting.

Graduate Faculty Affiliate / Associate Status

The Council discussed next steps for graduate faculty status revisions following prior work on the policy and subsequent memoranda affecting selected faculty groups. Remaining issues include creation of a teaching affiliate category and simplification of the existing graduate faculty categories. Members considered whether to advance the remaining changes separately or as a single package, including whether the term associate should be used to align more closely with Board of Supervisors terminology. No vote was taken. Members were asked to consider the options in advance of the October meeting.

Routing for Special Permission Curriculum Proposals

The Council discussed a possible expedited curriculum process for programs seeking urgent reductions in degree length or credit hours in response to concerns about proposed federal changes affecting international student visa duration. A streamlined Modern Campus form and priority routing through Graduate Council and Faculty Senate were described as possible ways to move time-sensitive changes more quickly while maintaining required approvals.

Members did not support a proposal that would allow a single Graduate Council representative to attend Faculty Senate and approve a proposal on behalf of the full Council when Faculty Senate met first. The discussion instead favored maintaining Council review while exploring other ways to help departments evaluate program structure, time to degree, and competitiveness.

Subcommittee Membership

The P&T committee has been filled. The Awards and Graduate Faculty committee will be filled once the Council members for Science and Humanities & Social Sciences representatives are elected.

Academic Probation

The Council discussed the effect of the 2.75 graduate GPA threshold on LSU Online students who may begin by taking only one course in a module. Under the current structure, a student earning a grade below the threshold in the first course could face dismissal after only one module. Members discussed whether a minimum number of attempted credit hours or another adjustment should apply before dismissal.

Chad Seifried will prepare a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Advising for Non-Matriculating Students

The Council discussed advising responsibilities for non-matriculating graduate students. Members raised concern about academic departments being asked to provide course-specific advising to students who have not yet been admitted to their programs. Graduate School representatives noted that general advising is provided centrally, while some discipline-specific questions may still require departmental input.

Discussion emphasized the need for clearer website information about non-matriculating status, transferable credit, course-taking limits, pathways into graduate programs, and which office is responsible for different types of advising. Recommendations and clarification of responsibilities will be developed for follow-up.

Chair's Report

- The Chair noted that curriculum proposals will be prioritized during the first three fall meetings because Modern Campus will stop accepting new submissions after **December 1**. Proposals already in the system may continue through the approval process in the spring, but items heard after approximately February 1 may miss the next catalog deadline.
- The Promotion and Tenure Committee was organized over the summer, with **Chad Seifried** serving as chair. The Awards Committee and Graduate Faculty Committee each still need additional representation following membership changes.
- The College of Science and Humanities & Social Sciences still need to elect Graduate Council representatives. Once those seats are filled, one new member from each area will be assigned to the remaining committee vacancies.

Graduate School Report

- Dean Sibel Bargu Ates reported that questions continue to arise regarding implementation of recently approved graduate faculty and degree-completion guidance. She is compiling department questions and working with General Counsel on language and guidelines that can be brought back to the Graduate Council for clarification.
- The Graduate School is developing a graduate student emergency funding proposal. Funding previously used to supplement certain graduate stipends is expected to be redirected to support emergency needs, including limited cash assistance and other student support, after internal funding changes allowed minimum stipend obligations to be met through existing program resources.
- The Dean reported continued work on the Dean's Representative process. Guidance is being revised to clarify the representative's role, authority, and expectations during examinations, including when meetings may be paused or otherwise addressed under unusual circumstances.
- A new software platform is being prepared that will allow faculty to identify subject areas in which they are willing to serve as Dean's Representatives and to volunteer for more than one assignment. The Graduate School expects to finalize the rollout email and related handbook language for discussion at the next meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Promotion and Tenure Committee:** The committee completed organizational work over the summer. No additional report was presented.
- **Graduate Faculty Committee:** Committee activity was limited over the summer, and submitted cases were reported to be moving through the process appropriately. Activity is beginning to increase for the fall semester.
- **Awards Committee:** No major activity was reported. Members were advised that award announcements are expected later in October.

Adjournment

Andreas Giger moved to adjourn. The motion passed with no opposition, and the meeting was adjourned.