

UNL Graduate Council Agenda

May 1, 2025

Location: Zoom

2:30 p.m.

**Attending:** Rochelle Dalla, Souparno Ghosh, Xu Li, Tom Kubick, Elizabeth Niehaus, Dai Shizuka, Brenda Wristen, Venn Jemkur and Alejandra Vasquez. Dean Hope presiding. Eva Bachman and Jason Carmichael from Graduate Studies.

**Absent:** Maria Marron

1. **Approval of minutes from meeting held on April 3, 2025:** Motion to approve minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved.
2. **Approval of deletion of MS Horticulture:** On April 24, 2025, an email was sent to all members of the Council to vote on this proposal to delete MS Horticulture degree and passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of renaming MS Agronomy to MS Agronomy and Horticulture:** On April 24, 2025, an email was sent to all members of the Council to vote on this proposal and passed unanimously.
4. **Proposal to modify Biochemical & Molecular Nutrition specialization** (renaming, updating courses, and attaching to MS and Ph.D. in Nutrition): Dean Hope provided background information about the department's structure, current programs, and this proposal. They propose to:
  - a. Change the name of the specialization from Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition to Biomedical and Molecular Nutrition
  - b. Add this specialization to the Nutrition MS and PhD degree programs
  - c. Adjust some of the coursesMotion to approve, seconded, and unanimously approved.
5. **APC Pilot Program to Facilitate Graduate Program Approval:** Dean Hope reported that APC approved the pilot proposal to streamline approval of graduate programs to reduce redundancy of review when possible. The new procedure for reviewing graduate program proposals will be as follows: When the Graduate Council reviews a proposal that would also be reviewed by APC, the Graduate Council Liaison to the APC will be present for the discussion. The APC representative will then report back to the APC to determine if a separate review is necessary. A friendly amendment was recommended that the APC representative will be present only during that portion of the Graduate Council meeting that relates to the program review. Motion made to approve the pilot proposal with the addition of the friendly amendment, seconded, and unanimously approved.
6. **Curriculum Discussion:** None.
7. **Graduate Student Assembly Report:** President Jemkur reported that she and Executive Vice President Vasquez were both re-elected to serve in the same roles on GSA next year. They updated the Council on plans for research awards funded by the Chancellor. Executive Vice President Vasquez reported that GSA has been working with the Office of Student Life on a milestone award recognizing graduate students who have passed their comprehensive exams.
8. **Announcements:**
  - a. There are two openings on the Graduate Council. Typically, a vote to nominate and elect new members of Graduate Council is held each spring, but we have not received

nominations for each seat to hold an election. This year the election will be held prior to the start of the fall term

- b. OGS has hired Sophie Kowalski as the Assistant Director for Graduate and Professional Student Experience to collaborate with our campus partners and help with on-boarding students.
- c. Luncheon meeting: We will meet on Monday, May 12 for our final meeting of the semester over lunch at Well and Good in the Scarlet Hotel on Innovation Campus.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Carmichael