

UNL Graduate Council Minutes

May 7, 2026

Location: Zoom

3:00 p.m.

Attending: Rochelle Dalla, Maria Marron, Dai Shizuka, Tom Kubick, Michelle Harvey, Venn Jemkur, and Colten Skinner. Dean Hope presiding. Jennifer Clarke from APC. Jason Carmichael from Graduate Studies.

Absent: Elizabeth Niehaus, Christopher Bilder, Can Vuran

1. **Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2027:** motion to approve, seconded, and passed unanimously.
2. **Proposal for expedited Graduate Certificate in Educating Individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities:** Dean Hope introduced and provided a brief overview of the proposal. Discussion followed and several amendments were recommended:
 - a. Review course title changes because on the surface it doesn't appear they will match - especially intellectual disabilities.
 - b. Special Topics SPED 894 is described as a temporary course. Recommend removing the course until it is made a permanent course.
 - c. Evaluation Step: Proposal needs to include a process to ensure timely progress, achieving enrollment goals, and plan to re-evaluate in a couple years.
 - d. Proposal should show how this program is distinct from what UNO and / or UNK offers.
 - e. Proposal needs to include an explanation why the graduate certificate is needed if students are already taking the same courses for the master's or PhD degree.
 - f. Cross-listed course code indicates Speech Language Pathology course. Speech Language Pathology is a special certification, so proposal needs to determine if SLP certified faculty must be involved.A motion was made to approve the proposal with the amendments, seconded, and passed unanimously.
3. **Any needed curriculum discussions:** None
4. **Graduate Student Assembly Report:** President Jemkur reported. The new GSA president is Swarnima Kain, and the new vice president is Christina Fragel. They will serve as graduate student representatives on the 2026-2027 Graduate Council.
5. **Announcements:**
 - a. Personnel updates from OGS: Eva Bachman's retirement, Graduate Admissions, and McNair.
 - b. Last Graduate Council meeting luncheon in person on May 19.

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Carmichael