McCausland Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026
Petigru 321, 1:00-2:00 PM

Present: David Hitchcock (chair), Alexander Duncan, Sheryl Wiskur, Jelena Jankovic, Brett Sherman, Gretchen Woertendyke, Eric Holt
Ex Officio: Tracy Weldon

Absent: Sonya Brown (*ex officio*)

-Minutes from February 3, 2026 meeting were approved.

-Old business: Comments on recent experiences with transcript credentialing for entering international graduate students

- Biggest worry for graduate programs is delay in visa processing if admission is delayed because of transcript credentialing
- Worry about losing prospective students to competition if we cannot offer them admission right away

-Committee Discussion: Tracey Weldon's Graduate Student Travel Tips document

- The committee praised the tips document as valuable, and recommended that it be sent to graduate directors and business managers and linked on a College website
- The committee recommended that the document explicitly say that students must identify and secure a funding source for their travel before the payment and reimbursement process starts.

- Committee Discussion: Grievance policies for graduate students

- Departments should have a formal policy for addressing grievances filed by their graduate students (math, English, Anthropology are some departments that do have such policies)
- The College doesn't have a grievance policy or a person/committee dedicated to addresses grievances that go past the department level
- Title IX office handles behavioral/harassment complaints, but other grievances (e.g., qualifying exam results, advisor/student discord, instructor/TA discord) should be handled by some other body
- Suggestion of possible role for the Graduate Advisory Committee as serving the College in this way, needs further discussion

- No official graduate school ombudsperson, but Marc Shook (Dean of Students) and Aaron Marterer (in Graduate School) are others who handle graduate student grievances past the department level.

-New business: Elections to serve as chair of the committee: Results: Gretchen Woertendyke will serve as Chair in 2026-27, and Sheryl Wiskur is scheduled to take over as Chair in 2027-28. Elections to fill committee slots are underway (Alex and Jelena will rotate off committee, and David H. will rotate off chair position)

Notes taken by: David Hitchcock