MCCAUSLAND COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Graduate Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 15th 2026
3:30-4:30 Petigru 321

Present: Joe Quattro, Brett Sherman, Eric Holt, Sheryl Wiskur, David Hitchcok, Gretchen Woertendyke
Ex Officio: Tracey Weldon, Sonya Brown
Graduate Students: Leanna Herbert, Ben Marosites
Absent: David Darmofal (sabbatical)

I. Review of Old Business
   a. Offer Letter Templates revised and used in 2025-2026 admissions cycle
   b. Policies and forms for graduate student travel funding revised and used in 2025-2026
   c. Began discussion about creating a CAS Grievance Policy

II. Topics of Discussion
   a. Need for better student support and onboarding at point of hire, especially for international students
   b. Stipend review for graduate students in lieu of raising costs of living in Columbia
   c. Concerns about possible graduate student housing, especially for international students
   d. Z-Status and how it impacts graduate student federal loan support (now disbursed according to credit hour enrollment, a change of policy since July 2026)
   e. Ongoing concern about CPT capacity for international doctoral students
   f. Registrar Reports accessible from Data Warehouse for program directors
   g. Concern of limited availability for graduate student parking – a particular crisis for graduate student instructors
   h. Concern over the misalignment of programs in the CAS and Degree Works (Brett suggested looking into different software that would serve the college's needs better)

III. Central Items for the Graduate Committee, 2026-2027
   a. Tracey has asked us to create a grievance policy for the college and to consider who would make up that body (possibly this committee)
   b. Gretchen has asked us to consider how we might make the Director of Graduate Study position sustainable (items of concern: communication and transparency of processes with the Graduate School, compensation/contract, potential additional stuff support, transition to new director)
   c. Graduate Student Mental Health (how we can better support, underscore resources available, possible market/fair in spring 2027 at Tracey Weldon's suggestion

IV. Dean is looking at the following: grievance issues, stipend amounts, mental health issues, wants students to apply for outside fellowships, townhall for graduate students potentially.

Next meeting October 27, 3:30

Minutes by Gretchen Woertendyke and Sheryl Wiskur