

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

January 7, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Zoom

Present – Renée LeClair (presiding), Kirk Cameron, Kiri Goldbeck DeBose, Nicole Holt, Kendyl Lewis, Veronica van Montfrans, Cayce Myers, Phil Nelson, Kayla Robertson, Kaylee South, Brian Strahm, Aimée Surprenant

Absent with Notice: Molly Ryan, Jill Sible, Kwok Tsang,

Absent: Aaron Bond, Ioannis Koutromanos, Leslie LaConte, Joshua Neal, Tyler Walters, Jerald Walz, Meng Zhu,

Guests: Janice Austin, John Chappell, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Katie Gregg, Barbara Hoopes, William Huckle, Lori Rose, Lauren Surface

Renée called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approval of and posting of minutes of December 3, 2025.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 3 minutes.

3. Reports

- Graduate School Appeals – Aimée Surprenant: One appeal currently under review. The increase in appeal volume may result in a potential future proposal to establish a standing appeals committee.
- Graduate School – Aimée Surprenant: Anticipated updates forthcoming with new provost leadership. The UMI report and the Academic Resource Alignment Committee report are pending.
- Degrees and Academic Progress – Jerald Walz: None at this time.
- NTCO GS Committee – Barbara Hoopes: Spring priorities include best practices in recruitment and admissions. The primary focus areas will be expedited review, fee waivers, targeted admissions pathways, and redirection of rejected applicants. Data analysis on rejection codes will be presented at the next meeting on January 13.
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Kendyl Lewis: None at this time.
- Graduate Honor System – Molly Ryan: None at this time.
- University Libraries – Kiri Goldbeck DeBose: Graduate research workshops are ongoing. Additional discipline-specific [literature review sessions](#) are available.
- Faculty Senate – Phil Nelson: None at this time.
- Undergraduate Student Senate: None at this time.
- Board of Visitors – Katie Gregg: The spring Graduate Student Resource Fair will be held on February 3rd in the Graduate Life Center.
- AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond: None at this time.
- Staff Senate – Kayla Robertson: None at this time.

- University Council: None at this time.
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Jill Sible: None at this time.

4. Presentation

Dr. Cameron, Interim Director of the Institute for Advanced Computing, presented on the educational programs housed in IAC. Key takeaways from the presentation included:

- The Institute's mission to integrate advanced computing research and graduate education.
- Focus areas: artificial intelligence, quantum computing, human-computer interaction, wireless systems, and computer systems.
- Overview of industry, government, and nonprofit collaborations with Alexandria Fire & EMS, the Secret Service, Space Force, and international partners.
- Discussion of enrollment goals, branding, fundraising, governance, and challenges related to scalability and faculty coordination.
- The Institute's intent to serve as a collaborative bridge with the broader university community.

5. Announcements

- Next meeting will be on January 21st.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m.