

# PURDUE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting  
March 21, 2024  
2:30 p.m.

Sixth Meeting  
Via Teams

**PRESENT:** Council Members, Kola Ajuwon, Laura Bowling, Nurgul Aitalieva, Yong Bao, Shawn G. Bauldry, Arun Bhunia, William B. Collins, Joy Colwell, Bryan DeWitt, Duane D. Dunlap, Emad Elwakil, Melissa Franks, Kevin D. Gibson, Jeffrey P. Greeley, Nancy Jackson, Qing Jiang, Mary Johnson, Ann L. Kirchmaier, Douglas LaCount, Jiliang Li, Yanjun Li, Qiang Liu, Panayota (Youli) Y. Mantzicopoulos-James, Jamie Mohler, Melanie Morgan, Rodolfo Pinal, Julia M. Rayz, Carson Reeling, Paul Salama, Abraham Schwab, Michael Smith, James Tisdale,

**ABSENT:** Eric Barker, Brad Alge, Carrie Berger, Vetria Byrd, Jason Cannon, Jason FitzSimmons, Catherine A. Golden, Erla Heyns, Troy D. Janes, Kimberly Kinzig, Tong Jin Kim, Judith Lewandowski, Patti Ludwig, Clarence D. Maybee, Somosmita Mitra, Dimitri Peroulis, Joseph (Paul) Robinson, Paul David Rollock, Laura Shwab-Reese, Kristen (Kate) White, Josh Widhalm, Nicole Widmar, Patrick Wolfe, Christine Wuenschel, Amanda D. Zelechowski

**GUESTS:** Eckhard Groll, Senay Purzer, Janet Beagle, Nicole Moody, Don Brier, Linda Lee, Heather Bagshaw, O.T. Ford

Associate Dean Melanie Morgan called the meeting to order. She noted that Dr. Barker was out of the office and she would be chairing the meeting.

## **POSTHUMOUS DEGREE REQUEST**

Graduate Council Document 24E, Posthumous Degree Request for the late Sameer Kamath, submitted by the School of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering, West Lafayette. Posthumous degree was approved by the Graduate Council. (Appendix C)

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The February 15, 2024, minutes were moved to the Consent Agenda.

## **GRADUATE PROPOSAL APPROVALS**

Graduate Program and Course Proposals document was moved to the Consent Agenda. (Appendix A)

## **NEW BUSINESS (Nicole Moody)**

Graduate Council Report 24-G, Proposed Updates for Graduate Student Processes was presented for review (Appendix B)

## **NO OLD BUSINESS TO REPORT**

## **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

Dr. Morgan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion to accept the full Consent Agenda was received and seconded. The Consent Agenda was approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Melanie Morgan at 3:30 p.m.

Melanie Morgan  
Chair of the Graduate Council (In Dr. Barker's absence)

Tina Payne  
Secretary to the Graduate Council

**GRADUATE COUNCIL COURSE  
AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS**

March 2024

**GRADUATE COURSE PROPOSALS:****Area Committee A: Behavioral Sciences**

Graduate Council Document 24-29a, ENE 58600 Exploring Alternative Careers, PWL  
[ENE - 58600 - Exploring Alternative Careers | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-31a, HK 51100 ECG and Exercise Testing, PWL  
[HK - 51100 - ECG And Exercise Testing | Curriculum](#)

**Area Committee B: Engineering Sciences, and Technology**

Graduate Council Document 24-4d, CEM 50100 Leadership and Adv Proj Mgmt, PWL  
[CEM - 50100 - Leadership And Adv Proj Mgmt | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-5d, CGT 52500 Virtual Reality, PWL  
[CGT - 52500 - Virtual Reality | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-5e, CGT 52300 Intelligent Virtual Agents, PWL  
[CGT - 52300 - Intelligent Virtual Agents | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-7c, CNIT 57100 Responsible Data Science, PWL  
[CNIT - 57100 - Responsible Data Science | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-8f, CS 52400 Expert System, PFW  
[CS - 52400 - Expert System | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-8e, CS 53200, Geometric Modeling Algorithms, PWL  
[CS - 53200 - Geometric Modeling Algorithms | Curriculum](#)

**Area Committee C: Chemistry, Engineering, and Physical Sciences**

Graduate Council Document 24-27a, ABE 50300 Microparticulate Surface Props, PWL  
[ABE - 50300 - Microparticulate Surface Props | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-28a, EAPS 50300 Mars Seminar, PWL  
[EAPS - 50300 - Mars | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-28b, EAPS 50400 Geologic Dating Methods, PWL  
[EAPS - 50400 - Geologic Dating Methods | Curriculum](#)

**Area Committee D: Humanities and Social Sciences**

Graduate Council Document 24-30a, HIST 65010 Graduate Seminar in Public History and Archives, PNW  
[HIST - 65010 - Sem In Public Hist & Archives | Curriculum](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-30b, HIST 68010 Graduate Seminar in Public History and Archives, PNW  
[HIST - 68010 - Graduate History Internship | Curriculum](#)

### **Area Committee E: Life Sciences**

Graduate Council Document 24-1d, BIOL 51602 Advanced Genetics Lab, PFW  
[BIOL - 51602 - Adv Gen Lab | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-1c, BIOL 59110 Smoky Mountains Field Exp, PNW  
[BIOL - 59110 - Smoky Mountains Field Exp | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-32a, HSCI 67600 RT Clinical Competencies I  
[HSCI - 67600 - RT Clinical Competencies I | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-32b, HSCI 67700 RT Clinical Competencies II  
[HSCI - 67700 - RT Clinical Competencies II | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-33a, NUR 68001 PhD Cognate Residency, PWL  
[NUR - 68001 - PhD Cognate Residency | Curriculog](#)

Graduate Council Document 24-33b, NUTR 51600 Eating Disorders & Healthy Weight Management, PWL  
[NUTR - 51600 - Eating Dsrdrs & Hlthy Wt Mgmt | Curriculog](#)

### **Area Committee F: Management Sciences**

No proposals

**There are no Graduate Course proposals this month for Area F**

## **GRADUATE PROGRAM PROPOSALS:**

**There are no Graduate Program proposals this month.**



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

**TO:** Members of the Graduate Council

**FROM:** Eric Barker, Acting Associate Provost for Graduate Programs

**DATE:** March 21, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Posthumous Degree Recommendation for the late Sameer Kamath, submitted by the School of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering, West Lafayette

For the awarding of a posthumous Non-Thesis Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME) degree from Purdue University requires that at least 85 percent of the credit hour requirements have been completed including most of the requirements for the major.

The late Sameer Kamath, who died on February 5, 2024, meets the University's requirements for the conferral of a posthumous Non-Thesis Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree. During the review of Mr. Kamath's records, the following were noted:

- Mr. Kamath began his Purdue University graduate program in the Summer 2021 term. He enrolled in the MSME program effective with the Summer 2021 session.
- Mr. Kamath's plan of study for the MSME degree was created, and the plan of study included 21 credits, all of which have been completed (30 credits are required for MSME).
- Mr. Kamath had 6 additional credits of graded coursework in the MSME program that were eligible for use on his plan of study, though they were not yet added to the plan. This means that he had satisfactorily completed a total of 27 grades credits which were eligible for use toward the non-thesis MSME degree.
- Mr. Kamath's plan of study focused on Solid Mechanics/Granular Materials.

Given that Mr. Kamath's coursework for the Non-Thesis Master's program was 90% completed, it is my conclusion that Mr. Kamath meets the requirements to receive a posthumous Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree in the Mechanical Engineering program.

EB/tp

## Proposed Updates for Graduate Student Processes

### Executive Summary

Graduate student processes, such as plans of study, examination forms, and candidate degree audits, will be moving from the current Graduate School Database to a new system built in Salesforce by the end of 2025. The Office of Graduate Records recommends the following changes to policies and procedures to be built and implemented in parallel with this system upgrade:

- Make the advisory committee optional for non-thesis plans of study
- Allow departments to opt-out of the department head/designee signature
- Create an escalating signature approval system for the central University level review
- Replace the Form 8 Exam Request Form with an Approval Workflow
- Eliminate Exam Only (CAND 99300) Registration

### Optional Advisory Committee for Non-Thesis Plans of Study

Currently, at least one advisory committee signature is required on every student plan of study and change request. However, Purdue University now has many non-thesis master's programs which are coursework-only degree programs. The plans for these programs are standardized and include limited pre-defined elective options, and that structure in some cases may eliminate the need for faculty review at an individual student level. Allowing departments to opt-out of the advisory committee requirement for non-thesis plans will give programs the flexibility to customize the system architecture to meet their actual program needs.

### Option to Opt-Out of Department Head/Designee Signature

The department head's signature (or that person's designee) is currently required on every student form, including plan of study, changes to plans, exam forms, thesis forms, candidate audits, and off-campus research requests. However, this signature is not always academically necessary. The new system should give individual departments the authority to determine what student forms in their area need department head approval. Departments themselves are in the best position to make that decision, and this flexibility will help ensure that student forms are routing to approvals which are useful from an academic review perspective.

### Escalating Signature Approval System for the Central University-level Review

Currently, the Graduate School provides a final review for every academic student form to ensure compliance with University policies and provide academic record updates when needed. With a new electronic system, it is possible to program these central policies behind the scenes in advance to capitalize on available technology. Student forms which are within pre-set parameters would then only require department-level review for full approval. The central Graduate School level review would only be triggered if an exception to University policy was being requested, or if an element existed on the form that required manual assessment such as transfer credit on a plan of study or a change of concentration.

## Replace the Form 8 Exam Request Form with an Approval Workflow

The Form 8 is currently used for scheduling exams and establishing exam committees. When this was a paper process, a separate request form was needed to give reviewers a chance to confirm that the committee and student would be available at the date/time indicated and ensure that the exam specifics were compliant with department and University requirements prior to printing the final report form for the exam. However, now that the process is electronic, having a separate request form is unnecessary and sometimes confusing to students. Instead, the relevant elements of the Form 8, including an approval workflow, should be integrated directly into the creation process for the Final Report Form 7 (Master's Final Exam), Form 10 (Doctoral Prelim Exam), or Form 11 (Doctoral Final Exam). Integrating an approval workflow instead of a separate form will streamline the process for students and staff.

## Eliminating Exam Only (CAND 99300) Registration

Graduate students currently have two similar privileged candidate registration options in their final session, which are Degree Only (CAND 99200) and Exam Only (CAND 99300). Both options have the same tuition cost and virtually the same prerequisites and deadlines. The only difference between the two registrations is that with the Degree Only title, the student either does not have a final exam component or they have already passed that requirement. With the Exam Only title, the student still needs to complete the final exam step. This difference is minor and causes confusion to students and staff regarding which to advise students to register for in their final session. Eliminating the Exam Only option and expanding the Degree Only option to include students who may still need to complete a final exam would streamline processes for all.

## Justification

The current move to Salesforce provides a natural opportunity to redesign processes to take advantage of technical advances. These changes will help streamline graduate forms and procedures so they scale more easily with growing student enrollments, and provide added flexibility needed to embrace and support program innovations moving forward while also maintaining academic integrity.