

Graduate Council Minutes - March 5, 2026

Present: Barbara Cormier, Becky Copper Glenz, Christine Dee, Daniel Sarefield, David Weiss, Deborah Stone, Denise Bertrand, Denise Sargent, Dustin Halterman, Jane Fiske, Kyle Moody, Mojdeh Bayat, Nirajan Mani, Renee Scapparone and Robert Shapiro

Visitors: Amber Deschenes, Shirajum Munira, Stefan Dodd

Meeting:

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review November 6, 2025 Minutes?

Daniel Sarefield: Motion to review.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve November 6, 2025 Minutes as written?

Daniel Sarefield: Motion to approve as written.

David Weiss: Second.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review February 5, 2026 Minutes?

Daniel Sarefield: Motion to review.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve February 5, 2026 Minutes as written?

Jane Fiske: Motion to approve as written.

Mojdeh Bayat: Second.

Proposals:

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-26?

Nirajan Mani: Motion to review.

Deb Stone: Second.

Denise Sargent: DESE issued new guidelines and a matrix which lists all the standards. We need to look at our courses, indicate where we're introducing that standard, where we're practicing it and where we're demonstrating those standards. We went through the matrix and made some changes on some of the syllabi and noticed some gaps. We needed to have a course

that had stronger writing components. In looking at the courses we have already, there's a course that matches perfectly and that's SPED 8019. We would like to add that course to the moderate disabilities program for PreK-8.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-26 as written?

Becky Copper Glenz: Motion to approve.

Deb Stone: Second

Vote: Unanimous

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-14?

Nirajan Mani: Motion to review.

Jane Fiske: Second.

Christine Dee: This is part of us cleaning up and adding to the graduate program in history. This is a one credit 7,000 level course and intended to be part of a series of stackable credits for one credit that would allow graduate students to combine those for a single three credit course. They're called history tools because they're able to be taught on a variety of the tools, which is something they need for their thesis.

Christine Dee: Other possible credit stackable courses include researching with podcasting, and historical editing. This encourages people to try our graduate program, and allows teachers to take a one credit course that is skill-based if it fits within their curriculum development. It also allows our own internal graduate students to do a skills-based offering that they could then have for three credits, which would be equivalent to a one credit graduate course.

Renee Scapparone: Will you be creating more one-credit courses then?

Christine Dee: Yes.

Renee Scapparone: Are you doing these as Topics courses?

Christine Dee: No.

Nirajan Mani: The course title is tools for research and project management. In banner if you just mention tools it can be confusing for the students or the faculty. Maybe for banner abbreviations you can put the history tools and on the course title you can put the complete name of the course you have in the syllabus.

Christine Dee: History Tools are like topics. That particular title would be different depending on the classes.

Renee Scapparone: Should we be calling this course history tools?

Christine Dee: No, it should be a shell. The syllabus was just a title, I could have done it with podcasting. Which would have been tools: podcasting.

Barbara Cormier: I think we're just getting hung up on something that really doesn't matter for the proposal. I think the course is meant to be called history tools. At the section level you'll add whatever the focus of that particular history tools course is on. So we're changing the title at the section level.

Christine Dee: Correct.

Barbara Cormier: Its first semester is intended to be summer 26, which we would have to run as a topics course because this wouldn't be available until fall 26.

Barbara Cormier: The last note is just the course description is too long at 74 words.

Christine Dee: I will shorten it to 50 words.

Barbara Cormier: Also, Tammy went ahead and put in proposed numbers, because there isn't a place on the form for it. Christine if you see the numbers in red, if any of those don't work for you, just let us know.

Christine Dee: Okay.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-14 with a friendly amendment to shorten the description to 50 words.

Jane Fiske: Motion to approve.

David Weiss: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-16?

Becky Copper Glenz: Motion to review.

David Weiss: Second.

Christine Dee: We haven't taught these courses for a very long time and would like to remove them from the books.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-16 as written?

Jane Fiske: Motion to approve.

Nirajan Mani: Second

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-17?

Jane Fiske: Motion to review.

Deb Stone: Second.

Christine Dee: These 5 courses have all been taught as graduate topics courses. We anticipate teaching them more often with regular faculty members and would like to put them on the books.

Barbara Cormier: Course description is too long.

Christine Dee: I will fix it.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-17 as written with a friendly amendment to get the description down to 50 words?

Daniel Sarefield: Motion to approve.

Jane Fiske: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-18?

Jane Fiske: Motion to review.

Beck Copper Glenz: Second.

Christine Dee: We anticipate teaching courses more often with regular faculty members and would like to put them on the books.

Barbara Cormier: Course description is too long.

Christine Dee: I will fix it.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-18 as written with a friendly amendment to get the description down to 50 words?

Daniel Sarefield: Motion to approve.

Deb Stone: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-19?

Jane Fiske: Motion to review.

Deb Stone: Second.

Christine Dee: We anticipate teaching courses more often with regular faculty members and would like to put them on the books.

Barbara Cormier: Course description is too long.

Christine Dee: I will fix it.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-19 as written with a friendly amendment to get the description down to 50 words?

Rob Shapiro: Motion to approve.

Deb Stone: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-20?

Jane Fiske: Motion to review.

Deb Stone: Second.

Christine Dee: We would like to add the class, the Great Depression, to the catalog.

Barbara Cormier: Course description is too long.

Christine Dee: I will fix it.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-20 as written with a friendly amendment to get the description down to 50 words?

Daniel Sarefield: Motion to approve.

Deb Stone: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-21?

Dan Sarefield: Motion to review.

Deb Stone: Second.

Christine Dee: We would like to add this class, Media and US Politics to the catalog.

Barbara Cormier: Course description is too long.

Christine Dee: I will fix it.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-21 as written with a friendly amendment to get the description down to 50 words?

Daniel Sarefield: Motion to approve.

Jane Fiske: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Becky Copper Glenz: I just had a comment. I want to thank Christine for her work, we don't always get to the cleanup stage.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-15?

Dan Sarefield: Motion to review.

Nirajan Mani: Second.

Dustin Halterman: We would like to move a topics course that's running in pedagogy and learning 7218 and make it a course that's offered every year. It is filled every time we run it so we would like to make it permanent.

Dustin Halterman: Should I bring it back as a new course?

Becky Copper Glenz: Yes.

Barbara Cormier: Also if it's being offered this summer and that's the third time as a topics course, we would just need Becky's approval to do that.

Becky Copper Glenz: Yes.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to table proposal SGOCE 25-26-15 to the April 9th meeting?

Jane Fiske: Motion to table.

David Weiss: Second

Vote: Unanimous

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-22?

Becky Copper Glenz: Motion to review.

David Weiss: Second.

Dustin Halterman: We are looking to make this a new course in two programs. So, proposal 22 and 24 are actually the same proposal. Education 7649 was science and social studies in PreK classroom and that was running for both elementary and early childhood and covering two content areas. I did a lot of work to look over NCTQ guidelines that had looked at our programs and something we weren't doing quite as well as we needed to do was meeting the content areas within our programs. So to separate science and social studies, it'll enable us to teach it a little much more thoroughly and how to teach those two content areas. We're looking to add these two new courses instead of 7649.

Christine Dee: Can I just say, Dustin, I think that's great that you're separating them out because as the history professor with the social studies and the K through 12, I just think it's fantastic.

Dustin Halterman: The reason our course description is so lengthy is because NCTQ and Aquap will only look at our course descriptions. So, to limit those down to the 50, we are not going to get the grading that we would get because they're not looking at the whole syllabus. They're only going to look at that course description to identify what's being taught in those courses.

Barbara Cormier: This is a special situation where accreditation is involved and we have been flexible with education for that purpose. There is no amendment to reduce the number of words to 50.

Barbara Cormier: I have a question about your abbreviated title. Can we add the Pre-K thru 8 in there because that would make it consistent with the other abbreviated titles.

Dustin Halterman: Yes.

Renee Scapparone: So, we don't need a friendly amendment.

Barbara Cormier: No.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal 22 as written?

Christine Dee: Motion to approve.

Deb Stone: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-23?

Becky Copper Glenz: Motion to review.

Rob Shapiro: Second.

Dustin Halterman: Proposal SGOCE 25-26-23 is basically the same thing. This is just the social studies class. We've also paired it with writing because as Denise Sargeant kind of targeted, we were falling short in writing. This is social studies along with that writing aspect because we know historians need to be good at writing as that is also embedded in this course.

Barbara Cormier: I'm assuming the course description is the same situation which is why it is too long.

Dustin Halterman: Yes.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-23 as written?

Christine Dee: Motion to approve.

Rob Shapiro: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Proposal SGOCE 25-26-24 was removed by Dustin Halterman as it is the same as SGOCE 25-26-23.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-34?

Deb Stone: Motion to review.

Rob Shapiro: Second.

Dustin Halterman: We would like to remove EDUC 7649 which was the social studies and science combined class. We would like to add the two courses you just voted on, the science class by itself and the social studies class by itself. We are going through DESE literacy review, so we also are looking to add the writing assessment course.

Dustin Halterman: We ended up adding six credits to the major and we can't go up that high. I'm looking to make EDUC 7003 a prerequisite to the degree and that course is educational issues in child development. I'm noticing that most of our applicants already have child development as they're coming in. We're really substituting it out because it's the same content that they're already getting. The next aspect is moving the credit hours from 39 to 42.

Renee Scapparone: Would we change that in the proposal?

Becky Copper Glenz: Regarding the prerequisite education, is it possible that it could be a co-rec, meaning you might admit someone but they can take it in their first semester.

Dustin Halterman: Absolutely.

Becky Copper Glenz: Perfect. Okay. we could make an update.

Dustin Halterman: Actually, it really can stay as a prerequisite, because if they don't have it, that's what they have to take.

Becky Copper Glenz: They can't be admitted into the program if it's listed as a prerequisite so as a co-rec, it means they could take it in your first semester. We can say it's a prerequisite to other courses in the program.

Dustin Halterman: All right.

Renee Scapparone: How should the proposal read then for the catalog?

Becky Copper Glenz: I'm wondering how the language matters, probably not for her perspective.

Barbara Cormier: Are we talking about the course that's required for the program?

Barbara Cormier: That doesn't matter to us at all. We'll put it in the degree work section. That's not a graduation requirement and we'll ignore it.

Becky Copper Glenz: But we could prerequisite it, right. I mean some students will already have it in and we'll just check it off the list.

Barbara Cormier: If the department doesn't care if they're taking it while they're in the program, then that's fine.

Becky Copper Glenz: Okay.

Renee Scapparone: So, how does the proposal change or does it change? Do we need to make a friendly amendment?

Becky Copper Glenz: Because we have it in the notes we are good.

Christine Dee: I think what Becky was saying in terms of students coming into the program, you don't want it to be a barrier for them. So, you want to give them a pathway because we want to encourage as many on board as we possibly can.

Christine Dee: The other thing I want to say is I think it's great that you're keeping in the special ed piece and I applaud that. I was just curious about other graduate programs, 42, is that kind of what everybody is doing with these requirements and mandates?

Dustin Halterman: Absolutely.

Dustin Halterman: I was seeing 32 all the way up through 45. So we are within that range because they have to do this to get their initial license. There's no way around doing a practicum.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-34 as written?

Christine Dee: Motion to approve.

Rob Shapiro: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-25?

Jane Fiske: Motion to review.

Dan Sarefield: Second.

Dustin Halterman: It's the exact same proposal. It's for early childhood instead of elementary. So, again, we're removing 7649, that combined course. We're splitting it into a science course and a social studies course. We're adding that writing force and then we're making a prerequisite for 7003 will be a co-requisite instead of a prerequisite and increasing from 39 to 42 credits.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-25 as written?

Deb Stone: Motion to approve.

Christine Dee: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-27?

Dan Sarefield: Motion to review.

Nirajan Mani: Second.

Deborah Stone: Our creditors changed the way we have to evaluate our students and document. This is the first half of our program and I had to change all of the course outcomes and program outcomes to align with the new essentials.

I have the attachment that shows the old outcomes and if you scroll down to the new outcomes and then the old outcomes. They're not a lot different at this point in time. I'm not changing anything else about the course. I may be doing that later, but our creditors want us to do this yesterday.

Renee Scapparone: So what you're asking for is to change the description. Is that what that is?

Deborah Stone: I changed the description to adhere to the 50 word limit because none of them did. In addition, I had to change the course outcomes.

Renee Scapparone: But we're not approving your course outcomes, are we?

Deborah Stone: When I asked Becky if these had to come through council I was told that they did.

Becky Copper Glenz: I thought they were substantive because the full course is changing.

Deborah Stone: I had to report to the accreditors that we were getting the approval to do it and I had to promise to do it before this semester's over. So, I guess I hope you'll let me do it anyway because I just don't know what to do with the accreditors. We're honestly just trying to jump through their hoops.

Deborah Stone: That's what all of these are. Every one of them is a different course where I have old outcomes and new outcomes.

Christine Dee: Is it possible for us to do them all together since what we're doing is we're saying that we think these outcomes now that they make the accreditors happy, they certainly make us happy.

Renee Scapparone: I mean really because I didn't know that was part of our role on the council to look at the outcomes of a course.

Deborah Stone: I didn't either.

Deborah Stone: It is definitely part of the syllabus. I don't think our accreditors want me to just change it.

Barbara Cormier: Just a friendly amendment for the 72, 73 and 74 that the course description changed to 50 words and to check the box.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-27 with the friendly amendment that the course descriptions were changed for 72, 73 and 74 to 50 words and to check the box?

Dan Sarefield: Motion to approve.

David Weiss: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-28?

Becky Copper-Glenz: Motion to review.

Mojdeh Bayat: Second.

Deborah Stone: But this time I did check the description box. Okay.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-28 as written?

Christine Dee: Motion to approve.

David Weiss: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-29?

Becky Copper-Glenz: Motion to review.

Mojdeh Bayat: Second.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-29 as written?

David Weiss: Motion to approve.

Jane Fiske: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-30?

David Weiss: Motion to review.

Mojdeh Bayat: Second.

Barbara Cormier: This one has an undergrad statistics course as a prerequisite, which was in the course description, but we did not have it in banner. I'm wondering if that was intentional because we would likely have to do red cards on every single student taking this course. So I only mention it because I don't know how that has been managed. If you are looking at it at the point of admissions, do you want us to put it in banner? But then you'll have to do red cards.

Deborah Stone: Yes, I would love it to be in the banner.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-30 as written?

Christine Dee: Motion to approve.

David Weiss: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-31?

David Weiss: Motion to review.

Jane Fiske: Second.

Deborah Stone: I shortened the description and I changed the outcomes.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-31 as written?

Kyle Moody: Motion to approve.

David Weiss: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-32?

Nirajan Mani: Motion to review.

Deb Stone: Second.

Deborah Stone: This one I did not check the description box because it was actually under 50 words when I got it. So, I only changed the outcome.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-32 as written?

Kyle Moody: Motion to approve.

Daniel Sarefield: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Do I have a motion to review proposal SGOCE 25-26-33?

Jane Fiske: Motion to review.

David Weiss: Second.

Deborah Stone: This is the changed program outcomes which now align with the new essentials put out by our accreditors. I did send an attachment so you could see the old and the new program outcomes side by side if you're interested. You may notice that we had eight and now we have 10 because they decided now it's rather arbitrary.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions? No. Do I have a motion to approve proposal SGOCE 25-26-33 as written?

Kyle Moody: Motion to approve.

Jane Fiske: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Renee Scapparone: Any questions for the floor?

Becky Copper Glenz: I know that everyone saw the email that we were creating new forms for grad counsel. If you do have any comments, please feel free to send them. I'm working with Ralph and we're making it a priority to get the new forms up as soon as possible.

Jane Fiske: I seem to remember I could be misremembering that we decided we were going to put in the form the course description needs to be 50 words or less.

Denise Bertrand: Yes, that statement is on the forms.

Becky Copper Glenz: We will make sure it also asks for the name of the program.

Next Meeting: April 9th.

Motion to Adjourn: Becky Copper Glenz