



## Graduate Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

2:00-3:30pm

Maryland Room, Marie Mount Hall

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Announcements
  - a. Introductions and overview of the Graduate Council
  - b. Faculty Mentoring Workshops (1/month in Fall): [REGISTER HERE](#)
  - c. Postdoc appreciation week and [symposium, Sept 27](#).
  - d. Office of Graduate Diversity and Inclusion [Networking Reception](#). Sept 19th
    - 348 graduate student RSVPs
    - 19 units across campus so far have registered to participate in the resource fair
    - Website will be updated regularly; please use the website link to share with students.
    - Please contact Christopher Perez with questions/concerns (cperez6@umd.edu)
  - e. Jason Farman sabbatical; Ryan Long as Interim Assoc. Dean
  - f. Statement of Mutual Expectations Task Force - update and plans
2. Consent approval of [April 2024 meeting minutes](#) - reach out with any edits or questions.
3. Proposed policy discussions
  - a. OGC requested a change in GA policy language: The Conduct and Professional Behavior section of our [Assistantship Policies](#) currently mentions “...laws of the state regarding its employees...”. This should be revised to “...to applicable federal, state, and local laws...”. - [link here](#). Current language: A Graduate Assistant's teaching, research, and administrative activities are subject to the ethical precepts and codes of the academic profession, to the laws of the State of Maryland regarding its employees, and to University policies governing institutional obligations. Proposed language: A Graduate Assistant's teaching, research, and administrative activities are subject to the ethical precepts and codes of the academic profession, to applicable federal, state, and local laws, and to University policies governing institutional obligations.
  - b. Propose adding additional committee option for [master's thesis defense outcomes](#): adding “entire committee must approve” (bringing into line with [PhD defense outcome options](#))



- Add the following language as an additional selection: To accept the oral defense, but recommend substantive revisions to the dissertation and not sign the Report of the Examining Committee until the student has made the changes and submitted the revised dissertation for the Dissertation Examining Committee's approval. The chair will provide the committee and student with a list of the required revisions. The Dissertation Examining Committee members sign the Report of the Examining Committee if they approve the revised dissertation.
  - c. Propose revising our “indefinite dissertation embargo policy” to reflect personal and public safety (in addition to national security) - [link here](#). Note that these are rare and all such requests for indefinite embargo are considered on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with the student and student's college. Current language: Indefinite embargoes can be placed only in service of a public good (e.g., for national security reasons). Proposed language: Indefinite embargoes can be placed only in service of a public good (e.g., for national security or public safety reasons) or personal safety.
4. Additional Topics and Topics for Future Discussion
- a. Proposing a move to credit-bearing English proficiency courses (TA and writing courses), making them accessible to tuition assistance as 500-level courses.
  - b. TA preparation requirement. See: <https://umd-ta.catalog.instructure.com/courses/welcome-to-taing>