

Associate Deans Council
Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2025

Present: Tracey Baham, Sawyer Bowering, Steve Bullard, Mark Jimerson (for Tracy Craven), Jim Dunne, Anastasia Elder, Dana Franz, Robert Green, Kim Hall, Brien Henry, Logan Link (for Christine Jackson), Dominic Lippillo, Melanie Loehwing, Bethany Mills, Lynda Moore-White, Andy Perkins, Jacob Tschume (for Matthew Priddy), Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Kevin Rogers, Peter Ryan, Emily Shaw, Deanna Smith, Darrell Sparks, Shelby Tschume, Pamela Vayda, Cat Walker, Lauren Wright, Madeline Demetriou

Dr. Tracey Baham called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

1. Consideration of the Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Robert Green and seconded by Dr. Kevin Rogers to accept the minutes from September 24, 2025. Following a spelling correction and syntax change, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Gen Ed Presentation – Dr. Mike Breazeale & members of the Gen Ed Committee

Dr. Breazeale and members of the Gen Ed Committee presented AdvantaGE to review what has been accomplished in the last year and changes to be anticipated in the upcoming year.

- Dr. Breazeale highlighted the subcommittees that were formed under different domains in general education. These subcommittees analyzed and reviewed 10 special topic AdvantaGE courses in the 24-25 academic year to ensure they fit within their respective domains.
- Each subcommittee developed rubrics to evaluate the assessment of the AdvantaGE learning outcomes. These rubrics were designed after the special topics courses were piloted.
- Dr. Breazeale plans to present the AdvantaGE plan to IHL in the spring. Additionally, elections for each subcommittee domain will begin April 2026.
- The migration of existing general education courses is planned over the next 2 years. Summer 2026 is anticipated to begin promotion of AdvantaGE to students, parents, and external stakeholders.
- Several council members questioned how the migration to AdvantaGE would affect transfer students. Dr. Breazeale assured that all articulation agreements will be honored.
- Dr. Green shared that external stakeholder involvement, such as constituency groups, should be considered, as several programs have separate accreditation requirements.
- The new AdvantaGE website, <https://www.advantage.msstate.edu/>, houses all rubrics and guidelines for instructors of existing courses needing to transition.
- The council requested clarification on implementation plans and timeline, whether there is one category of AdvantaGE courses or two tiers as previously discussed, to what extent

degree programs will be required to adopt these standards, and when the proposed changes will go through formal curriculum review as required by university policy. Dr. Breazeale will report back with further information at a future meeting.

3. AOP 12.18 Academic Amnesty for Graduate Students

Dr. Rogers motioned and Dr. Melanie Loehwing seconded the AOP 12.18 Academic Amnesty for Graduate Students.

- Dr. Baham informed the council that the policy was reviewed at the most recent Graduate Council meeting and sent to the Associate Deans Council for further review.
- Dr. Brien Henry explained that the signature lines were updated to include the chair of the Graduate Council to ensure more faculty involvement.
- Ms. Lynda Moore-White suggested adding language that specifies whether the policy is applicable to C, D, and F grades similar to the undergraduate policy. The council requests that the Graduate Council consider if AOP 12.18 should specify that it applies to grades less than a B.
- AOP 12.18 Academic Amnesty for Graduate Students was passed with one minor change to the signature line for “Chair, Graduate Council.”

4. AOP 12.23 Cooperative Education Program

Dr. Rogers motioned and Dr. Green seconded the AOP 12.23 Cooperative Education Program.

- Ms. Bethany Mills informed the council that the policy was up for review and updated to maintain consistency with naming changes and small adjustments since the policy was last reviewed in 2020.
- Ms. Emily Shaw requested that the policy maintain the same language reflected in the Undergraduate Catalog that specifies that co-ops run through the Career Center are not able to be used to satisfy credit hours.
- Dr. Green asked if there needed to be additional language as co-ops and internships in BCoE satisfy college degree requirements. After continued discussion, co-ops and internships housed in each college are viewed separately than those sponsored through the Career Center.
- AOP 12.23 Cooperative Education Program was passed with the following adjustments:
 - First line of the policy changed from “Academic Operating Policy and Procedure” to “Academic Operating Policy.”
 - The following sentence from the Undergraduate Catalog was added at the end of the first paragraph in the Policy/Procedure section: “These co-op credit hours may not be used to satisfy University-wide degree requirements.”
 - Replace gender-based pronouns with plural forms.

5. Announcements

- Dr. Peter Ryan asked associate deans to encourage faculty to attend the Global Development Seed Grant Interest Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 16 from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Walker Hall, Room 233. RSVP by Oct. 15 to Chance Carden at ccarden@international.msstate.edu. For more information about the program, visit the GDSG webpage.
- Dr. Brien Henry announced that the Graduate School is seeking judges for the Fall Graduate Research Symposium. There are 155 student participants. He asked the Council to encourage faculty to volunteer. For more information, contact Dr. Henry.
- Dr. Anastasia Elder announced that The Undergraduate Research Symposium is soliciting special area competitions. The Shackouls Honors College welcomes student groups or other special interest groups to convene sub area competitions. Please contact Dr. Elder for more information.
- Ms. Mills announced that the completion of the First Destination Survey of our recent graduates is about 10 percentage points behind the same time last year. She requested that associate deans encourage faculty to impress upon students the importance of completing this survey.

Meeting adjourned 2:53 pm