

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, August 26, 2022 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
MHRA 2711

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Selima Sultana, chair	Jennifer Park
Seth Armah	Salih Rakap
Vidya Gargeya	Paul Steimle
Diane Gill	Robert Wells
Brad Johnson	Wanda Williams
Dennis LaJeunesse	Terry Chavis
Brad Johnson	Alexander Grindstaff

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Aaron Beveridge	Alicia Kaplan
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Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

Greg Bell	Graduate School
Jodi Pettazzoni	Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning
Rachel Olsen	University Libraries

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:

Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office
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<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	I. Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2022 Motion to approve April 29, 2022 minutes (Gargeya, Johnson). Minutes approved.
11:03	II. Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana Chair Selima Sultana thanked the Graduate Council for serving this year. She also led the Council in introductions and reported that that the All Graduate Faculty Forum was well attended.
11:13	III. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell Dean Bell stated that the All Graduate Faculty Forum (held August 24) was informative regarding what the faculty would like the Graduate Council to focus on this year, particularly in regard to policy. The forum was held at the beginning of the academic year to be proactive and hear what is on the faculty's minds. Dean Bell reported that graduate student enrollment is down 109 students from last year. The Graduate School almost met its enrollment target but was short by 43 students. Based on metrics such as number of applications and committed students, the Graduate School had expected to meet its

target. However, some students changed their minds about attending UNCG. According to outreach conducted by the Graduate Student Ambassadors, many students accepted jobs instead of attending graduate school and some students chose to go to other schools. National trends demonstrate that other schools are experiencing similar challenges. UNCG has seen declines in graduate student enrollment at all levels, and probations and dismissals are only slightly up. Many graduate students also registered at the last minute, which indicates that better communication with students is needed.

The Graduate Program Director meeting in September will focus on recruitment. Ian Draves will present on accelerated master's programs as a way to recruit current undergraduate students to graduate programs. ETS (GRE administrator) will also host a workshop on best practices in recruitment.

Vidya Gargeya discussed the possibility of charging students a deposit when they commit to UNCG, which would be applied to their tuition if they attend. He indicated this could be a way to save on funds lost by planning for committed students that do not attend and that a deposit could also signal to students that UNCG's programs are in demand and are high quality. Dean Bell shared that schools tend to require this type of cost when they have a high number of committed students changing their minds. Dean Bell stated that he would like to compare UNCG's "melt" to national averages. He also reported that some students who changed their minds had already accepted assistantships and that when they do not attend it does not leave much time to reallocate those funds or use them in recruitment. Slate is expected to provide helpful data about assistantship funds and their effect on recruitment in the future.

11:28 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association—Alexander Grindstaff**

Alexander Grindstaff shared that he would like to be a resource for the Graduate Council and can take the Council's concerns to students. Terry Chavis, who is also a student representative, stated that the GSA's goal is to amplify students' voices.

11:38 **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Brad Johnson and Dennis LaJeunesse**

Co-chair Brad Johnson stated that the August meeting for the GCC was canceled due to lack of agenda items. No CIP codes were changed over the summer but the SOE Global Pathway Program was discontinued due to a lack of funds. The program will now be hosted through Interlink as it was previously. Brad Johnson also reminded the Council that October 31 is the deadline for curricular changes for 2023-2024.

11:48 **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee—Paul Steimle**

Chair Paul Steimle reported that the Policies and Procedures Committee will meet for the first time on September 2. If any members have policy questions or concerns, they are encouraged to contact Paul Steimle, Selima Sultana, or Dean Bell.

11:58 **VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee**

Paul Steimle stated that the committee sent a recommendation to Dean

Bell regarding the appeal was mentioned at the April 29 meeting. He also reminded the Graduate Council that the Student Appeals Committee advises Dean Bell regarding admissions exceptions.

12:00 pm **VIII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Vidya Gargeya**

Vidya Gargeya reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee held a retreat on August 12. These retreats generally focus on enrollment, plans for the upcoming year, and communications from the Provost. Tina McEntire stated that undergraduate enrollment is down for this year compared to last year and that a survey was conducted regarding why students apply to UNCG but do not enroll. The two main reasons were that UNCG's campus life is lacking compared to other schools and a perceived lower quality of academics. Vidya stated per his review of college guides that UNCG is indicated as less selective than other UNC System schools. The Council discussed that UNCG is seen as a commuter campus but that graduate students typically decide whether or not to attend based on program quality and the faculty they will work with. Council members commented that funding for graduate students is not competitive compared to some other schools and that students may be attracted by job offers instead of attending graduate school. Council members also discussed that lower numbers of students are enrolling in undergraduate and graduate programs overall.

12:10 **IX. New Business/Other**

- *Discussion of experimental course shells and term limits*

Jodi Pettazoni explained that experimental course shells exist so that departments can try out new courses without being delayed by the curricular review calendar. She stated that in the past experimental courses were reviewed by curriculum committees but that the shells have been set up in CIM for easier access. However, the shells have led to some departments teaching the same experimental courses for multiple semesters. In order to better monitor the experimental courses, departments will receive communication when beginning an experimental course that will clearly outline limits and expectations. The Council discussed possible limits, and motion was presented to allow an experimental course to be offered a maximum of 2 times within 3 years. The motion was approved (Gargeya, Wells).

12:30 **X. Adjournment**