

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, October 21, 2022 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
MHRA 2711

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Vidya Gargeya	Brad Johnson
Dennis LaJeunesse	Selima Sultana
Robert Wells	Wanda Williams
Terry Chavis	

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Seth Armah	Aaron Beveridge
Diane Gill	Alexander Grindstaff
Alicia Kaplan	Jennifer Park
Paul Steimle	

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

Greg Bell	Graduate School
Jodi Pettazzoni	Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:

Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office
Rachel Olsen	University Libraries

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	I. Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2022 Motion to approve September 23, 2022 minutes (Johnson, Rakap). Minutes approved.
11:03	II. Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana Chair Sultana reported that the next Graduate Faculty Meeting will be held on November 7, 3:30-5:00 pm in Nursing and Instructional Building 302. The meeting will include updates from leadership, a presentation/Q&A session from the Office of General Counsel regarding free speech on campus, and an open forum.
11:13	III. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell Dean Bell shared that preliminary rounds for the Three Minute Thesis competition began on October 20 and will continue today (October 21). The final round of the competition will take place on November 2 and will be part of the Open House Graduate Planning Session. Prospective students will be able to observe the competition and meet with graduate program directors and other representatives. Graduate applications are down 6.5% overall from this date last year.

Doctoral applications are up 25% and master's applications are down 20%. The Graduate School is in communication with programs seeing fewer applicants and some of the fluctuations represent only a small number of students.

Vidya Gargeya inquired about further discussions regarding the new funding model and funding for graduate assistantships. Dena Bell stated that he spoke with the Associate Deans over the summer and is currently meeting with the Deans; he reminded the Council that the Graduate School only awards tuition waivers and does not determine assistantship funding for academic units. The Graduate School will be undergoing budget cuts, and Dean Bell stated that he will try to minimize the impact to tuition waivers (the tuition waivers will likely be awarded in early spring). Vidya recommended that graduate program directors meet as a group to discuss how to manage the new funding model, and Dean Bell stated that he plans to discuss innovations with graduate program directors in the spring so they can make changes for 24-25.

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

Terry Chavis reported that the first funding window for the GSA has closed and that the next funding window will open November 7. Funding is available for professional development (conference/travel) and research participation.

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

- *GCC Information Items (from October 14, 2022 meeting)*

Co-chair Johnson stated that the GCC approved 29 proposals at the October 14 meeting. Several proposals were approved pending revisions and all revisions have been resolved except for one proposal.

11:48 **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee—Paul Steimle—No Report**

11:58 **VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No Report**

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

Vidya Gargeya reported that the RPK Group is being considered as an external consultant for UNCG regarding program performance measures. They have proposed to assist with data collection and analysis that will assist UNCG in making strategic planning decisions. Department heads met with the RPK Group yesterday and expressed concerns, and Vidya encouraged the Council to ask tough questions when meeting with the group. The goal of the consultation is to review finances, enrollment, faculty resources, and classroom utilization, and to come up with data regarding how much it costs for students to go through particular programs. Chancellor Gilliam is in communication with the UNC System to see if funding can be obtained from the UNC System for the consultation.

Vidya also stated that the AAUP has sent a letter of concern to Chancellor Gilliam and that the Chancellor has responded. He also shared that departments have been asked to consider 4%/6%/8% budget cut scenarios.

IX. New Business/Other

- *Discussion item—Revisions to program-specific admissions requirements—do they need to go through the GCC?*

Dean Bell discussed the publication of admission requirements and the level of review needed before changes are made to admission requirements. He reported that currently admission requirements are included in the Catalog but are also listed on department websites, Slate, and the Guide to Graduate Admissions. Jodi Pettazzoni reminded the Council that SACSCOC requires that admission policies and procedures be published, so wherever the requirements are posted they must be publicly available (and reviewed and updated on a regular basis). The Council discussed that applicants apply through Slate and likely do not review the Catalog. Council members expressed concern about quality control if the admission requirements were not reviewed by the Graduate Curriculum Committee. The Council also discussed that admission requirements, such as entrance exams, require a higher level of review while procedures such as deadlines could be left to departments.

The Council discussed that publishing admission requirements in multiple places can lead to inconsistencies. Admission requirement edits in CIM are reflected in the Catalog but edits to admission requirements in other places require manual updates. Jodi encouraged the Council to return with a concrete proposal for admission requirements to remain in the Catalog and to detail which requirements will be reviewed and by what authority. Dean Bell reminded the Council that changes are made in Slate in June (when it is turned off) and Ian Draves stated that the Catalog is published May 1 (so changes would need to be made prior to that date). The Council also discussed that the NextGen website project will require that departments link to the Catalog, which should address inconsistencies.

- *Discussion item—By-laws governance document and revisions/updates*

Chair Sultana shared a copy of the Graduate School/Faculty Governance document with some highlighted text and comments. She encouraged the Council to closely review the document as there are some portions that may need updates and so the Council can be familiar with the Council's responsibilities. Chair Sultana emphasized that the Council's role is to review and advise the Provost regarding establishing or discontinuing graduate degree programs. She inquired about notifying the Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellor for Research, Deans, Department Heads, and Directors of Graduate Studies regarding agendas and minutes for the Graduate Council and indicated that this may be part of the document requiring an update. The Council also discussed that an elected member of the Graduate Council serves as an ex officio representative on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and that at times Graduate Council representatives may be asked to serve on other university committees. Chair Sultana plans to continue the discussion of revising the

Governance document in a future Polices and Procedures meeting.

12:30 **X. Adjournment**