

*Graduate Council*  
**GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

Friday, November 19, 2021 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

**Members of the Graduate Council Present:**

Paul Steimle, chair	Lori Lupe
Seth Armah	Neelofer Qadir
Aaron Beveridge	Salih Rakap
Ben Dyson	Selima Sultana
Vidya Gargeya	Robert Wells
Diane Gill	Kervins Clement
Brad Johnson	Naglaa Rashwan
Alicia Kaplan	

**Members of the Graduate Council Absent:**

Muktha Jost	Dennis LaJeunesse
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**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.	<b>I. Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2021</b> Motion to approve October 29, 2021 minutes (Johnson, Wells). Minutes approved.
11:03	<b>II. Report of the Chair – Paul Steimle</b> —No Report
11:08	<b>III. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell</b> Dean Bell reported on the results of the 3 Minute Thesis competition, which will soon be shared widely. He encouraged the Council to watch the videos on the Graduate School website if they have not already done so. Dean Bell advised that there are some important policy issues to address in a timely manner.
11:23	<b>IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association—Naglaa Rashwan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sarah Daynes presented to the GSA about Faculty Senate<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ She wants to include students' voices in decision-making on campus</li><li>○ Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, SGA, &amp; GSA will work</li></ul></li></ul>

collaboratively and make sure all groups are on the same page regarding new policies

- GSA is sharing mental health resources and student success stories
  - The Counseling Center has Zoom drop-in hours 12-1 pm on Fridays
- Recent Come Talk with GSA presentations have included personal electric transportation, intercultural medical practices in the early American South, and Costa Rica
- In Public Health Education, Naglaa advocated for faculty to check in on their advisees

Graduate Council chair Paul Steimle stated that he would like to encourage graduate program directors to check in with GSA regarding mental health resources for graduate students.

11:33      **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Brad Johnson and Dennis LaJeunesse**

- *GCC Information Items (from November 5 and 17, 2021 meetings)*

Co-chair Brad Johnson reported that a total of 112 proposals were reviewed over the 2 meetings in November. Twenty-two proposals were for new courses, 1 proposal was for a new program, and 5 proposals were for new graduate certificates. GCC has an upcoming meeting on December 1.

11:43      **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee—Ben Dyson**

- *Action item: Vote on requiring international graduate students to submit a NACES evaluation as a completion item for application*
  - NACES evaluations indicate whether a degree from another country is equivalent to a degree from the US.
  - Currently students can be admitted without a NACES evaluation (required to submit after matriculating).
  - At least 2 students have had to cancel their registration this fall due to late NACES evaluations that indicated their degrees are not equivalent.
  - This can be a challenging situation for students, and per Maria Anastasiou (Associate Provost for International Programs), students prefer the peace of mind of having their NACES evaluation decision earlier.
    - International students can enter the US up to 30 days before the semester begins
  - Neelofer Qadir asked questions regarding the cost of NACES evaluations and whether they are required by other schools. Dean Bell reported that the cost is around \$150 and that most other UNC System schools require NACES evaluations.

- Vidya Gargeya inquired regarding the number of international applicants each year and whether NACES evaluations were required even if the applicants had completed four-year degrees. Dean Bell reported that 161 current students need to submit NACES evaluations. Selima Sultana, Naglaa Rashwan, and Paul Steimle supported requiring NACES evaluations for all international applicants (regardless of length of previous degree).
- Jodi Pettazzoni discussed that the Graduate School Admission policy requires that students have earned an undergraduate degree to be admitted; not requiring the NACES evaluation as part of the application is a compliance issue.
- Several Council members expressed concern regarding NACES costs and discussed ways to help offset the cost such as application fee waivers or adding to a student's stipend.
- The Council discussed the best way to phrase the motion and put forth a motion: Graduate students are required to submit a course-by-course NACES evaluation as an application completion item (Dyson, Johnson) Approved.
- *Informational item: Updates to the Catalog regarding the retroactive withdrawal process for graduate students*
  - Currently the Catalog directs graduate students to the Students First Office (for undergraduate students); the Catalog will be updated to direct students to contact the Graduate School regarding retroactive withdrawal.
- *Discussion item: Clarifying the process of setting course level by course number and also discussing impact on funding. Why do we require courses at 750+ level to be doctoral only?*
  - This item was tabled for a future meeting as information gathering is still occurring; Jodi Pettazzoni reported that there is a meeting on December 16 related to this issue and that she will share updates with the Policy Committee.

11:53      **VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No Report**

11:55      **VIII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Vidya Gargeya**

Vidya Gargeya reported that the chairs recently met with the Provost; the Provost discussed incorporating equity, diversity, and inclusion into teaching, research, and service. Provost Storrs also discussed professional track faculty and arrangements for their employment and promotion. Vidya stated that professional track faculty are roughly equivalent in number to tenure track faculty and that he would welcome data regarding the number of courses taught and student credit hours generated by professional track faculty.

12:05 pm    **IX.    New Business/Other**

12:30       **X.    Adjournment**—Adjourned early at 12:11 pm