

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

Friday, December 2, 2022 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

**Members of the Graduate Council Present:**

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Seth Armah     | Vidya Gargeya        |
| Diane Gill     | Brad Johnson         |
| Alicia Kaplan  | Dennis LaJeunesse    |
| Salih Rakap    | Paul Steimle         |
| Selima Sultana | Robert Wells         |
| Terry Chavis   | Alexander Grindstaff |

**Members of the Graduate Council Absent:**

Aaron Beveridge      Jennifer Park

**Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:**

Greg Bell      Graduate School  
Jodi Pettazoni      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.  | <p><b>I.      Approval of Minutes from November 11, 2022</b></p> <p>Motion to approve November 11, 2022 minutes (Johnson, Wells). Minutes approved.</p>   |
| 11:03       | <p><b>II.     Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana</b></p> <p>Chair Sultana stated that she and Dean Bell are in communication regarding the next Graduate Faculty Meeting &amp; Forum.</p>   |
| 11:13       | <p><b>III.    Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell</b></p> <p>Dean Bell reported that the spring enrollment is down by 164 students compared to this time last year, which represents a 5% decrease. He stated that the end of the fall semester is a busy time for graduate students and that they may forget to register over the winter break. Dean Bell encouraged Council members to reach out to their advisees to assist with registration and help students avoid issues with late registration.</p> <p>Dean Bell shared that he has been working on the tuition waiver allocation</p> |

process. He sent surveys regarding the need for tuition waivers to deans and associate deans of the academic units. He hopes to provide an update on the tuition waivers in early to mid February. The Graduate School's priority is to support the students already here at the same level of support they received previously, and drastic changes in tuition waiver allocation are not expected. Brad Johnson inquired whether the tuition waivers could be distributed earlier to aid in recruitment, and Dean Bell stated that unfortunately the allocations could not be shared any earlier this year. He is investigating how to improve streamline the fellowship application process but it is challenging given the winter break timeline.

Dean Bell stated that graduate program applications are comparable to this time last year. Only two programs are down by 10 applications or more. One of those programs are proactively recruiting students, and the other program is not affected by the decrease in applications as they had a large increase in applications the previous year. Many other graduate programs have seen increases in applications. The Graduate School is supporting programs who are outreaching to prospective students, and Vidya Gargeya reported that his students have indicated that how they are treated when applying has an impact on where they enroll.

Dean Bell reminded the Council that the fall doctoral hooding ceremony is on December 8 and that Commencement is on December 9. He shared that there will be a change to the graduation ceremonies in Spring 2023. Instead of one graduation ceremony and a doctoral hooding ceremony, there will be an undergraduate ceremony and a graduate ceremony (including master's and doctoral students). The change will allow all graduates to have their names read and cross the stage.

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

Alexander Grindstaff reported that the last GSA meeting was in November. The GSA is currently reviewing funding allocations. Council members are encouraged to check in with their students over the winter break, and the GSA will be reaching out to graduate student senators over the break.

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

- *GCC Information Items (from November 16, 2022 and November 30, 2022 meetings)*

Co-chair Johnson stated that the Graduate Curriculum Committee approved 71 proposals on November 16 and 22 proposals on November 30. Some proposals were approved pending revisions. Co-chair Johnson explained that this will be a pilot year for the extended curriculum deadlines. Vidya Gargeya informed the Council that the GCC has requested several SLO revisions for courses this year and asked Council members to encourage their units to pay close attention to SLOs. Jodi Pettazoni reminded the Council that SLO resources are available on the Curriculum Guide website and that she is happy to provide assistance regarding SLOs.

11:48

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

Chair Steimle reported that the Policies & Procedures Committee met on November 18. Kelly Meris, Director of Graduate School Recruitment & Admissions, attended the meeting and provided the following information about Slate and admission requirements:

- Slate runs on an academic year cycle
- Beginning June 1, admissions changes are made
- The changes go live on July 1 and are in effect for the following Spring, Summer, and Fall
- The Graduate School Admissions team receives requests including
  - Extend application deadline
  - Change entry terms
  - Change supplemental documents such as personal statements or writing samples
  - Change number of recommendations
  - Change entrance exam requirements (such as remove GRE)
- The minimum admission requirements for the Graduate School are an undergraduate transcript and a credential evaluation and English language proficiency exam for international students
- Challenges can arise when the GCC approves an admission requirement change (such as removing the GRE) in the fall semester when students are already being reviewed/admitted for Spring, Summer, and Fall admission for the following year

Jodi Pettazzoni reminded the committee that SACSCOC requires that admission requirements be published. She indicated that the Catalog is the most typical documentation provided to SACSCOC regarding admission requirements. Jodi requested that the Graduate School research which universities do not publish admission requirements in their Catalogs.

The Council discussed that it is important for prospective students to know the admission requirements well in advance but that they would also like to provide flexibility for programs by allowing exceptions when needed. Council members also discussed that programs can recruit prospective students by offering incentives such as paying for all or some of students' application fees. The Council will discuss the topic of admission requirements again next semester.

11:58

**VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee**

Dean Bell reported that there have been no appeals but that he has asked the committee members for input this semester.

12:00 pm

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

Vidya Gargeya stated that the Executive Committee met for a Jackson Library Renovation Engagement session on November 29. The Library is working with a consultant on facility improvements to increase the success of the library.

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

Vidya Gargeya commented on the impact of the new funding model on graduate programs and inquired whether a forum could be held for graduate faculty to share ideas on how to mitigate the impact. He discussed that some programs at other UNC System institutions do not receive UNC System funding and charge much higher tuition and expressed concern regarding the perceived value of programs that charge lower tuition. Jodi Pettazzoni stated that those programs were designed to function without UNC System funding and that it could be difficult to get a tuition increase approved or transition away from UNC System funding.

Dean Bell and Chair Sultana agreed that the new funding model could be discussed at the next Graduate Faculty Meeting and Forum.

12:30      **X.    Adjournment**