

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, February 25, 2022 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Paul Steimle, chair	Brad Johnson
Seth Armah	Muktha Jost
Aaron Beveridge	Alicia Kaplan
Ben Dyson	Dennis LaJeunesse
Vidya Gargeya	Neelofer Qadir
Diane Gill	Salih Rakap
Brad Johnson	Kervins Clement
	Naglaa Rashwan

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Lori Lupe

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:

Lisa Henline University Registrar's Office

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	I. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2022 Motion to approve January 28, 2022 minutes (Gargeya, Johnson). Minutes approved.
11:03	II. Report of the Chair – Paul Steimle—No Report
11:08	III. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell Dean Bell reported that today is the deadline for the Alumni/Excellence/Hayes fellowships. A healthy number of applications for the fellowships have been received. The Graduate School is up in numbers of applications and admits compared to this day last year although the increases are not uniformly distributed across units. The Graduate School is facilitating engagement with admitted students through programs like Graduate Program Ambassadors and is also exploring Graduate School Match. The Minerva Scholars events begin today and are open to all graduate students. Dean Bell stated that budget and funding model discussions are ongoing and acknowledged the challenges faced by departments. The committee

discussed the recent memo regarding professional track faculty contracts being reduced to 1 year. Chair Paul Steimle expressed that the change in contract length impacts the ability of departments to attract professional track faculty and that with fewer professional track faculty departments may assign greater teaching responsibilities to graduate education. The committee discussed drafting a message regarding how the change in professional track faculty contracts will impact graduate education.

11:23 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association—Naglaa Rashwan**

Naglaa Rashwan announced that GSA funding for graduate students opens March 4:

- Professional Development Fund
 - Conference registration or travel; can be used for virtual conferences
 - Up to \$500
- Research Capstone Fund
 - Request for item/service for department/lab
 - Up to \$300

Naglaa Rashwan shared that the GSA has received nominations for the 2022-2023 Executive Board. She also reported that the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, GSA, and SGA are collaborating for a joint forum on mental health and wellness to be held March 16, 3-5 pm.

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

- *GCC Information Items (from February 18, 2022 meeting)*

Co-chair Dennis LaJeunesse stated that 3 items were reviewed at the February 18 GCC meeting. A new PBC in Climate Justice was approved, a program revision was approved for the Workplace Wellness PBC, and a program revision regarding admission requirements was approved for the Computer Science PhD. The GCC also discussed cross-level linked courses and made a plan to review the proposals for 400-level courses that are linked with graduate courses. The GCC will review distinctions between SLOs for the courses.

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

Graduate student relief was previously discussed at the Policy Committee, and Naglaa Rashwan expressed that graduate students are continuing to experience stress and anxiety due to the pandemic. She summarized Dean Bell's point that some students previously experienced inequities regarding the academic relief policy. Some students received satisfactory grades and others received unsatisfactory grades for the same letter grade due to program stipulations and on the basis of prior grades earned. Dean Bell also emphasized that mechanisms such as retroactive withdrawal currently exist to aid students who have experienced extenuating circumstances.

The Graduate Council discussed that graduate students teaching courses have experienced difficulty in providing flexibility on an individual basis to students affected by COVID (compared to previous semesters when there was stronger institutional response/directives). Council members also expressed concern for the impact to programs/disciplines regarding students who have not learned sufficiently during the pandemic.

The Graduate Council supported sending a message to encourage faculty to show empathy and flexibility to graduate students; this will be discussed in a future Policy Committee meeting.

Dean Bell presented an informational item regarding revising the Graduate Council bylaws so that the Associate Dean of the Graduate School is no longer included. He also informed the Graduate Council that the Graduate School is unable to implement the Fresh Start policy of providing a clean slate GPA for students who previously attended the Graduate School. This policy will be revisited by the Policy Committee at a later date.

Jodi Pettazzoni encouraged the Graduate Council to read the Course Instructional Level Tracking document (posted in the February 25 meeting folder in Box) and provide feedback to 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 Faculty Senate Executive Committee recently discussed professional track faculty and plans to issue a resolution. He encouraged the Graduate Council to attend the Faculty Senate meeting on March 2 as Alan Boyette will discuss the new funding model proposed by the UNC System.

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

12:30 **X. Adjournment—Adjourned early at 12:00 pm**