

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2020 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members present: Paul Steimle, Greg Bell, Aaron Beveridge, Kelly Burke, Megan Carlton, Sarah Daynes, Tami Draves, Ben Dyson, Vidya Gargeya, Diane Gill, Courtney Harrington, Nancy Hoffart, Lexi Hoopman, Glenn Hudak, Brad Johnson, Zhi-Jun Liu, Jodi Pettazzoni, Neelofer Qadir, Naglaa Rashwan,

**I. Approval of Minutes from October 30, 2020**

Motion to approve October 30, 2020 meeting minutes (Hoffart, Harrington). Minutes Approved with one recusal.

**II. Report of the Chair – Paul Steimle**

With consent, Chair amended agenda order, move New Business up on the agenda.

**III. Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education – Kelly Burke**

- Graduate Student Relief

Dean Burke advised Council can move into parliamentary procedures at any time. The Senate approved an Undergraduate Relief Policy, students can select to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory up to eight credits in two courses in a semester. The Provost has asked that the Graduate Council mimic the same two courses up to eight credits for graduate students as well. The requests for Incomplete and the Extraordinary Withdrawal Process are still available. A request was made to add to the Grade Relief Policy, the caveat that this extends to two courses.

Discussion followed; graduate students would prefer not to have a cap on the policy but see the need to move this forward quickly. UNCG is one of the few institutions giving grade relief at the graduate level. We can regroup next semester.

Recommendation to extend approved Relief Policy through the spring. Suggestion to raise the limit from eight credits to nine for Graduate Students.

Motion to amend the extension for academic relief for graduate students to a two-course maximum or eight credits maximum, to align with the University Undergraduate Academic Relief Policy, for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. (Gargeya, Hoffart) Motion Approved with three opposed.

It is important for the Graduate Council to be weary of false equivalence in terms of fairness and undergraduate student unrest in response to what graduate students are doing. Council should continue to advocate more substantially on behalf of relief for graduate students.

Dean Burke advised enrollment looks good. The Chancellor's office suggested that we have a student speaker at the Doctoral Ceremony in January. Given the brief timeline, it is suggested Derrick Jones give a speech. Naglaa suggested we also have an International Student speak. Council agreed with both suggestions. Dean Burke asked Council to develop a policy to identify speakers (domestic & international) for every Hooding Ceremony.

#### **IV. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Nancy Hoffart**

- *GCC Information Items (from November 23, 2020 meetings)*

GCC met last week and scheduled an extended meeting December 2 to review proposals for Fall 2021.

#### **V. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Ben Dyson**

- Previously Published Work
- Stacking and Micro-credentialing

Ben shared the Policy Committee had robust discussion earlier in the week, discussed previously published work. Megan will share the Google Doc with the Policy Committee. The goal is to create guidelines, disclosure is important. The Policy Committee will create a policy about copyright to protect students and the University. Dean Burke shared a link to attend a webinar on micro credentialing and digital badging, the session will be recorded if you cannot attend. Greg advised that the Policy would state that students will have to read over the guidelines, this will not get in the way of what departments want to do. Continued discussion about micro credentials and badging. SACSCOC is beginning to discuss badging & micro credentialing

Dean Burke shared we've had our first student used the template; we will put template up for students to start using.

#### **VI. Report of the Student Affairs Committee –**

Dean Burke advised there was an action this semester, it has been concluded.

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

Vidya shared the Faculty Senate met November 10. Some discussion items might impact graduate faculty, equity and standardization for non-tenure track faculty, annual review process for COVID statement. The Provost is working towards a document to share with Deans on what items can be added to the annual review process. Discussion on renaming controversial buildings on campus and potential student fee increase (\$60.00 per student for student health which will go to Student Health Center).

Student academic relief and MAC effective date of 2021 or beyond also discussed.

#### **VIII. New Business/Other**

- Support to graduate students over the long break (especially international students) – Lexi and Naglaa

Naglaa shared that graduate students would experience many challenges over the long break, graduate students do not take a break. International graduate students are especially susceptible to these challenges, as many do not have finances to go home, and have no family here. They are working and isolated and may fall sick. The closing of University buildings also creates additional hardships. The Library is closed from December 12 through January 8, Kaplan Center is also closed. Naglaa asked Council members to advocate for these International Graduate students, create an informal space, etc. Suggestion to ask faculty to include information about internet access in syllabi. Resources on the campus are very siloed, Naglaa is creating a list of resources for students. Suggestion to work with Spartan Open Pantry to create a food drive for graduate students.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (Gargeya, Hoffart).