

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 25, 2020 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 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, Dennis LaJeunesse, Jodi Pettazoni, Neelofer Qadir, Naglaaa Rashwan

I. Approval of Minutes from August 28, 2020

Motion to approve August 28, 2020 minutes (Gargeya, Harrington). Minutes Approved.

II. Report of the Chair – Paul Steimle – No Report

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

Dr. Burke thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work. Final numbers are in and enrollment is up, almost one hundred fifty students, student credit hours are also up. The Graduate School is working on a style guide for the catalog to create consistency.

IV. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Nancy Hoffart

- *GCC Information Items (from September 11, 2020 meeting)*
- *Dance, Post-Baccalaureate Licensure (approved effective Fall 2021, revised effective term: Fall 2020).* Motion to approve (Hoffart, Gargeya). Approved

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

- Stacking Micro-Credentials to Earn a Degree

- Previously Published Work

Ben shared a draft language for Previously Published Works in a Dissertation or Thesis Degree. The intention is to make this as open as possible.

Discussion followed; we should allow departments the flexibility to do what works best for their students. The Policy committee will continue to discuss this.

- Extending the academic relief package for graduate students

Ben advised there is a concern that there is no extension for the academic relief package for graduate students and asked Kelly, Naglaa, and Lexi to speak to Graduate student relief.

Kelly advised the Council of North Carolina Graduate Deans discussed this topic. There is no Graduate School entertaining a relief package for their students at this

time.

Naglaa spoke to the concerns of graduate students and advocated for an extension of the academic relief policy for graduate students for the fall of 2020. There is a worry that the cumulative stress will cause burn out for graduate students. The extension would provide an additional option for these graduate students who are overwhelmed with the current environment.

Lexi agreed that a safety net should be in place for graduate students.

Glenn echoed the concerns of Naglaa and Lexi and shared faculty are experiencing the same.

Discussion followed concerning full-time status requirements. We cannot alter the definition of full-time status because it impacts federal financial aid. However, graduate students have the option to reduce to 6 credit hours and maintain their assistantship and benefits of full-time.

DNP students are making up clinical hours missed since March and are also under an unbearable load. Twenty-two students took advantage of the spring/summer relief package. Advising is an important piece of the relief package.

Tami shared on the undergraduate side; the Academic Policies Committee declined to recommend an academic relief package for fall. There are concerns about time to degree. Tami recommended faculty be patient and flexible with all students.

Discussion concerning upcoming budget cuts. This is a onetime cut.

The spring/summer relief package process was shared with Council. Suggestion to communicate with online program directors about this relief package.

Kelly and Greg can meet with Nagla and Lexi to develop a specific relief package for graduate students.

Discussion concerning dissertation work, extension credits, and master's programs variable credit hours.

Motion to extend the Graduate Student Relief Package through Fall 2020 (Rashwan, Hoopman). Motion Approved. Next step is to share this with graduate faculty for comments and then return to Council for a full vote.

VI. Report of the Student Affairs Committee –

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

VIII. New Business/Other

- Thesis and Dissertation Guide – Greg Bell

Dr. Burke has posted a template in Box and invited faculty and graduate students to test the template.

Our standard meeting time will be extended by fifteen minutes.

IX. Adjournment – 12:35 p.m.

