

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, April 21, 2023 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
MHRA 2711

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Seth Armah	Vidya Gargeya
Diane Gill	Brad Johnson
Dennis LaJeunesse	Salih Rakap
Paul Steimle	Selima Sultana
Robert Wells	Wanda Williams
Terry Chavis	

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Aaron Beveridge	Alexander Grindstaff
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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

Time

Agenda Item

11:00 a.m.

I. rpk GROUP: Mike Daly

Mike Daly reminded the Council that the Provost is holding a town hall on May 2 and that additional updates regarding the academic dashboards will be shared at that time. Mike reported that the data team will be using data extracted after the spring term ends. The first focus is on course data, specifically median class size. Courses with the 6 OC schedule types will be included in this data. For combined classes, the department with the highest enrollment will receive the median class size. The final list of current programs is being updated regarding new and inactive programs. rpk GROUP is working with Human Resources and Institutional Research and utilizing the instructional activity report to indicate different faculty types in the dashboards.

rpk GROUP is also working on an opportunity list of schools that students are choosing other than UNCG. National Clearinghouse data on first-time and transfer students who are accepted at UNCG but enroll elsewhere is being utilized along with data on current UNCG students who transfer elsewhere. The goal is to help UNCG differentiate its offerings from the other schools and help UNCG understand why students are choosing the other schools.

Dean Bell inquired as to whether excess credits beyond degree data would be used in the dashboards, and Mike stated that the data was not consistent

enough to use in the dashboards.

11:15 **II. Approval of Minutes from March 31, 2023**

Motion to approve March 31, 2023 minutes (Gill, LaJeunesse). Minutes approved.

11:18 **III. Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana**

Chair Sultana indicated that she would give her report time to Dean Bell since the Council has a lengthy agenda.

11:28 **IV. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell**

Dean Bell stated that he presented at the General Faculty Assembly that the waiver reallocation process is now complete. He has worked to make the process more transparent and plans to re-examine it on a regular basis (prior to this year the last time it had been re-evaluated was 2007). Dean Bell also updated the General Faculty Assembly that the grading scale may be changing to A, B, C, and F; some faculty responded positively and others have raised objections. The intention of the possible change is to simplify the grading scale and to facilitate working with students placed on academic probation or dismissal. The change would also eliminate the confusion regarding B- grades counting toward master's degree program requirements but not doctoral degree program requirements and the negative impact of B- grades on GPA.

The Graduate School commencement will take place on May 4 and the graduating class consists of 841 students (the largest graduating class yet). Many students will be earning certificates as well as degrees. An additional 200-300 students are expected to graduate in August. Dean Bell encouraged departments to be proactive in communicating with accepted students and to help them get registered for the fall semester.

Dean Bell reported that the Graduate School has returned to in-person events this year and that the 3 Minute Thesis Competition and Showcase went well. Community judges presided over the Showcase and praised the level of scholarship and broad, interdisciplinary focus. Approximately seventy students participated in the Showcase.

Dean Bell also shared the following national trends/concerns for Graduate Schools:

- Looking into ChatGPT and policies
- Decision expected from the Supreme Court in June regarding what can and cannot be considered in admission decisions
- Raising graduate assistant stipends
- Navigating challenging political environments
- Enrollment challenges

Dean Bell stated that the Degree Works analyst position for the Graduate School is being replaced and that many parts of the assistantship process have been automated in Slate. April 15 was the deadline for students to

respond to financial offers but students can enroll late into the summer. The Graduate School will email students who have started applications for Fall 2023 but have not finished the application. Dean Bell explained that almost all students who were nominated for fellowships received a financial offer. Among the 46 fellowships offered to incoming students, 30 students accepted the offers and 10 students are still deciding. Fellowships were offered to continuing students as well. Dean Bell encouraged departments to be active in nominating students next year.

11:43 **V. Report of the Graduate Student Association—Alexander Grindstaff**

Terry Chavis stated that GSA programming has concluded for this academic year and that funding has been distributed. The 2023-2024 Executive Board has been elected and is preparing for the upcoming year. Alexander Grindstaff will continue as President, Terry Chavis will serve as Vice President, Brooks Youngmark will serve as treasurer, and Ashley Loper-Nowak will serve as Student Relations Chair. Terry thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve this year.

11:48 **VI. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Brad Johnson and Dennis LaJeunesse**

- *GCC Information Items (from April 14, 2023 meeting)*
- *Action item: Vote on Request to Establish proposal for MPS in Professional Studies*

The Graduate Council voted and approved the Request to Establish proposal for the MPS in Professional Studies.

- *Action item: Vote on approval for summer curriculum items*

The Graduate Council voted and approved the GCC co-chairs, Brad Johnson and Dennis LaJeunesse, to review/approve curriculum items over the summer (2 recusals).

- *Action item: Vote on syllabus/outline requirement for new course proposals*

The Graduate Council voted and approved the requirement of a syllabus/outline for new course proposals (2 opposed).

11:58 **VII. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee—Paul Steimle**

- *Discussion item: Policy revision to clarify dual bachelor's-master's enrollment*

Dual bachelor's-master's enrollment allows undergraduate students who are not in AMPs to enroll in graduate level courses (provided they have 12 or fewer credit hours to complete their bachelor's degree. Graduate level courses for these students may not be counted toward their bachelor's degree requirements (as is possible when a student is enrolled in an AMP). The committee discussed the policy and determined that the following language is the clearest: "Students who are not matriculated in an accelerated master's program may register for graduate level courses if they have 12 or less credit hours remaining to fulfill the requirements of their bachelor's degree program and are admitted to the graduate

program at UNCG.” The language will be shared with Mary Early in the Graduate School and will be confirmed at a future date.

- *Action item: Vote on policy addition regarding the Graduate Council representative to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee; addition provides a policy and process for determining who will serve in that capacity*

The Council discussed if a vote or consultation is necessary for determining which Graduate Council member will serve as a representative on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The Council determined that the policy should be modified to read “The chair of the Graduate Council or a designated alternative member of the Graduate Council will serve as the representative on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.” The Graduate Council voted and approved the policy addition.

12:13 pm **VIII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No Report**

12:15 **IX. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Vidya Gargeya**

Vidya reported that the rpk GROUP is continuing to work with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

12:25 **X. New Business/Other**

12:30 **XI. Adjournment**

Dean Bell thanked the Council for their hard work and engagement this year, especially in regard to the important work of the policy and curriculum committees. He acknowledged Paul Steimle, who is rolling off the Council, and also Vidya Gargeya, who is retiring after a long and productive career at UNCG. Chair Sultana also thanked the Council. She reminded the Council that the chair-elect will be elected at the Council’s first meeting in August and pledged to work closely with the chair-elect.