

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

Friday, October 27, 2023 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Faculty Center

**Members of the Graduate Council Present:**

Selima Sultana, Chair	Diane Gill
Brad Johnson	Doug Levine
Salih Rakap	Aileen Reid
Gwen Schug	Robert Wells
Wanda Williams	Melody Patterson Zoch
Terry Chavis	

**Graduate School Faculty Fellows Present:**

Sarah Daynes	Hewan Girma
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**Members of the Graduate Council Absent:**

Alexander Grindstaff	Lakshmi Iyer (excused)
Dennis LaJeunesse (excused)	Christian Moraru
	Johnette Walser

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

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

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

Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office
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<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	<b>I. Approval of Minutes from September 29, 2023</b> Motion to approve September 29, 2023 minutes (Wells, Gill). Minutes approved.
11:03	<b>II. Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana</b> Chair Sultana informed the Council that the Chancellor and Provost will be meeting with the Graduate Council on January 26, 2024 and encouraged members to attend if possible. She also reported that the next Graduate Faculty Meeting will take place in late January as it will be more productive to meet at that point in the academic portfolio review process. Chair Sultana stated that she will communicate with the graduate faculty in late November.

11:13

### **III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell**

Dean Bell echoed Chair Sultana's update regarding the Graduate Faculty Meeting in January. He stated that at least 1 Graduate Faculty Meeting is required per year to provide updates and approve policy changes. Dean Bell reported that other meetings related to the academic portfolio review will also take place in January, including Faculty Senate forums.

Dean Bell shared that the Three Minute Thesis finalists will compete next Thursday and that the winner will go on to the regional competition in Greenville, SC.

He also stated that he met recently with the other graduate deans in the UNC System. The UNC System is interested in the system institutions' processes to plan/establish new programs. During the process feedback is solicited from other system institutions, particularly regarding duplication of programs. Jodi Pettazzoni reported that the UNC System is focused on employability, earnings, and debt in regard to graduates of new programs and encouraged the Council to consider this in their discussions. Jodi shares new program proposals from other institutions with the UNCG deans for feedback.

Dean Bell reported that he has been in communication with the deans regarding tuition waivers and plans to distribute the waivers by the end of January.

He updated the Council that the Tuition and Fees Committee recommended a 3% increase in student fees and a 3% increase in out of state student tuition. This amounts to approximately \$48 in fees per semester and approximately \$295 in tuition per semester for out of state graduate students. The increases are expected to generate approximately \$325,000. For the tuition and fee increases to be approved, the Chancellor must make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, who must make recommendations to the Board of Governors (who have final approval). Student forums have been held regarding the increases, and students have also expressed concerns about stipend amounts.

Dean Bell shared that Sarah Daynes and Hewan Girma have been working with University Advancement for a crowdfunding project for Grads Gather at the G, an event to provide a sense of community for students writing theses/dissertations. The funds are intended to enhance the event by providing food or small scholarships to offset the costs of attending. A link will be set up to allow individuals to contribute and the funds are expected to be available for spring or summer of next year.

11:28

### **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Alexander Grindstaff**

Terry Chavis reported that the convergence between the academic portfolio review process and the tuition and fees recommendation has resulted in a busy time for the GSA. He stated that the GSA is holding a student forum regarding tuition and fees with Bob Shea on Monday, October 30, at 4 pm in Sullivan 201. Terry shared that recent student forums have been impactful and have included good representation from international students. Terry also updated the Council that the student

funding window is open and has been extended 2 weeks due to technical issues. The GSA has received a record number of applications for funding during this cycle. The next GSA senate meeting is November 2, and the Programming Committee is looking to partner with departments for their Thanksgiving event.

11:38      **V.      Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Robert Wells**

- *GCC Information Item (from October 20, 2023 meeting)*

Chair Wells reported that biology and history proposals were approved at the October 20 meeting and that the committee has reached out to the chemistry department for clarification regarding prerequisites for CHE 668/768 as well as the differentiation between master's and doctoral level work. He also stated that the first round of electronic review has occurred and another round has just started.

11:48      **VI.      Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Dennis LaJeunesse**

- *School of Education visiting student program*

- Vote on policy change: Applicants to non-degree graduate-level courses in the School of Education that are part of the Institute for Partnerships in Education (IPIE) may provide evidence that they hold a North Carolina Teaching License in lieu of an unofficial transcript for the purposes of enrolling in IPIE courses as a visiting student. Such evidence may include digital images indicating the applicant's name and license number, which can be verified independently if necessary, and indicate that the State has verified that the applicant holds an undergraduate degree. In the case that these students wish to continue in any graduate-level degree program, they will be required to submit an official transcript and, if necessary, a credential evaluation.

Melody Patterson Zoch provided a summary of the policy change, which is intended to make the visiting student application process easier for teachers who are enrolling in this program as continuing education. The change will allow these teachers to apply without transcripts but allows for verification that they hold an undergraduate degree. Motion to approve policy change (Gill, Wells). Policy change approved.

11:58      **VII.      Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No Report**

12:00 pm      **VIII.      Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Selima Sultana**

Chair Sultana stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet on October 30 and that she will provide updates at the November 17 meeting of the Graduate Council. She reported that the committee's agenda includes such items as the academic portfolio review process, a

teaching effectiveness workshop, and the faculty workload policy.

12:30     **IX. Adjournment**