

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, November 17, 2023 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Virtual

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Selima Sultana, Chair	Diane Gill
Lakshmi Iyer	Dennis LaJeunesse
Doug Levine	Brad Johnson
Christian Moraru	Salih Rakap
Aileen Reid	Gwen Schug
Johnette Walser	Robert Wells
Wanda Williams	Melody Patterson Zoch
Terry Chavis	

Graduate School Faculty Fellows Present:

Sarah Daynes

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Alexander Grindstaff

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:

Lisa Henline (excused) University Registrar's Office

Guest:

Maria Hayden Graduate School

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	I. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2023 Motion to approve October 27, 2023 minutes with one amendment regarding attendance (Wells, Schug). Minutes approved (1 recusal).
11:03	II. Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana Chair Sultana reported that the General Faculty Meeting included a discussion regarding the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee's role in the academic portfolio review process. She reviewed the Graduate Council bylaws and emphasized that the goal of the Graduate Council is to promote and improve graduate education. Chair Sultana stated that the Graduate Council's role in curriculum review is to serve as an advisory committee to the Provost and Chancellor, who have final approval on curriculum actions. The Provost and Chancellor will be meeting with the

Graduate Council on January 26 regarding the academic portfolio review process.

11:13 **III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell**

Dean Bell thanked the Council for their support of graduate students and graduate education. He reported that he is working to streamline the graduate assistant process and will share new documents with programs soon. He hopes to resolve some previous issues with I-9 forms and updates may be forthcoming from the Policy Committee regarding remote work for graduate students. Dean Bell is working with deans and associate deans on improving tuition waiver allocation.

He stated that enrollment for the spring is slightly up and encouraged faculty to assist students with advising and registration for the spring. The Graduate School has emailed graduate students to let them know that spring registration is open. The doctoral/master's commencement will take place at 3:30 on December 8. Nominations are now open for the UNCG Graduate Mentoring Award, which is for graduate faculty who have advised a substantial number of students. Faculty nominations for fellowships are also opening soon, and nominations are also open for outstanding thesis and dissertation awards.

Dean Bell encouraged the Council to attend the special meeting with the Provost and Chancellor on January 26 and also shared that the Provost and Chancellor will be meeting with graduate students on November 28, 2-3:30 pm, in the School of Education building.

11:28 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Alexander Grindstaff**

Terry Chavis shared updates regarding the Graduate Student Association:

- The GSA will hold a Graduate Student Thanksgiving event on November 20
 - Graduate assistant supervisors can also attend and receive thank you cards to write to their students as well as gift bags they can use for their own gifts
- On November 29 the GSA will hold a Winter Break Self Care Kit Drop In Event
- GSA Senate meetings will resume again in February
- The Treasurer and Finance Committee are currently reviewing funding applications

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

- *GCC Information Item (from November 10, 2023 meeting)*
- *Cross-level 600 and 700 level courses*

Chair Wells thanked Dennis LaJeunesse for chairing the GCC meeting in his absence. He reported that the GCC approved the new course CHE 668 but rejected CHE 768 due to concerns about differentiation between master's and doctoral levels of instruction. Chair Wells expects there to be an ongoing conversation regarding 600 and 700 level courses. Over 30 proposals were approved, some pending revisions, but most revisions

have been completed. For future meetings where at least 40 proposals will be discussed, close readers will be assigned.

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

- *Admission deferrals*

Chair LaJeunesse updated the Council that the Graduate School plans to change the process of allowing students to defer admission to another term. The new practice for students who do not want to come the term they are admitted will be to give them a credit to apply for a new term and transfer their application materials to that term.

- *GPA requirement for graduation/possible Fresh Start policy*

Chair LaJeunesse shared that the Policy Committee has been discussing the GPA requirement of 3.0 for graduation and that currently all graduate courses are included in the GPA calculation. There has been discussion of only including courses on the Plan of Study in the calculation (a practice utilized by some other institutions) but there has been concern that students might take extra courses and only include the courses with good grades on their Plan of Study. The Policy Committee is aware that other policies, such as regarding probation/dismissal, are related as well, and they have considered creating policies for grade replacement and/or Fresh Start. Maria Hayden, Director of Enrolled Student Services for the Graduate School, reported that grade replacement or Fresh Start policies could be implemented in Banner by using exclusion codes on transcripts. She stated that only including Plan of Study courses in the GPA would also be possible but more challenging to manage and would require assistance from programs.

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 reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee discussed the following topics in their last meeting:

- Academic portfolio review
- Provost and Chancellor communications with faculty
- General Faculty Meeting and budget discussion
- Faculty Realignment Incentive Program

12:30 **IX. Adjournment**