

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

Friday, January 19, 2024 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Faculty Center

**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
Alexander Grindstaff	Terry Chavis

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

Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office
Rachel Olsen	University Libraries
Jodi Pettazzoni	Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning

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

Greg Bell	Graduate School
-----------	-----------------

**Guest:**

Stephen Tate	Mathematics and Statistics
--------------	----------------------------

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	<b>I. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2023</b> Motion to approve November 17, 2023 minutes (Gill, Wells). Minutes approved.
11:03	<b>II. Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana</b> Chair Sultana provided updates on the academic portfolio review process timeline. She stated that the Faculty Senate has raised concerns about the process not following the UNCG Constitution. A variety of APR forums are ongoing, and the Provost and Chancellor will meet with the Graduate Council on January 26. Chair Sultana will continue to share APR information with the Graduate Council as it is received.

11:13

**III. Planning for Meeting with Provost and Chancellor on January 26**

The Graduate Council members discussed the programs recommended for discontinuation and the statement from the Provost that she may recommend additional programs for discontinuation. Chair Sultana has shared contextual documents and will continue to provide more information from the Faculty Senate as well as any information that can be directly obtained from the Deans. Council members expressed concern regarding data integrity and lack of clarity of in the criteria used in recommending programs for discontinuation. Faculty from academic units such as the School of Nursing, School of Education, and the Bryan School of Business and Economics stated that the APR process within their units was transparent and involved stakeholders. Some faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences reported a lack of transparency, particularly Stephen Tate from Mathematics and Statistics. He stated that his department was previously told their programs were not under consideration for discontinuation and then were asked for a contextual statement shortly before being added to the list of programs recommended for discontinuation. Council members also expressed concern regarding how remaining departments will be able to operate without eliminated departments (especially considering interdisciplinary programs). Council members inquired as to the financial impact of discontinuing programs and what would happen to the resources of discontinued programs.

The Council discussed their advisory role in the APR process and stated that it is important to preserve shared governance. Council members will contribute to an online document to collect comments/questions to be addressed for the January 26 meeting. They discussed obtaining further information from the Deans regarding how the decisions were made to recommend specific programs for discontinuation.

11:28

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

Alexander Grindstaff shared a letter from the Graduate Student Association to the Graduate Council. GSA members have requested to attend the January 26 meeting with the Graduate Council.

Terry Chavis reported that the next GSA Senate meeting is February 1. He stated that GSA members have expressed concern with the lack of transparency in the APR process.

11:38

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

- *GCC Information Item (from January 12, 2024 meeting)*

Chair Wells stated that 106 proposals were on the January 12, 2024 GCC agenda. Almost all of the proposals were approved, some pending revisions, and a few were tabled. Some proposals that have already been reviewed by committee members will be voted on electronically.

- 11:48      **VI.    Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Dennis LaJeunesse**  
The Policies and Procedures Committee will meet again on February 1, 2024.
- 11:58      **VII.   Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No Report**
- 12:00 pm   **VIII. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell**  
No report due to Dean Bell being delayed by a previous meeting.
- 12:15      **IX.    Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Selima Sultana**  
Chair Sultana stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has focused on the APR process and that she will continue sharing information as it becomes available.
- 12:30      **X.    Adjournment**