

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, February 23, 2024 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Faculty Center

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

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

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Alexander Grindstaff Lakshmi Iyer (excused)

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

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

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	<p>I. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2024</p> <p>Motion to approve January 19, 2024 minutes (Wells, Johnson). Minutes approved.</p>
11:03	<p>II. Report of the Chair – Selima Sultana</p> <p>Chair Sultana thanked the Graduate Council members for their participation in the January 26th meeting with the Chancellor and Provost. She stated that the Graduate Council reviewed the APR materials and had a good discussion. Chair Sultana thanked the Council for coming to a consensus and sharing a resolution with the Provost.</p>
11:13	<p>III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell</p> <p>Dean Bell echoed Chair Sultana's gratitude for the Council's work and feedback on the APR process. He reported that Dean Hamilton and Jodi Pettazzoni are leading the associate deans in developing teachout plans for the discontinued programs. The teachout plans will make sure students can be successful and will also determine which courses need to be offered and when they should be offered. UNCG has expressed a commitment to financially support students in discontinued programs</p>

provided they are making satisfactory progress, and waivers/stipends will continue. Increased flexibility regarding substitutions and waivers may be needed as impacted students complete their programs.

Dean Bell stated that Heather Bishop (previously the Assistant Director of Admissions in the Graduate School) will now work in a position focused on Slate. Sonia Martin has retired and Amy Masters (formerly in CVPA) will be replacing her as an Admissions Specialist.

Dean Bell reported that the APR process delayed discussion regarding graduate student financial support but the process is under way now. The graduate assistantship process will return to Spartan Talent but Slate will work in the background. For students whose funding is being renewed, the hiring proposal deadline is May 1, and for new students the deadline is June 1. Having staggered deadlines will assist the Graduate School staff processing the hiring paperwork. Dean Bell reminded the Council that April 15 is the date when new students are asked to respond to financial offers of support (nothing is binding until that date).

Dean Bell stated that the First Day Complete program is being implemented for graduate students in Fall 2024. Students will pay a fee based on their credit hours for course materials, and they can opt out of the program if desired. The program shows students a comparison of the First Day Complete cost versus the cost of their course materials, so it is important that instructors make sure the correct course materials are listed online. Students who miss the opt-out deadline can opt out late but may run into complications. Rachel Olsen expressed concern about how the First Day Complete program affects movements for open access/resources and recommended that students proceed with caution regarding the program. Council members asserted that an option to opt in rather than having to opt out would be more beneficial for graduate students. Rachel also reported that students in discontinued programs have been expressing confusion about the courses that will be offered for their programs.

Dean Bell reminded the Council that the fellowship process is underway. Several fellowships are offered, some of which are flexible and some of which have specific stipulations. All fellowships require nominations from programs and input from graduate faculty committees. The Alumni Excellence Hayes Fellowship nomination deadline is next week, and all other fellowships have a deadline of March 13. Most fellowships do not automatically renew. Nominations generally come from graduate program directors, and the fellowships are discussed in the GPD meetings.

Dean Bell announced that the Graduate Showcase will be held on April 4, 2024. Approximately 71 students are participating, which is approaching the pre-pandemic numbers of around 100 students. The students' presentations are focused on communication to general audiences and the impact of their work, and external community judges are participating. Sarah Daynes is organizing the Graduate Showcase.

Chair Sultana inquired about the new funding model and how international students are impacted. Dean Bell reminded the Council that the new funding model provides the same amount in appropriations for student credit hours regardless of whether the courses are undergraduate

or graduate (STEM courses receive greater appropriations). Only NC resident student credit hours receive appropriations.

- 11:28 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Alexander Grindstaff**
- Terry Chavis provided an update from the Graduate Student Association. He stated that graduate students prefer opting in to the First Day Complete program rather than having to opt out. Terry reported that the GSA will plan how to communicate with graduate students about the program, and Rachel Olsen offered to help students who experience difficulties as the Library has assisted undergraduate students in that situation.
- Terry shared that the GSA funding window will be open March 1-15 and that a large number of applications is anticipated. He explained that the review process of applications has been revised so that students with errors on their applications are not sent to the back of the line.
- Terry also reported that GSA Executive Board elections are now open and that students can self-nominate or being nominated by others. He stated that he and Alexander are undecided if they will continue on the Executive Board. Voting is taking place through Spartan Connect, and March 14 is the deadline.
- 11:38 **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Robert Wells**
- *GCC Information Items (from February electronic vote)*
- Chair Wells reported that the GCC meeting scheduled for February 16 was cancelled due to not enough members being able to attend to achieve a quorum. Instead, the GCC voted electronically on the 57 proposals, all of which were approved. Nineteen approvals were approved pending SLO revisions or further information regarding demand for new programs. Chair Wells has been in communication with departments regarding the approved pending proposals and revisions are already in process. An informational item regarding credit hour revisions for courses in the Nurse Anesthesia concentration was also shared; some of the courses will be variable credit hour until the current students in the program graduate. Two other rounds of electronic review have also been completed since the committee met last.
- 11:48 **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Dennis LaJeunesse**
- *Policy revisions*
 - *Specific Requirements for Thesis Students*
 - *Admission to Candidacy*
 - *Satisfactory Progress Toward Degree*
 - The Council discussed that the policy revision indicates that students may (as opposed to must) be placed on academic probation if they do not achieve candidacy within 3 years. Maria Hayden clarified that the 3 years requirement applies to all doctoral students (regardless of whether a master's program

is embedded in the PhD program), and that the clarification actually provides more time for such students. Dean Bell reiterated that departments can indicate in program handbooks if they have different expectations.

- *Academic Standing*
- *Summary of Requirements for Master's Degrees*
- Chair LaJeunesse discussed the proposed policy revisions, most of which are aligning policy with current practices and clarifying current policies. The Council put forth a motion to approve all of the policy revisions except the Academic Standing policy revision (Schug, Wells). The motion was approved. The Council recommended that the final two bullet points of the Academic Standing Policy be revised to read “if the student earns three grades of B-, C+, C, F, U, or any combination thereof” and “if the student earns two grades of F or U.”
- The Council discussed that the revised policies will apply to all students (effective 2024-2025) and that Dean Bell will take the policy revisions to the Graduate Faculty.

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

12:00 pm **VIII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Selima Sultana**
No report; the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meets the following week.

12:30 **IX. Adjournment**