

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, October 18, 2024 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Faculty Center

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Dennis LaJeunesse, Chair	Salih Rakap
Ben Dyson	Aileen Reid
Diane Gill	Gwen Schug
Lakshmi Iyer	Robert Wells
Brad Johnson	Wanda Williams
Etusko Kinefuchi (for Marianne LeGreco)	Melody Patterson Zoch
Vladislav Maksimov	Terry Chavis
Christian Moraru	

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Yolanda Ikazoboh

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
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<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	I. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2024 Motion to approve September 13, 2024 minutes (Wells, Dyson). Minutes approved.
11:03	II. Report of the Chair—Dennis LaJeunesse Chair LaJeunesse stated that he did not have much to report but that he was aware of concerns related to IRB approvals (specifically reported by Ben Dyson as a representative of the School of Health and Human Sciences). Dean Bell reported that Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Sherine Obare is aware of the concerns. Chair LaJeunesse offered to send an email on the Council's behalf. Several members of the Council shared concerns regarding students' progression in their programs and ability to graduate. Council members also expressed concerns regarding students being unable to use appropriate data sources. Other

Council members stated that an exemption form is newly available and that personnel issues are partially related to the lengthier approval timeline. Aileen Reid recommended meeting with the IRB staff as a way to move things along more quickly. Lakshmi Iyer and Vladislav Maksimov reported that they received an email from the Dean of the Bryan School stating that a revised IRB process will be available in mid-Spring 2025. Etusko Kinefuchi also stated that FAQs on the IRB website would be helpful as the current IRB instructions are vague and may include unstated expectations.

11:15 **III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell**

Dean Bell reported that the first Graduate Roundtables took place last week and that AI is a huge topic of concern. The faculty have expressed reluctance to work with AI because it changes so quickly. AI has been discussed by the Policy Committee, and they want to ask faculty to be explicit in their syllabi regarding how you can/cannot use AI and how to cite AI when it is used. Lakshmi Iyer stated that the Bryan School has AI guidelines but that they have seen students use AI as they want to. The Council expressed a desire for faculty education on AI, and Jodi Pettazzoni volunteered to reach out to UTLC to see what resources they can provide to the full graduate faculty. A University committee has developed an AI addendum for the academic integrity policy but it needs to be signed by the Chancellor.

Dean Bell shared that the Chancellor has asked the Graduate School to establish new enrollment projections for Spring 2025-Fall 2027. Dean Bell is working with the associate deans of the academic units to establish ambitious but realistic projections.

Dean Bell reported that an ETS Zoom session will be offered next Tuesday on holistic admission rubrics.

Dean Bell stated that the 3MT preliminary rounds will take place in the next two weeks and the final round will be on November 5.

Dean Bell informed the Council that the Graduate School is piloting two initiatives to simplify the admissions process. One is a direct admission process where exceptional UNCG undergraduate students can be fast-tracked to admission before applying. The other initiative involves the Graduate School working with programs with specific admission criteria. The Graduate School will work to verify whether applicants meet the specific criteria so they can rule out some applicants before passing them on to the graduate program director (to lessen the workload for the program).

11:30 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Terry Chavis**

Terry Chavis stated that the funding window opened on October 11 and will remain open until November 1. Thirty applications have been received so far. Drop-ins will be available over Teams in the next few weeks.

Terry followed up on a budget question from the previous meeting and stated that this year's GSA budget is very similar to last year's budget (just \$2 less).

Terry reported that GSA upcoming programs include Graduate Student Thanksgiving and Winter Break Self Care Kit. GSA requests faculty support for the Thanksgiving event and has appreciation cards and gift bags they can provide to departments.

Terry stated that the Tuition and Fees Committee has proposed an increase in fees across the board and a proposed 3% increase in tuition for non-resident students (undergraduate and graduate). Part of the reasoning for the increases is to support federally mandated salary increases but the GSA has expressed concern there has been little increase in GA stipends.

Terry shared that graduate student morale is low and that low faculty morale is a related concern. Lakshmi Iyer reported that the Bryan School is matching GSA funding awarded to their students. The Council discussed that graduate students need to contact Accounts Payable to be added to Chrome River to be able to receive GSA funding.

11:40 **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Robert Wells**

- *GCC Information Items (from October 3-10 electronic vote)*

Chair Wells reported that the GCC did not meet in September due to a low number of agenda items. The GCC reviewed 4 proposals electronically October 3-10 and approved all of the proposals (a minor program revision for the Psychology PhD and 3 ISM course revisions related to prerequisites).

11:50 **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Brad Johnson**

- *Bylaws revision related to ex-officio membership on subcommittees*
 - The Council put forth a motion to update the Graduate Curriculum Committee text in the bylaws to clearly state that a representative from the Office of Assessment and Accreditation will serve on the Graduate Curriculum Committee (Iyer, Schug). Motion approved.
- *Removal of Master's Doctoral Track Permission to Proceed policy*
 - The Council put forth a motion to remove the Master's Doctoral Track Permission to Proceed policy (Iyer, Williams). Motion approved.
- *Removal of IP Grade policy*

The Council discussed the proposed removal of the IP Grade policy and was generally in favor. Several members emphasized that it will be important for faculty to be aware that 1 grade of U will not impact a student negatively but that 2 grades of U will require a student to sit out. The Council discussed possibly including additional text regarding S and U grades for thesis and dissertation courses. The Council felt it would be important to bring the information to the full graduate faculty before any changes are made. The Policy Committee will revisit the policy and

proposed changes before bringing it to the full graduate faculty.

12:00 pm **VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No report**

12:05 pm **VIII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Dennis LaJeunesse**

Chair LaJeunesse stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee discussed the strategic planning of graduate program review, which is being coordinated by the academic unit deans. The committee also discussed university marshal selection and will meet again the following Tuesday.

12:30 **IX. Adjournment**