Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
Friday, September 13, 2024 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Faculty Center

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

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

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Salih Rakap	Melody Patterson Zoch

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

Greg Bell	Graduate School

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:

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

Time		**Agenda Item**
11:00 a.m.	**I.**	**Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2024**

Motion to approve April 12, 2024 minutes (Gill, Johnson). Minutes approved.

| 11:03 | **II.** | **Report of the Chair and Best Practices Presentation—Dennis LaJeunesse** |

Chair LaJeunesse welcomed the Council and introduced himself; self-introductions followed. Chair LaJeunesse provided a Best Practices presentation that covered the subcommittees of the Graduate Curriculum Committee, Policies and Procedures Committee, and Appeals Committee. He reviewed member expectations and the meeting flow.

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

Dean Bell welcomed the Council and expressed appreciation for their service. He stated that graduate student enrollment is up by 9 students compared to the previous year, and that the enrollment goal was exceeded

by 25 students. The enrollment of new graduate students has increased, and the enrollment of part-time graduate students has increased while the full-time enrollment has decreased. Over 5000 graduate applications were received, which may be the highest yearly total yet.

Registration for the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition opens next week. The 3MT competition is an opportunity for students to showcase their work to a broader audience. Usually about 30 students participate, including 10 finalists. The winner goes to a regional competition, and there is also a national competition.

Thesis and dissertation awards, which are funded as fellowships, will be recognized this fall.

This December, a doctoral hooding ceremony will be held in the UNCG auditorium. Masters's students will participate in commencement with undergraduate students. In May 2025, master's and doctoral students will have their own commencement again since larger numbers of graduates are expected.

Degree Works is now available for master's and certificate students who are on the 24-25 catalog year. Students on previous catalog years will continue to use paper forms for degree clearance. The Council discussed the workflows for degree clearance and that curriculum modification forms are still available as needed. Programs are encouraged to change their curricula if they are making frequent substitutions. The Council also discussed assigned advisees that appear in Degree Works (including some students who have graduated).

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

Terry stated that the first GSA meeting of the semester was held on September 5. GSA will be reaching out to departments that still need senators. The GSA voted for the vice president and treasurer, and now the GSA has a full executive board.

The GSA funding window for July 1-December 31 funding will be open October 11-25. The GSA website includes resources on how to apply, and drop-in hours for assistance will be held (will be advertised in the GSA newsletter). GSA committee assignments are being set for the upcoming year.

Terry reported that he recently had a 1-on-1 meeting with Chancellor Gilliam, and that he will meet monthly with Chancellor Gilliam and also with Dean Bell. The GSA is working to improve visibility on campus and support departments who need help.

The Council inquired about the funding for the GSA, which comes from tuition and fees. Terry shared that 75% of GSA funding goes to professional development/research funding, and that small percentages are allocated for executive board salaries, programming, and leadership funds for the executive board.

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

- *GCC Information Items (from August 30, 2024 meeting)*

Chair Wells reported that 1 course revision and 2 program revisions were approved at the August 30, 2024 meeting. A few program revisions were also approved by Chair Wells over the Summer 2024 term.

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

- *Updates from September 6, 2024 meeting*

Chair Johnson stated that the Policies and Procedures Committee discussed their agenda for the semester/upcoming year at the September 6 meeting. The committee discussed an AI policy for graduate students as well as comprehensive exams for doctoral students (specifically regarding the conditional pass determination). The committee expects to discuss these topics in future meetings. Enrolled Student Services is identifying a list of policies for review based on the most frequent requests for exemptions or exceptions.

Chair Johnson shared that he approved minor updates over the summer:

- The minimum standard is that an official transcript from the degree-granting institution is required (programs can request additional transcripts if desired)

- GPA requirements for certificates:
  - A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all courses counting towards the certificate and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all graduate-level courses.

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—**No report since the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet for the first time this year next week
12:30	**IX.**	**Adjournment**