

Graduate Council
GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Friday, April 11, 2025 • 11:00 a.m.
Faculty Center

Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee Present:

Robert Wells, chair Vladislav Maksimov
Salih Rakap, chair elect Melody Patterson Zoch
Diane Gill Gwen Schug
Dennis LaJeunesse

Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee Absent (excused):

Lakshmi Iyer
Marianne LeGreco
Wanda Williams

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Guests:

Joi Bulls
Ben Dyson
Carl Mattacola

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Approval of March 21, 2025 minutes

Motion to approve March 21, 2025 minutes (LaJeunesse, Rakap).

II. Old Business

College of Visual and Performing Arts

School of Theatre

01.	Course:	THR 642 Scenic Automation and Technology
	Request:	New course
	Eff. Term:	Fall 2026
<i>Motion/action: (Rakap, Maksimov) Table for clarification regarding differentiation between expectations for undergraduate and graduate students and SLO revisions</i>		
<i>Department response: See revised SLOs and attached document from department</i>		
<i>Motion/action: (Gill, LaJeunesse) Approved pending SLO revision</i>		

III. New Business – Programs

College of Visual and Performing Arts

School of Music

02.	Program:	Music Theory Pedagogy, P.M.C. (Key 221)
	Request:	Change program requirements
	Eff. Term:	Fall 2026
<i>Motion/action: (Rakap, Schug) Approved (1 recusal)</i>		

School of Health and Human Sciences

03.	Program:	Occupational Therapy, O.T.D. (Key 979)
	Request:	New program – Request for Preliminary Authorization
	Eff. Term:	Fall 2026
<i>Motion/action (Schug, LaJeunesse) Tabled for more information</i>		

Dean Carl Mattacola provided a brief introduction of the program, which is a three-year professional doctorate program, somewhat similar to a doctorate in physical therapy (DPT). Melody Patterson Zoch inquired if the occupational therapy field is moving toward doctoral practitioners, and Dean Mattacola indicated that it is somewhat and that there may be a recommendation for doctoral practice in the future. Dean Bell asked if there would be a master’s option for students not completing the doctorate, and Dean Mattacola reported that a master’s option would not be available. Jodi Pettazzoni inquired about the size of the investment for UNCG and the expected return on investment. Dean Mattacola stated that it would be a moderate investment and that based on the anticipated

enrollment of at least 20 students a year (possibly 30-40) the program could pay for the faculty and staff within 3-4 years.

The committee expressed concerns about the proposal given the level of scrutiny it will receive when submitted to the UNC System and when reviewed by other UNC System institutions. The committee formulated a list of questions/requests for the department to strengthen the proposal:

- In the Chancellor's email to the UNCG community describing the 1.99% budget reduction, he cited enrollment trends and the uncertain political situation as contributing to the decision to reduce the budget. Given that these challenges affect UNCG and the system, why is this the right time to make an investment of this size?
- Please provide national data on enrollment/enrollment trends, graduation rates, and employment (specifically the employment of doctoral practitioners compared to master's practitioners). Data on the ECU program (such as number of applicants, admits, and students enrolled) would be helpful.
- Committee members noted that the OTD was popular 10 years ago but that popularity has declined. They noted this may be due to employment trends that do not favor doctoral recipients over master's recipients. What is the market value of an OTD?
- Using the Degree Progression, break down the credits as lecture, lab, practicum, etc.
- Please provide evidence of consultation with the following departments: Kinesiology, Community and Therapeutic Recreation, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Biology.
- What courses from other departments will be required?
- What will happen if the program does not receive all 5 requested faculty lines? Will faculty be 9 months or 12 months?
- What will happen if the program enrolls fewer than the expected 20 students? Include a contingency plan should expected revenue not materialize or should costs exceed estimates.
- What is the institutional commitment to allocate the Moore Building to OTD?

IV. Approval for Summer Curriculum Proposals

A motion was made for the GCC chair-elect, Salih Rakap, to review/approve on behalf of the GCC any urgent curriculum proposals that may arise over the summer (LaJeunesse, Gill). The motion was approved with 1 recusal.