

*Graduate Council*  
**GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA**  
Friday, September 5, 2025 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
MHRA 2711

**Members of the Graduate Council Present:**

Ben Dyson, Chair	Vladislav Maksimov
Rick Barton	Salih Rakap
Steve Fordahl (for Jocelyn Smith Lee)	Gwen Schug
Dora Gicheva	Jin Su
Brad Johnson	Robert Wells
Dennis LaJeunesse	Wanda Williams
Marianne LeGreco	Nooshin KianvashRad

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

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

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	<p><b>I. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2025</b></p> <p>Motion to approve April 25, 2025 minutes (Rakap, LaJeunesse). Minutes approved (4 recusals).</p>
11:03	<p><b>II. Report of the Chair and Orientation to Graduate Council—Ben Dyson</b></p> <p>Chair Dyson welcomed the Council and introduced himself; self-introductions followed. Chair Dyson provided an orientation to the Graduate Council that covered attendance, meeting materials, rules of order, and guidelines. He also provided a brief overview of the subcommittees.</p>
11:25	<p><b>III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Greg Bell</b></p> <p>Dean Bell thanked the Council for their time and service. He reported that graduate student enrolled is up 6.4% this year and that a total of 3816 graduate students is enrolled as of the census date. Dean Bell stated that the growth has mainly been in master's programs and certificates and that doctoral programs have been stable as they are mostly dependent on funding. He shared that there has been an 11.4% decrease in international students (39 students). Council members inquired about international students defending their dissertation online if they have to leave the country (Dean Bell confirmed that students can defend online) and also expressed concern about international student enrollment while finishing their dissertations. Dean Bell stated that Maria Anastasiou will attend the next GPD meeting, and he will share updates. He also indicated that the</p>

Policy Committee is reviewing the policy that requires students to be enrolled in their final term before graduation.

Dean Bell expressed that a challenge for the Graduate School is that the non-resident graduate student tuition waiver budget has been reduced by 7.8%, which is approximately \$274,000 for UNCG and \$3.5 million across the UNC System. Dean Bell stated that he can once a year move funds from the resident graduate student bucket to the non-resident graduate student bucket to balance things out, but there will be an overall reduction in funding. The Council discussed encouraging non-resident students to become NC residents if possible.

Dean Bell discussed that the academic relief policies are now in place and also the policy that requires a grade of S or U for 699 and 799 at the end of the term, which will clearly communicate to students how they are progressing. He reported that both master's and doctoral students from Fall 2024 on can now use Degree Works, which will help with degree clearance. The Council raised some questions about changes to loan eligibility, and Dean Bell will share further details.

11:40      **IV.      Report of the Graduate Student Association – Nooshin KianvashRad**

Nooshin thanked the Council for their support and shared that Thanksgiving and Self-Care events will be coming up later this semester. She stated that finances are a big concern for graduate students and that students' mental health is being impacted. Nooshin shared an idea about partnering with companies for collaborations as sources of external funding. She also stated that Outdoor Adventures will host a GSA event at Piney Lake on October 3. Nooshin expressed concern that health insurance through UNCG could become mandatory for all students.

11:50      **V.      Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Salih Rakap**

- *GCC Information Items (from May 2, 2025 and August 22, 2025 meetings)*

Chair Rakap reported that the GCC had its first meeting of the academic year on August 22, and he led the committee in an orientation. The committee approved 6 course revision proposals and elected Melody Patterson Zoch as the chair-elect. He also shared that the committee approved 6 proposals at their May 2 meeting.

12:00 pm      **VI.      Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Brad Johnson**

- *Updates from August 29, 2025 meeting*
  - Discussion about acceptability of 3-year (<120-hour) bachelor's degrees for Graduate Study at UNCG
    - Chair Johnson stated that the committee discussed the 90-100 hour bachelor's degrees now available at some schools, including the University of Maine system. The consensus was that the Graduate School would not take action on their policies at this time, especially while changes are coming to UNCG's accreditation.

- Jodi discussed that UNCG will not be adding 90-100 hour degrees at this time, especially since SACSCOC does not allow them to be called bachelor's degrees. The Council discussed that if 90-100 hour degrees are accepted for graduate study in the future this could change the acceptance of international bachelor's degrees. The Policy Committee had discussed that the transcript evaluation by the graduate programs is important in terms of admissions. The 120 hours required for a bachelor's degree has thus far allowed for breadth in education.
- Proposed policy revisions:
  - Students may be admitted to and graduate from a certificate program in the same academic term.
  - Students pursuing only a certificate may be exempt from enrollment in their final semester if all requirements for their certificate are met.
    - Dean Bell discussed that the previous policies were based on technical system limitations for certificates.
    - The Council put forth a motion to revise the policies regarding certificates as stated above (LaJeunesse, Barton). Motion approved.

12:10 pm      **VII.    Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No report**

12:15 pm      **VIII.   Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Ben Dyson**

Chair Dyson reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee also discussed the increase in enrollment (18,701 students enrolled as of census) and the decrease in funding for non-resident graduate student tuition waivers. Chair Dyson stated the committee was informed of the request from the Greensboro Reporter for all of UNCG's syllabi.

12:30        **IX.    Adjournment**

Marianne LeGreco invited interested Council members and other faculty to attend a meeting of the College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Faculty on September 15 at 1:30 pm in Ferguson 118. The group will be discussing multidisciplinary programs such as certificates.