

Gainful Employment and will compare the earnings of those with graduate degrees to those with undergraduate degrees

- Outcomes will be measured 4 years after graduation
- Graduate programs where alumni are not outearning undergraduates could lose eligibility for student loans
- There were discussions of academic freedom and free speech
 - Other states have received syllabi requests and one state has been required to publish faculty CV online
- There was discussion of including a disclosure statement on dissertations to indicate that generative AI was used
 - There may be other challenges such as the use of generative AI for online students completing comprehensive exams
- There was discussion of the poor job market for graduate students
- Putting students first and preparing them for diverse careers was emphasized, and Dean Bell praised UNCG for their efforts in these areas

Dean Bell reminded the Council that the next fellowship deadline is today, February 27, and the final round is due March 27.

Dean Bell stated that the Graduate School is paying the lower-level health insurance for doctoral candidates and students at the end of their MFAs as an incentive for candidacy.

Dean Bell reported that the Graduate Research and Creativity Showcase will be held in the EUC on April 9 at 1 pm. Ninety-eight students are signed up, which is close to the highest total ever and is double the number that have signed up since COVID.

The Master's/Doctoral Commencement will be on Thursday, May 7, at 10 am.

Dean Bell shared that Degree Works has been rolled out for all programs, and the rollout has identified some programs that are allowing courses to be repeated even though the courses are not set up to be repeated. The Graduate School is working on resolving these issues and is also looking into the approval method for independent study courses.

Dean Bell reported that applications are up a little from this time last year. International applications are down (as across the nation), but UNCG has admitted a similar number of students. International students who have indicated intent to enroll is higher than this time last year, which may be due to the long time it takes for visa approval.

Chair Dyson inquired about the availability of funding for summer, and Dean Bell stated that he has unused tuition waiver funds that he has allocated to academic units for research. He has asked the units to provide lists of students who need funding for summer research and will fund as many as he can.

- 11:28 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Nooshin KianvashRad**
- Nooshin reported that she has been working with faculty and Career and Professional Development on the event on April 6 when an external company will come to campus. The Chancellor will also meet with the company at the event. Nooshin stated she has invited alumni to the undergraduate research expo, and graduate students can be involved as judges.
- Nooshin shared that she has been in communication with Dr. Akens about the SAFE Fund and is looking into ways to raise community awareness about the fund. The Council suggested highlighting the SAFE Fund during Believe in the G fundraising and asked if rounding up donations for the fund would be possible on campus.
- 11:38 **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Salih Rakap**
- *GCC Information Items (from February 6, 2026 meeting)*
- GCC Chair-Elect Zoch reported that the GCC approved 4 proposals at their February 6 meeting.
- 11:48 **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Brad Johnson**
- *Updates from February 13, 2026 meeting*
 - Grievance/Appeal Process
 - This policy revision has been shared with General Counsel but they have not provided a response yet
 - Leaves of Absence
 - Multiple leaves of absences can be requested (not exceeding 1 year)
 - The first leave of absence extends the time limit by 1 year (or by 1 semester for a certificate)
 - Graduate School is also formalizing the incomplete grade process
 - A form based on the one used by SES will ask detailed questions and set up a timeline
 - A motion was made to approve the policy revision and was passed
 - Withdrawal for Extenuating Circumstances
 - The policy revision combines the two previous policies and allows selective or total withdrawal up to a year after the grades were earned
 - Feedback will be requested from instructor(s) and the GPD
 - A motion was made to approve the policy revision and was passed

- The policy revisions will be share at the Graduate Faculty Meeting on April 29 at 3 pm in 106 Nursing Instructional Building (communications to be sent by the Graduate School)

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

12:00 pm **VIII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Ben Dyson**

Chair Dyson discussed that Oklahoma has recently ended tenure for non-R1 universities. He stated that there was a rumor that similar legislation might be coming to North Carolina but that the rumor is not true.

Chair Dyson reported that a working group from the Provost’s Office is drafting a new syllabus policy. New syllabi will be simplified to protect faculty.

Chair Dyson stated that the Board of Governors has adopted a formal definition of academic freedom.

Chair Dyson shared that at the next Faculty Senate meeting there will be a resolution from Daniel Rhodes regarding Professional Track Faculty and multi year contracts.

Chair Dyson thanked the Council for putting students first.

12:30 **IX. Adjournment**