

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA
Friday, February 27, 2026 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
MHRA 2711

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

Ben Dyson, Chair	Salih Rakap
Rick Barton	Gwen Schug
Dora Gicheva	Jin Su
Brad Johnson	Robert Wells
Dennis LaJeunesse	Wanda Williams
Jocelyn Smith Lee	Kerri Richardson for Melody Patterson Zoch
Vladislav Maksimov	Nooshin KianvashRad
	Sarah Posidis-Kowalski

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Marianne LeGreco

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:

Greg Bell	Graduate School
Jodi Pettazzoni	Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning

Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:

Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office
--------------	-------------------------------

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	I. Welcome from Chair—Ben Dyson Chair Dyson welcomed the Council with a traditional Maori greeting.
11:05	II. Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2026 Motion to approve February 27, 2026 minutes (Rakap, Johnson). Minutes approved.
11:08	III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School—Greg Bell Dean Bell reported that the final round of nominations for fellowships are due. April 15 is the deadline for students to accept offers of financial support. The Graduate Research & Creativity Showcase will be held on April 9, 1-3 pm, in the EUC Cone Ballroom. There are about 100 students participating, which is the most since 2019. Dissertation, thesis, and graduate teaching associate awards will be awarded. The master's and doctoral commencement ceremony will be at 10 am on May 7 at the First Horizon Coliseum. There will not be a faculty

processional but there will be a faculty seating area for faculty who are not hooding students.

The thesis deadline is upcoming.

The Graduate School is providing small awards for summer research support.

Applications for fall are up by about 90 students or 3%. One or two units are up by several students, and some units are down. International students are down by about 25%, which is common across the United States. International students who are already in the United States can still be recruited, as the biggest challenge is obtaining visas.

The graduate faculty meeting will be on April 29 at 3 pm in NIB room 106.

11:23 **IV. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Brad Johnson**

- *Updates from March 20, 2026 meeting*
 - Dissertation forms
 - Co-authorship
 - There have been instances where this has fallen through the cracks at the last minute and there is a need to be clearer about it at the beginning of the process
 - The student is required to write 51% of each chapter and be the primary author (this term can be ambiguous depending on the discipline)
 - Different disciplines have different guidelines, and there is a need for clear parameters
 - Generative AI use
 - Also needs to be discussed early in the process and included on approval form
 - Asking “How will you use generative AI?” starts the conversation
 - Generative AI use can be disclosed in an appendix or a page following the table of contents
 - Some schools are utilizing similar practices currently, and a recent UNCG dissertation included a statement about Microsoft Copilot
 - Proposal forms may be modified if generative AI use evolves as the dissertation

is written

- Further oral defense could be required if there are concerns about too much generative AI use
- Incomplete workflow
 - Maria Hayden has met with Kara Bisceglie in the University Registrar's Office and Dana Saunders in the Division of Student Success
 - The proposed workflow will reduce confusion on what is outstanding to resolve an incomplete grade and will make the process more automated
- Independent study policy
 - Independent study registration currently requires approval by the instructor, department head, and Graduate School
 - The approval commonly gets stuck at the department head level and the Graduate School wants to reduce barriers to registration
 - Department head approval may be replaced by GPD approval

11:38 **V. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Nooshin KianvashRad**

Nooshin reported that she has recently met with Dean Bell and other faculty members. They are planning for multiple monthly events beginning in August as opportunities for companies to come to campus. Nooshin is also working on a PDF for fundraising for the SAFE fund.

11:48 **VI. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Salih Rakap**

Chair Rakap reported that the Graduate Curriculum Committee did not meet in March due to a lack of proposals and will meet again on April 10.

11:53 **VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee—No report**

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

Chair Dyson shared a report from Provost Boyette that there is no state budget yet. UNCG is seeking \$15 million for enrollment increases.

The UNCG Communicable Diseases Committee has shared information regarding a measles outbreak in South Carolina.

The Provost shared concerns for students and faculty from the Middle East and Gulf.

The Provost's Office will be creating a Syllabus Repository, and the new syllabus policy will require that syllabi be basic to protect faculty.

The Board of Governors has a definition of academic freedom on their website.

Kerri Richardson inquired about the ability of the public to look up the locations and times of classes and instructors, and other Council members indicated that a change is being made so that this information is only available if someone logs in with UNCG credentials.

Chair Dyson thanked the Council for their hard work.

12:30 **IX. Adjournment**