

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Friday, April 24 2026 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
MHRA 2711

Members of the Graduate Council Present:

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

Members of the Graduate Council Absent:

Dennis LaJeunesse 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.	<p>I. Welcome from Chair—Ben Dyson</p> <p>Chair Dyson welcomed the Council with a traditional Maori greeting. He thanked Dean Bell and Sarah Posidis-Kowalski for providing refreshments for the Council.</p>
11:05	<p>II. Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2026</p> <p>Motion to approve March 27, 2026 minutes (Johnson, Rakap). Minutes approved.</p>
11:08	<p>III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School—Greg Bell</p> <p>Dean Bell thanked the Council for their work and supporting students. He acknowledged that generative AI use and funding for competitive assistantships continue to be challenges.</p> <p>Dean Bell reported that applications and admits are up slightly for Fall 2026, and that students who have committed to enroll for Fall 2026 are up a greater amount. The largest growth is in Nursing and Business, and CVPA is also up. International students may have committed to enroll in order to get started on the visa process. Since students only have to click a button to commit to enrollment, the Graduate School is projecting a small growth in enrollment for Fall 2026. Continuing and new student registration is down from the previous year at this time.</p>

The UNCG Graduate Research and Creativity Showcase was a successful event, and Dean Bell thanked Brad Johnson for his assistance. There were 14 poster winners, and some will visit the General Assembly on May 19 with Dean Bell to meet with state legislators.

11:23 **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association—Nooshin KianvashRad**

Nooshin reported that she is working on a SAFE fund proposal to be submitted in July. She will work with faculty over the summer regarding inviting companies to come to campus.

Nooshin expressed concerns regarding international students being required (per UNC System policy) to use health insurance through the university that is limited and does not allow them to add family members. She stated that she has spoken with Dr. Akens and plans to review the new policy when available in May. Dean Bell encouraged her to reach out to GSAs at other schools such as UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State that have large international student populations to see if they have suggestions.

11:33 **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Salih Rakap**

- *GCC Information Items (from March 27, 2026 meeting)*
 - Request to Establish proposal: MFA Emerging Media

Chair Rakap provided a summary of the MFA Emerging Media proposal that was approved by the Graduate Curriculum Committee at their last meeting. The Graduate Council made a motion to approve the proposal, and the motion was approved (Wells, Barton).

11:43 **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Brad Johnson**

- *Updates from April 17, 2026 meeting*
 - Time limit extensions
 - The Graduate School is putting language in place to codify their practices of allowing time limit extensions.
 - ADA compliance & formatting requirements
 - ADA compliance and formatting requirements have been added to the Graduate School's thesis and dissertation requirements and templates.
 - Summary of policy and procedural changes for 25-26
 - Chair Johnson has prepared a list of these changes and will provide a brief summary at the Graduate Faculty Meeting.
 - Programs with hours not divisible by 3
 - The Graduate School is seeking ways for students in these programs to maintain full-time status and not be penalized. Dean Bell will meet with Financial Aid and see how programs can justify that 3 hours (non dissertation or thesis) can be full-time.

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

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

- Discussion on Generative AI use
 - Dean Bell shared that misuse of generative AI is a serious concern and that there have already been instances where students may have used generative AI to write large portions of their thesis or comprehensive exams. AI detection software is not 100% accurate, which prevents the prohibition of generative AI completely.
 - The Graduate School seeks to describe the acceptable use of generative AI for dissertations, theses, and comprehensive exams. A generative AI use disclosure could be included in the thesis or dissertation with the committee's permission, and it is suggested to add a question to the dissertation approval form regarding how generative AI will be used (if it will be used). A generative AI declaration generator is available for disclosing the delegation of tasks to generative AI. The goal is to start the conversation early and avoid scenarios where the usage has not been discussed and suspicions arise regarding students not writing theses/dissertations.
 - The Council discussed that more emphasis may need to be placed on the oral defense and that this would need to be communicated clearly to students at the beginning of their programs. Using track changes in documents was also suggested as a way to show progress was being made as students write instead of writing generated by AI.
 - The Council also discussed that different disciplines may have different guidelines and that it may be beneficial for the Graduate School to encourage departments to have their own policies. Generative AI policies may need to be revised on a regular basis due to changes in technology.
 - Chair Dyson encouraged the Council to attend the Graduate Faculty Meeting on Wednesday, April 29, at 3 pm in NIB 106 and participate in the generative AI discussion.

12:30 **IX. Adjournment**