

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

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**Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

**Members/Alternates Present:**

Godev, Concepcion, Chair – Languages & Culture Studies  
Allan, Craig – Geography and Earth Sciences  
Brown, Dace – Public Health Sciences  
Chattopadhyay, Jackie – Alternate, Political Science and Public Administration  
Cooper, Liz – Bioinformatics and Genomics  
Lachance, Joan – Middle, Secondary and K-12 Education  
Lai, Gene – Finance  
McAdams, Jeff – Atkins Library, Engineering Librarian  
Montanaro, Erika – Psychological Science  
Mukherjee, Pinku – Interim Dean, Graduate School  
Rasmussen, Monica – GPSG Student Representative  
Sarkar, Kaus – Dance

**Also Attending:**

Guo, Jun-tao – Bioinformatics and Genomics  
Hague, Doug – School of Data Science  
Hall Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School  
Nesmelova, Irina - Physics  
Thill, Jean-Claude – Geography and Earth Sciences  
Watson, Johnna – Graduate School  
Wyse, Matt – Faculty Governance

**Absent:**

Smithwick, Jake – Engineering Technology and Construction Management  
(Industry presentation conflict)

**I. Report of the Chair – Dr. Concepcion Godev**

Chair Godev opened the meeting and called for a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 Graduate Council Meeting Minutes:

**A. Approval of the September 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Allan to approve the minutes as submitted with a second from Sarkar. The motion was approved by a majority vote with two abstentions.

**II. Report of the Graduate School Dean – Dr. Pinku Mukherjee**

- The Graduate School has been busy with Enrollment management processes and finding ways to enhance graduate education.
- The Chancellor is looking at various enrollment determinants:
  - High demand, high capacity programs
  - High demand, low capacity programs
  - High capacity, but deficits in faculty resources
  - High demand, high capacity – but why students do not enroll at UNC Charlotte.

- Working to reduce fees for teacher certifications.
- The Graduate School is working on its Strategic Plan with Sharon McDade
  - Will share the final product when available.

### III. **Discussion Topics**

#### A. **Committee Chair training for faculty: First Discussion** – Katherine Hall Hertel

- The Graduate School is proposing to offer training to new faculty chairing graduate student committees for the first time.
- proposing a one-hour Canvas training course
- would be offered to new faculty going forward
- There is no overlap between this and the Mentorship Training but this will touch on the topic of authorship.
- There is a timeline discussion as one of the topics. The comment was made that professors shy away from directing a thesis because of time management.
- Another comment was doctoral students cannot propose and defend in the same semester.
- Will try and have the canvas course ready for review by the next Council meeting.

#### B. **Second Discussion: Reviewing Syllabi in Curriculog** – Chair Godev

- Chair Godev asked for a couple of volunteers to put a proposal together to bring before the Council.
- Joan Lachance volunteered with Kaus Sarkar.
- Chair Godev to share the notes and materials with Lachance and Sarkar that have been collected thus far.

### IV. **Course and Curriculum Proposals**

#### A. **New Degree Program – PhD in Data Science – Request to Establish**

Originator: Jean-Claude Thill, Geography and Earth Sciences  
 Committee Members: All members

- Jean-Claude Thill (GEOG) and Monica Johar (BISOM) are co-chairing this effort.
- Last year they went through the preliminary authorization phase and it was approved at the UNC System level this past summer.
- This is a research degree.
- The program will offer a research design course, independent studies, and seminars with guest speakers. The core courses will be new.
- It will attract student's in Master's program and will accept a limited number of students without a Master's.
- The School of Data Science has 90+ faculty affiliates from over 28 different departments. New hires will be joint appointments between the School of Data Science and their home department.
- This program will not compete with Computer Science students.

After some discussion, the Graduate Council has the following requested revisions to the Proposal in Curriculog:

Section: A7.a. Does the proposed program impact other units, departments or colleges?

Please change this answer from No to **Yes**.

Section A7.b.

If Yes, please list the units and paste consultations with those units in the consultations field below or attach using Files (paperclip icon) in the toolbox to the right (in Curriculog). **Add the units or departments that are listed on p. 3 to document. PhD data science request to establish.**

Please list how these units might be affected:  
i.e., cross-listed courses, co-chairing or co-advising graduate student committees, etc.

Please upload email or memorandum and response consultations with affected units.

B. Graduate Program Revision – Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, PhD  
Originator: Jun-tao Guo – Chair, Bioinformatics and Genomics  
Committee Members: All Committee members

- Dr. Jun-tao Guo (Bioinformatics and Genomics) and Dr. Irina Nesmelova (Physics) were in attendance to answer questions.
- This is an interdisciplinary program for Bioinformatics students.
- The Council reviewed these revisions and had no questions.

Allan made a motion to approve as submitted with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

## V. Other Business

There being no other business, Allan made a motion to adjourn with a second from Sarkar. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:50pm.

**Next Meeting:** November 7, 2023  
12:30-2:00pm – Reese 211

Respectfully,



Annette Parks  
Graduate Council Secretary