

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

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**Tuesday October 7, 2025**

**Members/Alternates Present:**

Brown, Dace, Chair – Public Health Sciences  
Bin Abdul Baten, Redwan - Health Management & Policy  
Christou, Eliana - Mathematics and Statistics  
Cox, Kyle – Educational Leadership  
Gall, David – Art & Art History  
Ivey, S.L. - GPSG Student Representative  
Johar, Monica – Bus Information Sys and Operations Management  
Libby, Garrison – Atkins Library  
Lipford, Heather, Vice Chair - Software and Information Systems  
Murtha, Timothy – Anthropology  
Tolone, Bill – Dean of the Graduate School  
Xu, Terry – Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

**Also Attending:** Coffey, Lauren - Graduate School  
Cottenoir, Mitch – Office of Assessment and Accreditation  
Hall-Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School  
Watson, Johnna – Graduate School

**Absent:** Montanaro, Erika – Psychological Science

**I. Report of the Chair – Dace Brown**

**A. Approval of the September 2, 2025, minutes**

Lipford made a motion to approve the minutes, and Bin Abdul Baten seconded the motion.  
The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**II. Course and Curriculum Proposals**

- A. ENTR – 6303: Entrepreneurial Mindset**
- B. ENTR – 6307: Entrepreneurship and Law**
- C. ENTR – 6308: Venture Finance**
- D. ENTR – 6401: Entrepreneurship Practicum I**
- E. ENTR – 6411: Entrepreneurship Practicum II**
- F. GRAD – 6400: GRAD Internship - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**
- G. GRAD – 8400: GRAD Internship - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**

Chair Brown reminded the council members not to make changes to the proposals in Curriculog, just to make comments and she or the council secretary will make the changes if appropriate.

The council addressed comments made to the proposal for GRAD 6400. Johnna Watson, the originator of the proposal, explained that the course is for international students in CPT.

The council addressed issues with the language in the course description for ENTR 6401 and raised concerns about the contact hours and the difference between the Practicum I class (ENTR 6401) and the Practicum II class (ENTR 6411). Lipford moved to table these two courses until the next meeting and to have someone from the department attend the meeting to address these issues. Cox seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Lipford made a motion to approve the other courses. Bin Abdul Baten seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### III. Report of the Dean – William Tolone

Dean Tolone thanked everyone who attended the Graduate Program Director Summit and reported that the feedback was positive. The next summit will be in February, and he asked the council to think about topics for the breakout sessions.

The Dean also reported that the first virtual Graduate Program Director had 70 attendees.

The Dean reported on a new program to auto admit UNC Charlotte undergraduate students to a graduate program. The process will simplify the application process for the students as well as Graduate School staff and provide an incentive for our best undergraduate students to stay at UNC Charlotte for their graduate program.

### IV. Discussion Topics

#### a. Revision to graduate faculty criteria for the English Department

The council concluded that further clarification is needed regarding the changes to the graduate faculty criteria for the English Department. Dean Tolone recommended the department contact Hall-Hertel for clarification.

#### b. Proposed Credit for Prior Learning policy

Hall-Hertel thanked the council for their feedback on the policy and reported that the percentage of credit allowed was raised to 40%, with 30% through transfer credit and 10% through credit for prior learning. Lipford motioned to pass the proposal and Murtha seconded the motion. The proposal passes unanimously.

#### c. Results of a Multi-Site Predictive Validity Study: Evidence about DET score / GPA relationships and the DET's comparability to other English language tests

Watson reviewed the results of a study examining whether Duolingo is as effective a test as IELTS and TOEFL. The study did not find any difference. The report will be shared with the council members.

### V. Other Business

Cox asked if there was a Graduate School policy regarding remote assistantships. The policy is actually guided by the Graduate Student Funding Policy, which states that distance education students are not eligible for assistantships. Dean Tolone informed the council that he plans on addressing the issue with the Provost.

Chair Brown asked the council to consider an assessment for Graduate Program Directors. Hall-Hertel recommended a sub-committee to examine the responsibilities of program directors. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Jones". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and legible.

Daniel Jones