



# The Graduate School

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 22, 2013

The Graduate Council met on Monday, April 22, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. in room 311 of the Byrnes Building.

**Graduate Council members present:** Dr. Joseph Quattro, Chair; Drs. Subra Bulusu, Erik Drasgow, Stacy Fritz, Edward Gatzke, J. Daniel Jenkins, Michael Hodgson, DeAnne Messias, Murray Mitchell, Lauren Sklaroff, Paul Solomon, Tracey Weldon-Stewart, Adela Vraciu, Lee Walker (substituting for David Darmofal), Terrance Weik;

**Graduate Council members excused:** Drs. Minuette Floyd, Wayne Carver, Kartik Kalaignanam, Ercan Turk; John Knox, GSA

**Graduate School representatives:** Dr. Jessica Efenbein and Valarie Trapp

**Provost Office representative:** Dr. Kristia Finnigan

**Graduate Council guests:** Dr. Julia Lopez-Robertson

**NOTE:** *These minutes will become final on May 19, 2013, if not challenged.*

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Joseph Quattro)

Dr. Solomon called the meeting to order per Dr. Quattro's request and notification that he would be late.

Dr. Solomon congratulated Dr. Bulusu on being honored as a "2013 USC Breakthrough Rising Star". <http://satocean.geol.sc.edu/bulusu.html>

2. **Approval of Minutes** ([March 25, 2013 Meeting](#)). The minutes were reviewed electronically and approved by the Council. Minutes are on file at The Graduate School website at: <http://app.gradschool.sc.edu/gradcouncil/minutes.asp>

3. **Report of the Chair** (Joseph Quattro)

No report

4. **Report of the Dean of The Graduate School** (Lacy Ford is excused)

Dr. Efenbein reported that Graduate Student Day went very well and thanked members of the council who participated as judges.

5. **Report of the Associate Dean / Secretary of the Graduate Council** (Murray Mitchell)

Dr. Mitchell requested that Council Members who are cycling off of Graduate Council duty to, please, contact him with recommendations for interested and able faculty who would like to participate as members of the Graduate Council.

**6. Report of the Graduate Student Association representative** (John Knox is excused)

No report

**7. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Paul Solomon)

Dr. Solomon announced that his committee received requests to consider four items.

Dr. Solomon shared a handout for council members to review. He first addressed the topic of PTEA—an alternative assessment of English speaking and writing skills. He shared the positive aspects of this foreign language skills test which include the test score processes, levels and costs, that it is a computerized test and can be taken world-wide; and, listed universities already implementing and benefiting from PTEA.

Dr. Solomon explained that the levels are proposed for undergraduate, graduate and independent levels. Then, he opened the floor to questions and comments.

Discussion regarding the particulars of the test followed. It was identified that the recommendation comes by way of Alexandra Rowe, Director of English Programs for Internationals; and, she has provided substantial background research in this area.

Dr. Mitchell shared that The Graduate School would accept scores on any of the three tests; however, if one individual program believed one specific test to be a better indicator for their program, they would have the opportunity to choose to accept scores from their test of choice. In much the same way that GRE or other tests are elements on which we have published standardized expectations from minimally acceptable scores for The Graduate School, individual programs can restrict which tests are available for any given program, and what test scores can be higher or more demanding but can't be lower.

This proposal is not intended to remove flexibility and options for departments but to provide better accessibility to another indicator by a popular and well-researched test of foreign language for non-English speaking performance on English so that students from a broader spectrum have access to another way to demonstrate their competence.

Dr. Solomon presented the following items for discussion regarding the addition of the Ombudsman; and, a clarification of the grievances process in relation to academic policies.

The changes addressed are as follows:

- Renaming the "Petitions and Appeals Committee" to "Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee".
- Wording to be changed to "the Dean of Graduate Studies would be designated to determine whether a grievance that has come to The Graduate School should be forwarded to the (newly named committee) Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee"; Modification to the charge of that committee to reflect the infusion of an explicit policy to address the grievance policy of The Graduate School.
- Modification of policy and procedure, regarding grade changes, to be more consistent with how this process is handled on the graduate level.

**The APPROVED changes are:**

- Use of the PTEA test for foreign language students.
- Renaming of the Petitions and Appeals Committee to Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee.
- Modification of policy and procedure, regarding grade changes.

**The PENDING change is:**

- The wording changes and language changes are tabled but will be returned to council with revisions.

**8. Report of the Committee on 500/600 Level Courses, Distance Education and Special Courses (Murray Mitchell)**

***Distance Education Delivery***

[EDRD 651 Introduction to Teaching Media Library](#) (3)  
[Effective Term: Summer II 2013]

**PENDING**

[SOCY 350 Sociology of Juvenile Delinquency](#) (3)  
[Effective Term: Fall 2013]

**APPROVED**

**9. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Wayne Carver)**

Dr. Elfenbein shared that the committee met to discuss summer dissertation fellowships. She advised that these fellowships will no longer be available due to the advent of the SPARC grants and the depletion of the funding source for summer dissertation fellowships; however, three students were funded for this cycle. Regarding Presidential Fellowships, over twenty students were funded.

Dr. Elfenbein will share the new Presidential Fellowship list with council in the near future.

**10. Report of the Science, Math, and Related Professional Program Committee (Edward Gatzke)**

***COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES***

***Physics and Astronomy***

**New Course Proposal**

**APPROVED**

[PHYS 731 Extragalactic Astrophysics](#) (3)

Extragalactic astrophysics, including nearby and distant galaxies, active galaxies, galaxy clusters, large-scale structure, galaxy formation/evolution, scale structure, galaxy formation/evolution, basics of cosmology, cosmic radiation backgrounds, and observational constraints on cosmological models.

Prerequisites: PHYS 701, PHYS 703, and ASTR 211 or equivalent, consent of instructor.

[Effective Term: Summer I 2013]

***Arnold School of Public Health***

**Course Change Proposal**  
Changes to wording in Bulletin

**APPROVED**

From: [EPID 800 Epidemiologic Methods II](#) (3)

Advanced quantitative methods and strategies in the design of epidemiologic studies. Multivariable risk models, exposure time relationship, interactions between causes and interpretations of findings.

To: EPID 800 Epidemiologic Methods II (3)

Advanced Epidemiologic methods, with an emphasis on causality in epidemiologic research, theoretical considerations and interpretations of findings.

[Effective Term: Spring 2014]

***College of Nursing***

**Course Change Proposal**  
Change in variable credit hours

**APPROVED**

From: [NURS J 793 Advanced Practice Practicum for Emphasis Area: Primary Care](#) (1-4)

Prerequisites/Corequisites: NURS 705, 706, 722, 731

To: NURS J 793 Advanced Practice Practicum for Emphasis Area: Primary Care (3-4)

Prerequisites/Corequisites: NURS 705, 706, 722, 731

[Effective Term: Fall 2013]

**11. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (Tracey Weldon-Stewart)

***School of Journalism and Mass Communications***

**New Course Proposal**

**(Tabled)**

[JOUR 789 Selected Readings and Research](#)

Selected readings course designed to facilitate student's specialized research interest.

This course would bring our graduate course offerings in line with many other graduate programs on campus. Our graduate program currently does not offer a readings course.

Prerequisites/corequisites: Permission of instructor required.

[Effective Term: Summer I 2013]

**New Course Proposal**

**(Tabled)**

[JOUR 747 Independent Study in Journalism and Mass Communications](#)

Independent study in an area of journalism and mass communications relevant to the student's professional and/or research goals.

The school's requirements for the PhD in Mass Communications as of Fall 2012 now require that all courses on the program of study must be at the 700-800 level. The only independent study course currently approved is at the 500 level. We would like to begin offering a higher level independent study course for both the master's and doctoral students in our programs. This parallels similar courses as offered by many graduate programs on campus.

[Effective Term: Summer I 2013]

### **College of Education**

#### **Academic Program Actions**

**APPROVED**

Changes in degree hours and Bulletin language

From: [M.Ed. in Language and Literacy](#) (33)

#### **Language and Literacy, M.Ed.**

The M.Ed. degree is designed for individuals planning to be classroom teachers of reading or other teachers who are responsible for teaching reading. Additional course work is available to individuals pursuing advanced levels of certification in clinical, supervisory, and coordinating roles with regard to reading and language arts.

#### **Admission**

In addition to The Graduate School's application requirements, applicants must submit a letter of intent. Students in the M.Ed. program will follow the program of study outlined below and are required to complete a minimum of hours.

#### **Degree Requirements (33 Hours)**

#### **Core Requirements (24 - 27 Hours)**

#### **Reading (18 hours)**

EDRD 600 Foundations of Reading Instruction  
EDRD 715 Instructional Strategies for Reading  
EDRD 716 Foundations of Reading Assessment  
EDRD 718 Seminar in Classroom Reading Assessment  
EDRD 719 Developing and guiding the Reading Program  
EDRD 720 Capstone Seminar in Language and Literacy

#### **Writing (3 Hours):**

EDEL 771 Teaching Writing in Elementary and Middle School  
EDSE 787 The Teaching of Composition in the Secondary School  
EDTE 760 Issues in Writing Instruction K-12

Or

Other writing courses approved by advisor

#### **Research (3 Hours)**

EDRM 700 Introduction to Research in Education

#### **Cognate (3 - 6 Hours)**

The cognate should be in language and literacy at the early childhood, elementary,

or secondary level.

### **Electives (0 - 6 Hours)**

Note:

No more than 6 hours of workshops, institutes, or field courses may be used in the degree program.

To: M.Ed. in Language and Literacy (36)

### **Language and Literacy, M.Ed.**

The M.Ed. degree is designed for individuals planning to be classroom teachers of reading and writing or other teachers who are responsible for teaching reading and writing. Additional course work is available to individuals pursuing advanced levels of certification in clinical, supervisory, and coordinating roles with regard to reading, writing, and language arts.

### **Admission**

In addition to The Graduate School's application requirements, applicants must submit a letter of intent. Students in the M.Ed. program will follow the program of study outlined below and are required to complete a minimum of 36 hours.

### **Degree Requirements (36 Hours)**

#### **Reading (21 Hours)**

EDRD 600 Foundations of Reading Instruction  
EDRD 715 Instructional Strategies for Reading  
EDRD 716 Foundations of Reading Assessment  
EDRD 718 Seminar in Classroom Reading Assessment  
EDRD 719 Developing and guiding the Reading Program  
EDRD 730 Teaching Reading and Writing in the Content Areas  
EDRD 650 Teaching Reading Through a Literature Emphasis  
Or  
EDSE 786 Teaching of Literature in Secondary Schools

#### **Writing (3 Hours):**

EDEL 771 Teaching Writing in Elementary and Middle School  
Or  
EDSE 787 The Teaching of Composition in the Secondary School  
Or  
EDTE 760 Issues in Writing Instruction K-12  
Or  
Other writing courses approved by advisor

#### **Research or Assessment (3 Hours)**

EDRM 700 Introduction to Research in Education  
Or  
EDRM 723 Classroom Assessment Methods

#### **Diversity Cognate (9 hours)**

EDRD 796 Teaching Reading and Writing to ESOL Learners: Theory and Practice

EDTE 779 Multicultural Issues of Education (Equity Pedagogies in Teacher Education)  
EDTE 776 Educating African-American Students  
Or  
Other diversity-based courses approved by advisor that focus on underserved student populations

**Comprehensive Assessment**

The comprehensive assessment requires the student to organize and synthesize the skills, competencies, and knowledge gained in his/her coursework in the Language & Literacy Program.

**Note:**

No more than 6 hours of workshops, institutes, or field courses may be used in the degree program.

[Effective Term: Spring 2014]

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**Academic Program Actions**

Changes to Bulletin language

**APPROVED**

From: [Political Science, M.A.](#) (33)

The Master of Arts degree with a major in political science is specifically designed to provide knowledge of political science and the professional skills necessary to pursue successful careers in governmental, quasi-public, private, and political organizations.

**Degree Requirements (33 Hours)**

The candidate for the M.A. must pursue a course of study that will normally include a minimum of 27 semester hours of course work, and 6 hours of thesis credit. Competency in one foreign language or in the use of quantitative methodologies, as well as a thesis, is required for the M.A. degree. Students must also complete one graduate course in statistics or demonstrate equivalent competence. For more detailed information on this degree, visit our Web site at: [www.cas.sc.edu/poli/grad/gradintroMA.html](http://www.cas.sc.edu/poli/grad/gradintroMA.html).

To: Political Science, M.A. (30-36)

Students are generally not admitted into this program. It is available only for students originally enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Political Science who opt not to complete the Ph.D. or doctoral students who have completed comprehensive examinations for the Ph.D. degree. The Master of Arts in Political Science is specifically designed to provide a knowledge of political science and the professional skills necessary to pursue successful careers in governmental, quasi-public, private and political organizations, and technical and two-year college level teaching.

**Degree Requirements (30-36 Hours)**

Normally, the master's candidate will follow the non-thesis track, which involves completing 30 hours of substantive course work and six additional hours of substantive course work to replace the thesis requirement. Alternatively, master's candidates may pursue a thesis track option, which involves completing 24 hours of substantive course work plus six hours of thesis credit for a total of 30 hours. The program may require more hours in the event of deficiencies. An oral defense is required of master's candidates who choose the thesis option. Non-thesis track/additional course-work master's candidates may fulfill the comprehensive examination requirement in one of two ways: 1) successful completion of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination process fulfills the MA comprehensive examination process; 2) completion of a comprehensive examination in one subfield of Political Science to the satisfaction of a committee of the subfield selected in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. Competency in one foreign language or political research methodology is required for the M.A. degree. Students must complete two graduate courses in statistics to demonstrate competency in research methodology.

[Effective Term: Fall 2013]

**12. Report of the Petitions and Appeals Committee (Erik Drasgow)**

No report

**13. Other Committee Reports**

**14. Old Business**

**15. New Business**

**16. Good of the Order**

Dr. Mitchell requested that council members, please, remember to sign in.

Dr. Mitchell advised Council Members that the next meeting will be on May 20th at 11:30am rather than the usual time at 2:30pm.

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

**Murray Mitchell, Secretary**

cc:

President Harris Pastides

Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies Lacy Ford

Provost Michael Amiridis

Deans

Department Chairs

Graduate Directors

Aaron Marterer, University Registrar

Jodie Morris, Office of the Registrar

Andrew Graves, Office of the Registrar

Nancy Floyd, Office of Institutional Assessment and Compliance