



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

March 22nd, 2021

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Jim Mensch, Chair; Drs. Suzanne Adlof, Nate Bell, Matt Boylan, Subra Bulusu, Joanna Casey, Robin DiPietro, Shanna Harrington, Elise Ince, Hippokratis Kiaris, Carmen Maye, Srihari Nelakuditi, Stephen Shapiro, Sheryl Wiskur, Nikki Wooten, and Sudipta Saha (GSA Representative).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Spencer Platt and Songhua Xu

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Tracey Weldon-Stewart, Dr. Toby Jenkins, Dr. Murray Mitchell (Secretary), Dale Moore, Wright Culpepper, Libby Cross, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representative: Trena Houp

Guests: Dr. Jean Ellis (Geography) and Maggie Carson (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on April 26, 2021 if not challenged.

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Jim Mensch, Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:02p.m., and the agenda was unanimously approved.
- 2. Approval of the [Minutes from February 22, 2021](http://app.gradschool.sc.edu/gradcouncil/minutes.asp).** Approved actions by Graduate Council become effective 30 days after posting. A copy is available on the Graduate School website at: <http://app.gradschool.sc.edu/gradcouncil/minutes.asp>
The minutes from February were unanimously approved.
- 3. Report of the Chair** (Jim Mensch)
No report.
- 4. Report of the Interim Dean of Graduate School** (Tracey Weldon)
Dr. Weldon reminded the members that a listening session would be taking place at 3:30pm today to discuss the incident in Atlanta where violence was leveled against members of the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community last week. This listening session will be an opportunity to hear concerns and to talk about ways to better support the community and one another.

There was a request from GSA to share our plans for Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Her team had been in talks that got derailed due to the incident in Atlanta last week. They will be reconvening tomorrow and will get more finalized plans out to you very soon.

5. Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council (Murray Mitchell)

Dr. Mitchell reminded the members that the Graduate Council meeting is being recorded. Your continued participation represents your consent to be a part of that recording.

There is a new business item that we will address toward the end of this meeting. If you are able to multi-task, there was an attachment outlining what the Faculty Senate has endorsed as a proposal from undergraduate admissions. The proposal is to extend the optional use of standardized tests for admission decisions. The language he used in the agenda item was poorly phrased—under consideration is not to “suspend” standardized tests; rather, to extend the opportunity to allow such tests to be optional. Please also remember that your nominations for Graduate Council membership is still open. He received several nominations following our last meeting; thank you.

In past years, we have tried to hold information sharing sessions with Graduate Directors at least once per semester. The pandemic has caused us to make many accommodations and this meeting has not been consistently held. We are hoping to hold a meeting next month, April 20, 2021, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. If you are able to solicit insight into availability from graduate directors in your programs, that would be appreciated. Last, our next meeting of Graduate Council will be on April 26th, at 2:00pm (if you don't already have that information in your calendar as a repeating item).

6. Report of the Interim Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Associate Director, Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (Toby Jenkins)

Dr. Jenkins reported that on this past Friday, they had an engaged campus program and dialogue concerning the rhetoric of self-care and higher education and particularly its impact on graduate students. They really looked at critiquing the ways that we might need to move beyond verbally encouraging self-care without changing the cultures of overworked and unrealistic expectations of graduate students who provide work services like graduate assistants and teaching assistants on our campus. They are actually in conflict with each other. It is a critical issue that is related to mental health and mental health being not just a personal issue but also a systemic issue for which we bear responsibility. The graduate students were deeply engaged. This is an issue that we probably need to keep digging into to bring about change on our campus.

Dr. Weldon is deeply concerned that graduate students are not getting the full support that they need regarding mental health. Mental health is a critical issue right now. She would like to meet with the leadership in Student Health Services to discuss some of these issues students are now being faced with regarding mental health resources. The conversation has been had in the past, but she would like to reopen the discussion. If you have concerns or considerations that need to be a part of this discussion, please feel free to let her know what she doesn't know.

We just sent out the invitations for the Fall 2021 newly selected fellows for the GJMPP. These are doctoral scholars. We are actively receiving their acceptances. Wright Culpepper and the Fellowship Committee have been incredible and especially patient with us as we work through growing the program.

We are hosting a Graduate School Community Listening Session today from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, one hour exactly, due to faculty teaching commitments, to provide a space for people to share feelings and share support for the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. This session will be facilitated by Dr. Christina Yao, Assistant Professor, in the College of Education. They had about 65 people registered to be a part of this listening session.

7. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

Wright reported on the following upcoming Professional Development opportunities:

- Public Speaking Workshop (3/26 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm)
- iPosters Q&A (3/31 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm)
- Communication/3MT Workshop (4/9 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm)
- Writing a Diversity Statement (4/9 from 3:00pm to 4:15pm)
- Start Smart Salary Negotiation (4/13 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm)
- Discover UofSC (4/23)

Please contact (or refer your students to) Wright Culpepper at culpeppa@mailbox.sc.edu for information on any of these opportunities. An email blast will be going out to students shortly.

8. Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative (Sudipta Saha)

Sudipta shared that GSA held a virtual Townhall on March 10 with Dean Tracey Weldon, Dr. Murray Mitchell, Dr. Toby Jenkins, Dale Moore and Wright Culpepper in attendance. It was one of the most productive events that they have had in a while. There was a great turnout---so much so that they had to utilize the full 2 hours that was allotted for the event. The major discussion items were as follows:

- Diversity, Equality and Inclusion for Graduate Students
- Housing problem
- Communication challenges and how graduate director positions can be more effective
- Health insurance subsidy for graduate students
- PhD Mentor-Mentee relationship

These are recurring issues, but always better to have ongoing discussion in this kind of platform to further bolster the necessity for improvement.

Some discussion points were beyond the scope of Graduate School capacity:

- STEP OPT: International Students
- University Transportation system: Many graduate students need to use this throughout the year, but shuttles are available only during the regular class seasons etc.

The guests agreed that these are important topics of discussion and even though they fall outside the scope of the Graduate School, it is better to be aware of them for better advocacy altogether.

GSA would like to continue this form of dialogue in the days ahead. It is natural that these dialogues do not always bring about a perfect solution. As long as there are exchanges, there is transparency and a path for betterment.

GSA DEI representative team has met with the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Dr. Julian Williams. This is part of GSA's continuous effort to enhance DEI initiative among graduate student communities. I met with Dr. Cissila, Associate Dean of DEI CEC. There has been a preliminary talk of including an international and a graduate representative in the College DEI committee.

GSA elections will take place next week on March 30th and March 31st.

Veteran and Graduate Student discussion Panel will take place on March 23rd.

Inaugural Graduate Student Recognition Awards Presented by GSA: there will be seven different categories. Numerous applications have been received. The applications are being reviewed right now with the collaboration of different offices such as the Graduate School, University Libraries, and the Leadership and Service Center. The virtual award ceremony will be held on April 16th. President Caslen, Dean Weldon, and Dr. Edwards from Student Life will attend as guests of honor at this ceremony.

9. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Nikki Wooten)
Review of Graduate Bulletin content is ongoing.

10. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses and Distributed Learning (Murray Mitchell)

This report is presented to Council for informational purposes only; no action is necessary.

500/600 Courses for March 2021 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal)

ELCT 530 (3) Industrial Controls (CCP: Fall 2022)

ELCT 566 (3) Semiconductor Optoelectronics (CCP: Delete Fall 2022)

NURS 590 (1) Special Topics in International Nursing and Healthcare (NCP: Fall 2021)

Distributed Learning Proposals

ANTH 600 (3) Survey of Linguistics (Cross-listed with ENGL 680 & LING 600) (CCP: Summer 2021)

CSCE 594 (3) Strategic Management of Information Systems (CCP: Summer 2021)

EDTE 500 (3) Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching I: PK-8 (NCP: Summer 2021)

EDTE 501 (3) Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching II: PK-8 (NCP: Summer 2021)

ENGL 680 (3) Survey of Linguistics (Cross-listed with ANTH 600 & LING 600) (CCP: Summer 2021)

LING 600 (3) Survey of Linguistics (Cross-listed with ENGL 680 & LING 600) (CCP: Summer 2021)

STAT 509 (3) Statistics for Engineers (CCP: SU 2021)

11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

Name: **Chao Cai** (PhD)
Program: College of Pharmacy, Clinical Pharmacy & Outcomes Sciences
Term: Summer 2021 – Spring 2027

Name: **Alex Gasparian** (PhD)
Program: College of Pharmacy, Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences
Term: Summer 2021 – Spring 2027

Name: **Carolyn Banister** (PhD)
Program: College of Pharmacy, Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences
Term: Summer 2021 – Spring 2027

These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Joanna Casey)

Dr. Casey reported that it has been a busy month. They have completed Rounds 2 and 3 of the Presidential Fellowships. There was a total of 54 nominations combined in these rounds. They have awarded 8 for Round 2 and 4 for Round 3. They have only had 3 acceptances and 1 refusal. They are in the waiting period while people decide where they want to go. We have waiting lists from all three rounds and more offers will be made as refusals come in.

Trustee Awards--

Rhude M. Patterson: 11 nominations, 3 offers: 1 acceptance and 1 refusal, and 2 offers are outstanding

Cecil Scott: 4 nominations, 2 acceptances, 1 refusal

SREB Doctoral fellowships are due by 3/31/21.

13. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Hippokratis Kiaris)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Each curricular action can be viewed at this Public Agenda review site:

<https://sc.edu/programproposal/agenda/?id=98&code=GCO>

At this Public Agenda link, the individual proposals are not live-linked, but agenda items are listed in alphabetical order. To view the full proposals, GC members and Committee Chairs still need to go to the Committee Review site, and filter for “Committees”, then for the “Committee” called “Added to Grad Council agenda.”

- **MATH 725** (3) Approximation Theory, Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Course: Summer 2021

This proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

14. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Robin DiPietro)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Each curricular action can be viewed at this Public Agenda review site:

<https://sc.edu/programproposal/agenda/?id=98&code=GCO>

At this Public Agenda link, the individual proposals are not live-linked, but agenda items are listed in alphabetical order. To view the full proposals, GC members and Committee Chairs still need to go to the Committee Review site, and filter for “Committees”, then for the “Committee” called “Added to Grad Council agenda.”

- **CRJU 705** (3) Quantitative Methods in Criminal Justice, Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Course: Summer 2021

- **EDAD 719** (3) Interpersonal and Group Relations in Educational Administration, Education, Change to Existing Course: Fall 2022
- **EDCE 710** (3) Professional, Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling, Education, Change to Existing Course: Summer 2021
- **EDUC 700** (3) Research & Reflection on Educational Practices, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **GRAD 801** (0 - 3) Graduate Student as Scholar, Graduate School: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **HRTM 730** (3) Strategic Leadership in the Hospitality Industry, HRSM: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **HRTM 740** (3) Services Management and Customer Experience in the Hospitality Industry, HRSM: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **HRTM 750** (3) Hospitality Marketing and Social Media, HRSM: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **IBUS 803** (3) Ph.D. Seminar in International Strategy and Economic Development, Business: New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **JOUR 709** (3) Fundamentals of Data and Digital Communications, Information & Communications: New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **MART 721B** (3) Research and Practice in Media Writing: Feature Film, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **MART 721C** (3) Research and Practice in Media Writing: Manga and Anime, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **MART 721D** (3) Research and Practice in Media Writing: Television Writing, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **MART 781D** (3 - 6) Research and Practice in New Media Art: Video Game Design, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **MKTG 722** (3) Data Science for Business Decision Making, Business: New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 731** (3) Motor Skill Learning, Education, Change to Existing Course: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 744** (3) Coaching Administration and Management, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 746** (3) Growth and Development Principles for Athlete Selection and Coaching, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 748** (3) Practicum I for Coaching Athletes and Performers, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 749** (3) Practicum II for Coaching Athletes and Performers, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **SLIS 709** (3) Fundamentals of Data and Digital, Information & Communications, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **SLIS 781** (3) Critical Cultural Information Studies, Information & Communications, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **SPTTE 790** (3) Sport and Entertainment Finance, HRSM, Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **SPTTE 798** (3 - 6) Directed Study in Sport and Entertainment Management, HRSM, Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **ZZMC Academic Certificate**, Data and Communication, Information & Communications, New Program: Fall 2022

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

15. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Carmen Maye)

Dr. Maye and her committee had one petition to review. The Graduate Council went into closed session to discuss the petition.

Returning to open session, the vote of the Graduate Council was unanimous to support the GAP Committee recommendation to deny the student petition.

16. Other Committee Reports

17. Old Business

18. New Business

Discussion of possibly extending the test-optional policy in regard to standardized tests as a requirement for admission (please see the undergraduate admissions policy statement) https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/faculty-toolbox/documents/facsen_meetings/2021_3_3_fs_meeting/admiss_comm_test_opt_statement_support_fall_2021.pdf.

Extending the test-optional policy for admission decisions, to be parallel with the undergraduate admissions policy, was discussed. The current policy is in place for Spring/Summer/Fall 2021 entry terms. The recommendation is for extension of this optional policy through Fall 2023 and was unanimously supported by a vote of the Graduate Council.

Dr. Weldon reported on an in-person commencement ceremony scheduled for May 8th; a discussion regarding how to make appropriate modifications ensued. More information to follow as we know it.

19. Good of the Order

Dr. Mitchell asked that members continue to submit nominees for Graduate Council membership.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC: Bob Caslen, President
William Tate, Provost
Tracey Weldon, Interim Vice Provost & Dean of the Graduate School
Deans
Department Chairs
Graduate Directors
Aaron Marterer, University Registrar
Elaine Belesky, Office of the Registrar
Malia Kiehl, Office of the Registrar
Tara Wright, Office of the Registrar