



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

March 28th, 2022

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, March 28th, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Nikki Wooten, Chair; Drs. Demetrius Abshire, Matt Boylan, Subra Bulusu, Shana Harrington, Elise Ince, Hippokratis Kiaris, Marketa Kubickova, William Matchin, Jim Mensch, Srihari Nelakuditi, David Reisman, Neal Woods, Songhua Xu, and Maggie Carson (GSA)

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Jean Ellis, Stephen Shapiro, Sheryl Wiskur, and Christina Yao

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

Provost Office Representative: Trena Houp

Guests: Dr. Matthew Wilson (Political Science), Ed Short (Registrar), Maxwell Akonde (GSA), Rajat Das Gupta (GSA), and Iddrisu Kambala Mohammed (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on April 25th, 2022, if not challenged.

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Nikki Wooten, Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:03p.m. and the agenda was approved.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes from February 28, 2022.** 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** (Nikki Wooten)
No report.
- 4. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School** (Tracey Weldon)
The funds for the [Rising Star Fellowship](#) pilot program have now been committed. No further applications will be reviewed at this time. A total of 15 students (2 at the doctoral level and 13 at the master's level) will be joining us. The students came from 3 schools (Benedict, Claflin, and SCSU) and will be enrolling in degree programs in 6 Colleges here at UofSC (Arts and Sciences, Business,

Information and Communications, Medicine, Public Health, and Social Work). It is her sincere hope that this program will receive more funding in the very near future so that the UofSC can continue this important HBCU partnership. She will update us when she has more information.

Dr. Weldon also shared the following information regarding the Student Success Center. It is now open to graduate students as well with the subset of the services that they currently extend to undergraduate students. For years it was thought that the SSC was funded only by undergraduate student fees. This thought was in error, and SSC is now making some adjustments to also serve the needs of graduate students, whose fees also support the SSC. We will be working with SSC to identify students who can assist with peer tutoring, peer writing, and other services that are currently only focused on and available for undergraduate students. Hopefully by the fall, all services will be accessible and useful to graduate students. This is information from their flyer:

We are excited to share with you that the following services are now available to students through the **Student Success Center (SSC)**:

- **GAMECOCK SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

This SSC service provides UofSC students with free school supplies including notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters, scantrons, blue books, planners, dry erase boards, calculators, iClickers and more!

- **OUT-TO-LUNCH PROGRAM**

The Out-to-Lunch program is designed to remove barriers between students and faculty by providing an opportunity for them to interact in a less formal environment. Pay for your professor's meal with a free dining card and gain a personal perspective on your courses, program of study, and what lies beyond academia.

- **WORKSHOPS**

The SSC offers a wide variety of academic, money management, and skill development workshops. Enhance your academic experience by requesting a workshop!

Please be on the lookout for additional services specifically tailored to the needs of graduate students, as well as solicitations for your feedback. The SSC is located on the Mezzanine Level of the Thomas Cooper Library and can be reached by phone at **803-777-1000** or email at sassc@mailbox.sc.edu.

For more information, please visit sc.edu/success.

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

The question was raised as to the most appropriate way to address the business of the Graduate Council for the remainder of this academic year (remaining meetings are in April and May); and for preferences for next academic year. Just to give everybody a sense, we have 19 voting members, 18 faculty and a representative of the Graduate Student Association. Thanks to all who responded to the two prompts: (1) Preference for meeting virtually, face-to-face or hybrid for the remaining meetings of this semester? and then (2) a preference for meeting format, going forward. Of the 19 votes cast for the remainder of the semester, there were two votes for meeting face-to-face and the remainder of the membership voted to continue to meet virtually.

The second question about the future resulted in a little more discomfort from folks rotating off of the Council who didn't want to seal the fate for everyone who would continue. Again, two votes for face-to-face; one vote for possibly the first meeting of the semester to be face-to-face to allow some

building of community with the supposition that might happen more readily in a face-to-face meeting; then the remainder virtual. Another vote was to revisit this decision, either at the end of this semester, and/or at the beginning of next semester to solicit input at that time because we are living in a changing world and who knows what to expect by next August?

There were a couple of votes for hybrid, which becomes less functional if only two people arrive to meet face-to-face, with support staff, and everybody else is virtual. So, again the majority of vote was for virtual meetings. It sounds like something we might revisit again at the end of the semester, to establish the format for an August meeting, and then to decide in August how to proceed for the rest of next semester. For what it is worth, the ex officio members voted either virtual or to support the majority preference. Clearly, the majority has been virtual; so, that is just an update on preferences for upcoming meetings.

Just to revisit an earlier request, if you have colleagues who might be interested, qualified, willing, and available to serve on either Graduate Council and/or on committees that report to Graduate Council, please identify them for me. I am happy to reach out to them. Nominations are open now for any qualified graduate faculty members who might be interested, qualified, willing and available.

He stressed again--*available* to serve on Graduate Council when the Graduate Council meets. Just so it doesn't come as a surprise to anybody, it meets on the 4th Monday of every month throughout the academic year at 2:00p.m. whether virtually or in person. Ensuring anybody interested in serving has that time available in their schedules would be much appreciated.

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

No report from Dr. Jenkins at this time; but Dr. Mitchell reminded members that Dr. Jenkins regularly posts information on DEI opportunities and accomplishments such that all might be informed in a timely way about what is happening in service to these important initiatives.

7. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

Discover USC is coming up. They have about 145 graduate students who are presenting poster presentations and 32 that are competing in the 3MT competition. This time of the year, the VPR's office is always doing a big push on securing faculty and graduate students who want to serve as reviewers. Obviously, faculty can serve in a variety of roles, reviewing graduate student research, postdoctoral research, undergraduate student research, and a medical scholars competition. Faculty are all welcome to register for that. This is the link to the registration form:

https://sc.edu/about/signature_events/discover_uofsc/registration/reviewer_registration.php

The deadline to register as a reviewer is April 1st, which is this Friday. We would invite you to participate as a reviewer in any competition, but then also any help that you can provide in spreading the word to graduate students about potentially serving as reviewers for undergraduate poster presentations would be extremely helpful as well.

He pointed out the good work that Matt Klopfenstein and Nigel Smith are doing in the Graduate Student Resources Hub. The programming is off and running at a fast pace. Our colleague on our communication side, Victoria White in the Graduate School, has created a new Grad Hub workshop and events web page that will display a running list of all the opportunities that students have. It is heavy on the career side right now. I think that a lot of the National Fellowships colleagues who work in terms of large audience type participation and outreach is going to represent the heavy lifting in the fall. So right now, if you know of any graduate students who are looking for career type guidance, whether that is interviewing skills, CV resume, non-academic career guidance, there is always something going on. There are usually at least two workshops every week. Please see link for further information:

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/opportunities_support/the_grad_hub/grad_hub_events/index.php

Questions about the type of programming available in the Graduate Student Resources Hub or questions for graduate student services in general, please contact Wright directly.

The question was asked about the Graduate Student Day that the Graduate School used to host. The awarded students would be given UofSC certificates that could be included with their CVs as proof of receipt. For example, if a student is going to a federal job in particular majors, like NASA, they require proof of awards. The production of these certificates does not cost a lot of money. Wright agreed and vowed that he would add that request to his docket for late April or early May.

8. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Maggie Carson)

Maggie shared the results from the GSA election for the 2022-23 school year and introduced the winners to the Graduate Council. The president and future Graduate Council Representative each identified themselves with a few words and were welcomed congratulated by the Graduate Council membership:

President: Maxwell Akonde
Vice president: Iddrisu Kambala Mohammed
Graduate Council Representative: Rajat Das Gupta
Treasurer: Currently Open

The following are events planned for the remaining weeks of the Spring semester:

Remaining GSA Events for 2021-2022 School Year March

- 1. Women's Mentorship Luncheon-** Wednesday, March 30th 11:00-1:00 in Russell House Ballroom B
 - i.RSVP: <https://garnetgate.sa.sc.edu/event/7657433>
- 2. Fresh check day-GSA table-** Wednesday, March 30th 12:00-2:00- Greene Street Area
 - i.Mental health focused event
- 3. GSA Townhall-** Thursday, March 31- 11:00-1:00 in Russell House Ballroom A
 - i.The March Town Hall will have several special guests include:
 1. Dr. Tracey Weldon- Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education
 2. Mr. Wright Culpepper- Director of Recruitment and Student Affairs

3. Dr. Toby Jenkins- Interim Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
4. Mr. Dale Moore- Assistant Dean and Ombuds
- ii. GSA Town Halls provide an opportunity for all graduate students to speak directly with members of university administration and GSA to listen to questions, comments, and concerns you may have.
- iii. For questions about the event please email sogsa@email.sc.edu
- iv. RSVP: <https://garnetgate.sa.sc.edu/event/7993425>

April

1. **GSA Headshot Event** –Friday, April 8th- 1:00-3:00- Horseshoe
 - i. Link to Garnet Gate: <https://garnetgate.sa.sc.edu/event/7969179>
 - ii. <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10c0f4eadaf2ca7f5c16-graduate>
2. **Final GSA Bi-Weekly Meeting of Semester**- Friday, April 8th- 3:00-5:00, Location: TBA, Modality: TBA
3. **Luncheon with Patricia Pastides**- Discussing book-Tuesday, April 12th- 11:00-1:30- President's House
 1. **EVENT FULL**- 31 students registered
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=GUsqSzXRDKLsrHNI4mYzAVzpiBa1sxMt0-gcHR2RWVUNVBIV0RMVUtCNzZWRUkxSDZDQVVNQU1RSSQIQCN0PWcu>
4. **GSA Goat Yoga**- Wednesday, April 13th – Horseshoe- 6:00-8:00pm
 1. Fit Columbia
5. **GSA Awards Program**- Friday, April 15th - 12:00-3:00- Russell House Ballroom
4. **GSA End of Year Celebration**- Friday, April 15th- after awards program- Russell House
6. **Women's Mentorship Luncheon**- Wednesday, April 20th 11:00-1:00 in Russell House Ballroom B
 - i. RSVP: <https://garnetgate.sa.sc.edu/event/7657434>
7. **Evening of Pride Mentorship Social**- Thursday, April 21st, 6:00-8:00pm- location:TBA
 - i. *To provide LGBTQIA+ individuals with a welcoming environment to learn from local LGBTQIA+ leaders (mentors from UofSC and Affiliated Organizations)*
8. **Student Disability Services Resource Webinar**- Rainie Gordan working on- more information to come

****New Exec takes over May 1st****

9. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Murray Mitchell for Stephen Shapiro)
No report.
10. **Report of the 500/600 Level Courses** (Murray Mitchell)

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

500/600 Courses for March 2022 Grad Council

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

None at this time; next meeting of the Committee on Curricula and Courses is April 4th, 2022

11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

None at this time.

12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Jim Mensch for Jean Ellis)

Dr. Mensch relayed for Dr. Ellis that as previously reported, the committee met on February 11 to select Round 1 scholars for the Presidential Fellows. Since the last report, the committee has selected the Trustee Recruiting Awards (Scott and Patterson). We also selected the Presidential Fellows from Round 2 (on 3/11). Naturally, all those offers were sent out thanks to Wright Culpepper. The current Presidential Fellows and Dr. Ellis are also communicating with the potential Fellows. As of Monday (3/28), eight Fellows have accepted the offer. Wright Culpepper added that what is so exciting about the awards this time is that they have 3 academic programs that have never had a Presidential Fellow before now have one coming in this academic year. Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physics, and Criminology and Criminal Justice will each have their first Presidential Fellow which is fantastic. The Committee still has several offers out there, and then they will begin going through a wait list.

Moving forward, please communicate with your departments/schools/colleges to inform them that the current student awards have been pivoted from last year. If you have questions about those, please reach out to Dr. Ellis (all award descriptions can be found on the Grad School website at the following link):

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/paying_for_graduate_school/fellowships_awards/index.php

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

None at this time.

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

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=114&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.”

- **BADM Major / Degree Program**, Professional MBA, Business, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2023
- **CRJU 706** (3) Advanced Quantitative Analysis for Criminology and Criminal Justice, Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Course: Fall 2023
- **CRJU 761** (3) Crime and Place, Arts and Sciences, NCP: Summer 2022
- **CRJU 771** (3) Gender, Crime, and Justice, Arts and Sciences, NCP: Summer 2022
- **EDLP 708A**, The Middle School Principal in Practice I, Education, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2023

- **EDLP 708B**, The Middle School Principal in Practice II, Education, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2023
- **EDST Academic Certificate**, Play Therapy, Certificate, Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2023
- **INTE Major / Degree Program**, Mathematics, M.A.T. (Secondary Education), Education, Terminate Program: Fall 2022
- **INTE Major / Degree Program**, Social Studies, M.A.T. (Secondary Education), Education, Terminate Program: Fall 2022
- **INTE Major / Degree Program**, Sciences, M.A.T. (Secondary Education), Education, Terminate Program: Fall 2022
- **INTE Major / Degree Program**, English, M.A.T. (Secondary Education), Education, Terminate Program: Fall 2022

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

15. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Shana Harrington)

No report.

16. Other Committee Reports

None.

17. Old Business

None.

18. New Business

None.

19. Good of the Order

None.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30p.m.

Our next meeting will be held virtually on April 25th at 2:00 p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC: Harris Pastides, Interim President
 Stephen Cutler, Interim 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