



## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 24th, 2022

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, January 24th, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Stephen Shapiro, Vice Chair; Drs. Demetrius Abshire, Matt Boylan, Subra Bulusu, Shana Harrington, Hippokratis Kiaris, William Matchin, Jim Mensch, Sheryl Wiskur, Neal Woods, Songhua Xu, and Maggie Carson (GSA)

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Jean Ellis, Elise Ince, Marketa Kubickova, Srihari Nelakuditi, David Reisman, Nikki Wooten, and Christina Yao

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

Provost Office Representative: Trena Houp

Guests: Dr. Michael Bizimis (SEOE), Dr. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick (Journalism and Mass Communication), Dr. Matthew Wilson (Political Science), and Jenell Peoples (Academic Programs)

**NOTE: These minutes will become final on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, if not challenged.**

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Stephen Shapiro, Vice Chair)  
The meeting was called to order at 2:02p.m.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes from December 13, 2021.** 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 December were unanimously approved.
- 3. Report of the Chair** (Murray Mitchell for Nikki Wooten)  
Dr. Wooten was not able to join the meeting today. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and a happy and prosperous Spring semester.
- 4. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School** (Tracey Weldon)  
Dr. Weldon advised that the Graduate Student Resources Hub will be opening this week. We will have Dr. Matt Klopfenstein from the National Fellowships Office and Mr. Nigel Smith from the Career Center housed in that space for starters. We are also in conversation with the Writing Center and EPI to possibly get some assistance for graduate students on their writing skills for a few hours a week in that space. That is not likely to happen early this semester, but possibly by the end of the semester. If not this semester, then definitely by the Summer or Fall semester. She will update the

Graduate Council as things come together. Wright Culpepper will be overseeing that space, and we will also hire a graduate student for a few hours each week to assist with some administrative needs.

She sent out a welcome letter a week ago and redistributed the orientation that was hosted virtually this past fall for any new students who are starting this semester or continuing students who would benefit from that information. She also redistributed the links to the Campus Helpers Panel that we hosted last Fall in hopes that you will help us to get the word out about those resources on campus and make sure the students know about how to access those resources when they need them.

Dr. Weldon reminded the Graduate Council that the Rising Star Fellowship is currently accepting nominations for new students who are either graduates of an HBCU or are current students at an HBCU who are interested in applying for a 4+1 program. If you know of eligible students or have any eligible students in your applicant pool whom you have accepted into your program, we encourage you to nominate them for that fellowship.

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

Dr. Mitchell identified that the Graduate Directors meeting for the Spring semester has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00p.m. to 3:30p.m. You are more than welcome to join and to pass this information on to graduate directors in your programs as well. As an additional reminder for everyone, the updated Graduate Director Handbook is available on the Graduate School's website. There are several useful resources with electronic bookmarks and links to the forms and/or other information that might be helpful. Printing a hard copy is just a little less useful way to use that document. He also identified that we are in the process of drafting a Graduate Student Handbook. It will not supersede whatever program handbook might be in place, but hopefully it will provide a little additional support information for students as they navigate the process toward a graduate degree. We will be working with Dr. Michelle Hardee from CTE to include information that will be helpful for graduate assistants and for graduate assistant training.

Maggie Carson (GSA) requested the opportunity for graduate student input into the creation of this document. Dr. Mitchell assured her that such input would be solicited and most welcome.

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

Dr. Jenkins announced that an email went out to graduate directors that notified them that the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP) is now accepting nominations through February 15<sup>th</sup>. Should anyone have any questions about the nomination process, feel free to email her.

Dean Weldon had requested a welcome event for last Fall semester that got pushed back and postponed due to COVID issues at that time. They are hoping that this does not affect us now in the Spring semester. This event has been rescheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be welcoming our scholarly community, the GJMPP, Graduate Civic Scholars, SREB scholars, and the Presidential Fellows scholars for this event. We will be bringing all those communities together to meet each other and receive an address, a welcome, and a greeting from the administrative leadership of the UofSC. This event will not be open to everyone, but it is something that we are going to start doing for those students in your programs that participate in those communities or have fellowships.

Finally, they are starting a "Graduate Inclusive Excellence" series. The focus will be on graduate faculty and will provide some DEI discussions and training perspectives taking on pertinent DEI issues. Particular attention will be the faculty and graduate assistants teaching in our graduate programs. Our first DEI talk is scheduled virtually via Zoom for Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, with Dr. Julie Posselt from the University of Southern California. Her research and expertise are specifically

focused on holistic graduate admissions; so, we are rethinking long-standing practices and cultural norms around assessing graduate admissions and what to include and what to consider. Dr. Jenkins sent out publicity on this DEI talk last week. Another reminder will come out next week. Please forward this publicity notification to your graduate faculty colleagues, and please encourage the graduate admission decision-makers to attend this session.

#### **7. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)**

Wright shared that he is very excited about the launching of the Graduate Student Resources Hub and anticipates some growth there over the next semester and year. He reminded everyone that Discover UofSC is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He depends heavily on faculty to assist with the undergraduate poster presentations, evaluations of graduate student posters, and the three-minute thesis presentations. If you are interested specifically in judging the three-minute thesis presentations for graduate students, please reach out to him directly so he can start putting together a roster. It is always helpful to have a game plan going into the registration process for students.

So that we know how many students we will be able to accommodate, your students should start hearing announcements about registering to present in the coming week. Information is already up on the website of the Vice President for Research about the timeline; so, your students, and then you or any of your faculty who are interested in judging can go ahead and get that on your calendars.

I do want to note that we have been a little slow this semester in getting our professional development calendar posted simply because of so many moving parts with COVID. Topics are largely set, but whether to host them in person, hybrid or virtually, are logistics being finalized. We anticipate this week that the calendar will be finalized, and students will be able to register for events starting in February. We are shifting some things around with our Financial Literacy series this semester. Founders Federal Credit Union was supposed to be doing a taxes-based lesson in February; but they are having to push that to March and flip some of those dates. If any of your students have any specific questions, feel free to have them reach out to me.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> at noon, Dr. Sam Todd, Associate Dean in HRSM, will lead a workshop on preparing to apply and interview for tenure track positions. Registration will go live either this week or next week. We are still working to find a location for this workshop.

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

Maggie reported that GSA has a lot of things coming up in the next two weeks. On Wednesday, they have their first Women's Mentorship Luncheon initiative for the Spring semester. They have a long wait list and are excited that faculty are willing to participate in mentoring graduate students. If any of your students are interested, we are opening the links for our February, March, and April luncheons because we'd like to have them all fully attended. On Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 1p.m., we have our first Town Hall of the Spring semester. We have a couple of speakers from the Leadership Center, Off Campus Student Housing, and representatives from Campus Recreation. It is also an opportunity for all graduate students to come and voice any concerns or comments that they may have or questions so that GSA can either answer those or we can get those to the proper channels. We are here to work for the students, and we hope that they bring comments and questions. Lunch will be provided.

This Friday we have our first bi-weekly meeting of the Spring semester from 3p.m. to 5p.m. in the Russell House. Students can also come to those open meetings. Next Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we have our first social event of this semester. We are calling it our Winter Social, and it is scheduled for 6p.m. to 8p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom. It will be a time for graduate students to come together and focus on our community. Food will be served.

Carolina Day is this Wednesday. We are trying to get someone from GSA to go represent some graduate student talk on that day as it happens to coincide with our Women's Mentorship Luncheon.

The application for the GSA Awards, an initiative that we started last year, is now open for the next month. We have all kinds of areas where you can apply for leadership, research, teaching overall master's student, overall PhD student, etc. It is a great opportunity for your students to be honored for the hard work that they do. Please push this application out to your students. Last year we had we had about 250 applicants; so, we are looking to increase those applicant numbers this year.

GSA Awards Link: [https://universityofsouthcarolina-yrckc.formstack.com/forms/graduate\\_student\\_recognition\\_awards\\_application\\_form\\_copy](https://universityofsouthcarolina-yrckc.formstack.com/forms/graduate_student_recognition_awards_application_form_copy)

Graduate Student Recognition Awards Application 2022  
Formstack Form - Graduate Student Recognition Awards Application 2022



GSA townhall



**9. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (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. Dr. Mitchell sits as an ex officio (non-voting) member on the Curricula and Courses Committee that reviews undergraduate proposals. His role is to ensure that 500 and 600 level courses provide an appropriate accommodation for students enrolled in such courses for graduate credit.

**500/600 Courses for January 2022 Grad Council**

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

**EDTE 600** (3) Systematic Effective Teaching (CCP: SU 2022)

**EMCH 507** (3) Computer-Aided Design (CCP Fall 2023)

**EMCH 508** (3) Finite Element Analysis in Mechanical Engineering (CCP: Fall 2023)

**EMCH 516** (3) Control Theory in Mechanical Engineering (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**EMCH 571** (3) Mechanical Behavior of Materials (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**EMCH 575** (3) Adaptive Materials and Smart Structures (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**EMCH 584** (3) Advanced Mechanics of Materials (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**EMCH 586** (3) Experimental Stress Analysis (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**EMCH 594** (3) Solar Heating (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**EPID 542** (3) Global Health Epidemiology (NCP: SU 2022)  
**ITEC 552** (3) Linux Programming and Administration (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**JOUR 536** (3) Crisis Communications (CCP: Fall 2023)  
**JOUR 553** (3) Motion Graphics for Visual Communications (NCP: Fall 2022)  
**MUSC 523** (3) Techniques and Materials of Tonal Music (CCP: SU 2022)  
**PUBH 678** (1) Transforming Health Care for the Future (CCP: Fall 2023)

### 11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

Dr. Mitchell has been empowered by the Graduate Council to review nominations to ensure that nominees meet published requirements for membership as Associate Members of the Graduate Faculty. Nominees must then be considered by a vote of the Graduate Council.

Name: **Sheryl Mitchell** (DNP)  
 Program: College of Nursing  
 Term: Fall 2021 – Fall 2026

Name: **Jennifer Morrison** (PhD)  
 Program: College of Education (Instruction and Teacher Education)  
 Term: Spring 2022 – Spring 2027

**These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.**

### 12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Murray Mitchell for Jean Ellis)

Dr. Ellis was not able to join the meeting today. She wanted the Council to know that they have identified some additional members for the committee. Since Wright Culpepper offers support for that committee, he would be available to field any questions that you might have.

Wright noted that the first deadline for the Presidential Fellowship nomination process is this Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Those nominations are to be submitted directly to him by the graduate director of the respective programs. If anyone has any questions about the nomination process, he is happy to field those questions for anyone new to the process. The Presidential Fellowship is a \$10,000 supplemental award for students who have been admitted to a PhD program or an MFA program for Fall 2022. If a program cannot meet the January 28th nomination deadline, there is another one in late February in which programs with later application deadlines can nominate. We can accept those nominations now and hope to have an update on a forming cohort of new fellows at our next meeting in February. The deadlines are all posted on the Graduate School's website.

Dr. Bulusu asked for clarification on how this year differs from previous years when we have had more opportunities to nominate for the Presidential Fellowship. Wright responded to clarify that we have only two deadlines this year, not three as has been true in the past. We changed it because over the years, we have had smaller and smaller cohorts; so, ten years ago we were having to filter a cohort of 30. Now, we are down to hopefully 10 to 12 per year. The volume is much smaller, and we are

only allowing programs to nominate a maximum of two incoming fellows each year. They must be submitted in the same year, same nomination period in either round one or round two. The total number of nominations has now decreased. The committee members in the past have expressed it would be best as their workload has grown because we now have additional awards for which there are separate processes. We wanted to make that process for the Presidential Fellowships more concise and not have it stretched the length of the entire Spring semester. The process continues to be under review. Depending on how it goes this year, we could go up to three nomination periods again in the future. This is a trial run to see if this helps the committee balance their workload.

**Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (Hippokratis Kiaris)  
None at this time.

**13. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (Jim Mensch)  
None at this time.

**14. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee** (Shana Harrington)  
No report.

**15. Other Committee Reports**  
None.

**16. Old Business**  
None.

**17. New Business**  
None.

**18. Good of the Order**  
None at this time.

**19. Adjournment**  
The meeting was adjourned at 2:38p.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