



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25th, 2021

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, January 25, 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, Stephen Shapiro, Todd Shaw, Sheryl Wiskur, Nikki Wooten, Songhua Xu and Sudipta Saha (GSA Representative).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Srihari Nelakuditi and Spencer Platt

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

Provost Office Representative: Trena Houp

Guests: Dr. Michael Bizimis (SEOE), Dr. Jean Ellis (Geography), Dr. Kristen Seay (Social Work), and Maggie Carson (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on February 22, 2021 if not challenged.

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Jim Mensch, Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m., and the agenda was unanimously approved.
- 2. Approval of the [Minutes from December 14, 2020](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 December were unanimously approved.
- 3. Report of the Chair** (Jim Mensch)
Dr. Mensch welcomed Dr. Weldon and Dr. Jenkins to the Graduate Council.
- 4. Report of the Interim Dean of Graduate School** (Tracey Weldon-Stewart)
Dr. Weldon introduced herself to the members of the Graduate Council and gave her background. She is a former member of the Graduate Council and is familiar with how it operates. Although she has an office in the Provost Office, she will spend most of her time in the Graduate School. She looks forward to working with the Graduate Council again.
- 5. Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council** (Murray Mitchell)

Dr. Mitchell welcomed everyone back to the spring semester. He reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded and that their continued participation represents their informed consent for being recorded. He had one procedural item for consideration: Dr. Ron Benner of the School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment (SEOE) and Biology, has retired as of December 2020. His retirement also brought to an end his service to the Graduate Council. Ron's term was scheduled to end as of May, 2021. In cooperation with Interim Dean Weldon-Stewart and Graduate Council Chair Jim Mensch, Dr. Subra Bulusu, also of SEOE, has agreed to complete Ron's term of service. As additional information, when nominations are considered for new Graduate Council members, Subra will be eligible to serve his own 3-year term.

We appreciate your ongoing support for the continuing adjustments that we all are making as we adjust to the constraints of this pandemic, and we hope to continue to provide the services that meet the needs of all.

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

Dr. Jenkins introduced herself to the members of the Graduate Council and gave her background. She is excited for her new role and looks forward to building the cultural climate on this campus and building up graduate faculty capacity to serve graduate students and to embrace the Graduate School's focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion and to help to build the supportive environment and campus climate. She will also work to assist the GJMPP. This is all tied to the UofSC's strategic plan in its heightened focus to include diversity, equity, and inclusion.

7. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

Wright shared that the Graduate School is co-sponsoring SHARPGrads with University Libraries. The program offers several workshops, the completion of which will lead to a Certificate of Achievement. Registration is through University Libraries. Categories of these virtual workshops include:

- a. Creating Digital Topics
- b. Library Research and Citation Management
- c. Scholarly Communication
- d. Data Visualization
- e. Research Data Management

The Student Success Center will host a virtual Start Smart Salary Negotiation workshop this Friday, January 29th, from 2-4p.m. A registration link has been distributed and will be resent this week.

The Center for Teaching Excellence will host Part 1 of its Writing Your Teaching Philosophy workshop on Friday, February 5th, from 3:00-4:50p.m. A registration link has been distributed and will be resent this week. Space is limited to the first 40 students who register.

Discover UofSC registration will open on Wednesday, January 27th, and will run through March 5th. The event will be held on Friday, April 23rd. Students can present a virtual poster or compete in our virtual 3MT competition. Training will be offered for both presentation competitions.

The Graduate School has partnered with the Graduate Career Consortium to give our students access to the PhD & Master's Virtual Career Expo. This is a nationwide event with employers from all over the world in all disciplines. All students are invited to attend this free event on March 3rd. Details

will be made available on the event website:

<https://www.careereco.com/Fair/EventDetails?fairId=b53e09d7-d09c-4ab6-860b-ac4e0121f939>.

They are working to schedule professional headshot sessions on two Fridays later in the semester.

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

Sudipta congratulated Dr. Weldon on her new role. GSA advocates for the graduate and professional students at our school, and many of our efforts actually go hand-in-hand with the Graduate School. It is the centerpiece of most of the experiences graduate students encounter in their endeavor. The executive members of GSA are set to send Dr. Weldon a request for a formal meeting to touch base with her. Previously, GSA organized several activities and events in partnership with the Graduate School that helped graduate students a great deal. They are looking forward to continuing that partnership under Dr. Weldon's leadership and will be reaching out in the next few days.

GSA's Professional Development Team and University Libraries are partnering together to host a virtual talk with Christopher Caterine. He is the author of *Leaving Academia: A Practical Guide*, which looks at addressing the challenges of finding jobs outside of academia and providing actionable guidance. An estimated 93 percent of graduate students in the humanities and social sciences will not get a tenure-track job, yet many still assume that tenured professorship is the only successful outcome of a Ph.D. With a percentage that high, graduate students may be looking for other options. The talk will take place virtually on Friday, Feb. 5th at 2:30 p.m. Click here for more information on this eventbrite event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leaving-academia-a-practical-guide-with-christopher-caterine-tickets-136022909183>

GSA is having its first townhall of the semester on Wednesday, Feb 3rd. Typically, they try to hold at least two townhalls each semester. The first townhall is called "taking/receiving the grievances" from the graduate students. Based on that feedback, a second townhall is held and they invite leadership to address those issues. He requests that the faculty members of the Graduate Council encourage their students to take part in these events.

The cabinet members of GSA worked with Dr. Michelle Hardee from the Center for Teaching Excellence regarding the Spring Mandatory TA training. They are trying make presence in the TA training as session panelists on a continuous basis. In addition, they are having discussions on a "mandatory DEI training" for all graduate assistant students—most suitably in a form of a GRAD 701 course or the like. Typically, Graduate Research Assistants do not get that kind of training, but they are often required to collaborate with a diverse group of researchers or are required to mentor new students in the lab. DEI training is vital in working in this kind of environment. They are currently discussing DEI training with the Provost office not only because they believe that it is necessary for the students while they are in graduate school, but they believe the training will be helpful in their future careers as well.

9. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Nikki Wooten)

Dr. Wooten shared that they are still in the initial stages in revising the Graduate Bulletin. Thus far, they have developed the table of contents. Dr. Addy will remain with this working group, but Dr. Weldon-Stewart will rotate in to contribute later.

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 January 2021 Grad Council

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

None at this time.

Distributed Learning Proposals

None at this time.

11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

None at this time.

12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Joanna Casey)

The deadline for the first round of nominations for the Presidential Fellows was January 15th. They will meet on Wednesday to review and make the first round of determinations out of the six nominations they received. Due to the small number of nominations received for round one, round two will likely be a much larger pool.

The GJMPP nomination deadline is February 1st. They will conduct their review of the second round of applicants sometime in February along with the GJMPP nominations.

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 (Robin DiPietro)

None at this time.

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

No report.

16. Other Committee Reports

None at this time.

17. Old Business

Dr. Mitchell followed up on the discussion regarding the need for more helpful information regarding graduation regalia, and we are still in the process of gathering more insight into details surrounding:

- a. The color of the gown
- b. The type of hat
- c. The color of the hood
- d. The color of the tassel

- e. Appropriateness of additional accessories.

As we progress with a better understanding of addressing these items for graduate students, we will report back with better guidance.

18. New Business

None at this time.

19. Good of the Order

None at this time.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51p.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 George, Office of the Registrar