



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

May 10th, 2021

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, May 10th, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Jim Mensch, Chair; Drs. Matt Boylan, Subra Bulusu, Robin DiPietro, Elise Ince, Carmen Maye, Srihari Nelakuditi, Sheryl Wiskur, Nikki Wooten, Songhua Xu, and Sudipta Saha (GSA Representative).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Suzanne Adlof, Nate Bell, Joanna Casey, Hippokratis Kiaris, Spencer Platt, Stephen Shapiro.

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

Provost Office Representative: Trena Houp (Excused)

Guests: Dr. Jean Ellis (Geography), Dr. Michael Bizimis (SEOE), Dr. William Matchin (COMD), Dr. Neal Woods (SEOE), Dr. David Reisman (Biological Sciences), Maggie Carson (GSA), and Sowmya Raghu (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on August 23, 2021 if not challenged.

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Jim Mensch, Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:00p.m., and the Agenda was unanimously approved.
- 2. Approval of the [Minutes from April 26, 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 April were unanimously approved.
- 3. Report of the Chair** (Jim Mensch)
Dr. Mensch announced that this was his last Graduate Council meeting as Chair, and he thanked Dr. Mitchell for the opportunity to have served in this capacity and on the Council as a whole.
- 4. Report of the Interim Dean of Graduate School** (Tracey Weldon)
Dr. Weldon shared that we got through the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Saturday, May 8th. In spite of challenges, the ceremony went well. Maggie Carson, outgoing GSA President and Shudan Huang, incoming GSA President, were the Mace bearers and represented the GSA and the Graduate School well. All comments heard up to this point have been positive.

Starting this fall, the University will be covering the health insurance costs for all PhD students and all full-time and Z-Status/Special Enrollment graduate assistants. As expected, there were lots of questions that were prompted from that announcement. We will be putting together a working group to work out all of the logistics. We will also put together another short memo to the graduate students that will answer some of those FAQs. We are not changing the coverage itself right now. She thanked GSA for pushing and advocating for this worthy cause. She is grateful that we were able to pull this off in part because of some funding from this strategic plan. The new budget model which is a decentralized model allows each of the academic units to contribute to this effort. Thanks to everyone involved.

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

Dr. Mitchell reminded the members that the meeting was being recorded. Your continued participation represents your consent to be recorded. Several of our members have completed terms of service and will be rotating off of the Council, with today as their final meeting of the academic year. So, he wanted to take a moment to express thanks to the following members:

Suzanne Adlof (Communication Sciences and Disorders)
Nate Bell (Nursing)
Subra Bulusu (Earth, Ocean, and Environment)
Joanna Casey (Anthropology)
Robin DiPietro (Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management)
Spencer Platt (Educational Leadership and Policies)
Sudipta Saha (Graduate Student Association)

As we make the transition from academic year 2020-21, to 2021-22, there are four related items for your consideration—two of these will require a vote of the Council. The first item is simply that today will be our final meeting under the leadership of our Chair, Jim Mensch. Our Vice Chair, Nikki Wooten, will rotate into these duties as of our first meeting in August. Our second item is that as Nikki vacates the Vice Chair position, we need to fill that position. Typically, a nominee would be able to serve 2021-22 as Vice Chair, and then as Chair in 2022-23. For your information, here are the related duties:

1. If the Chair is absent from a Council meeting, the Vice Chair steps in to run the meeting.
2. The Vice Chair serves as Chair of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee—this group meets only to consider editorial and/or change proposals to graduate policies and practices. The ‘load’ on this committee is unpredictable. If needed, meetings are called at the convenience of committee members.
3. As mentioned, the Vice Chair serves in this position for one year and then rotates into the position of Chair in the following year. Typically, the Chair would then rotate off of the Council.

Nominees for Vice Chair should be forwarded to Dr. Mitchell and will be voted upon in the August meeting.

Our third item of business is that we have positions to fill for Academic Year 2021-2022 Graduate Council. Nominees require a vote to affirm membership. Nominees are:

1. **Subra Bulusu** (Earth, Ocean, Environment—eligible for a full 3 years because he completed the remaining portion of a colleague who retired).
2. **Maggie Carson** (Elected by the Graduate Student Association to a 1-year term)
3. **Jean Ellis** (Geography)

4. **Marketa Kubickova** (Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management)
5. **William Matchin** (Communication Sciences and Disorders)
6. **David Reisman** (Biological Sciences)
7. **Neal Woods** (Completing the term of Todd Shaw)
8. **Christina Yao** (Educational Leadership and Policies)

These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council

Welcome to our new members, many of whom were able to join us today.

Finally, we need representation on various committees for next academic year. The chair of each committee must be a Graduate Council member, but additional committee members do not have to be Graduate Council members. If you have a desire to serve on one of these committees, please let him know; or, if you know other graduate faculty members in your program who may be interested in serving, if you will let him know, he will happily reach out to them with more details on the committee(s) and invite them to serve. For your information, the five standing committees are:

1. Humanities, Social Sciences, Education and Related Professional Programs Committee
2. Science, Math and Related Professional Programs Committee
3. Academic Policy and Practices Committee
4. Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee
5. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee

Our next Graduate Council meeting will be on August 23rd at 2p.m. This will be our first meeting of the new academic year and will most likely be virtual. Instructions will be shared in advance as that meeting gets closer. We are working to find some balance of virtual and face-to-face meetings, if at all possible, in the coming year. Please remember that May and December meetings take place on the second Monday of those months, but all other meetings are on the fourth Monday of remaining months, if it helps to get those onto your calendar in advance.

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

No report.

7. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

Wright requested that any professional development suggestions or ideas for the new academic year be sent to his attention.

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

Sudipta reported that the new GSA President, Shudan Huang, along with the departing GSA President, Maggie Carson, carried the ceremonial mace in the graduation ceremony this weekend. It is always great to see GSA being represented which speaks for its contribution to the student community and student life.

The biggest news regarding graduate students that came since our last meeting was the announcement of fully subsidizing the health insurance---starting from this Fall. As he reported in April that they met with Provost Tate and Dean Weldon to discuss this. Honestly, we were not very optimistic to get this announcement this soon! In fact, Provost Tate stated that his office was still in the process of making the groundwork. The announcement from his office, which was later distributed by Graduate School, was a very surprising gift to all graduate students. GSA has been a long advocate of this benefit. In past years, the GSA executive board worked with Dr. Addy which led to the increase of

the health insurance subsidy. We are grateful to previous GSA committees who initiated the advocacy, and proud of our current team who kept it alive up to this point. We are proud to have worked side-by-side with university leadership to create a happier, healthier environment for graduate students at UofSC. The release from the Provost's office shared a message from Interim Dean Weldon, who notes: "Our students represent the best of the best. We recognize the importance of continually investing in their well-being to promote their success." He thanked Dean Weldon and felt that these words could not have been spoken better.

The departing executive members met with Dr. Anna Edwards, the Associate Vice President for Student Life, to share our experiences, the challenges we faced during our tenure, and to discuss how Department of Student Life can help facilitate GSA endeavors. One of the major points that was raised in the meeting was that the scope of GSA activities needs to become more institutionalized. Most of the GSA activities and events that take place stem from the aim and goals defined by the GSA team itself. It has been more of a self-driven entity. In addition, there has been a disconnect between Student Government and GSA. In theory, Student Government is supposed to represent all students, but practically, graduate students have not been represented at all. This year, GSA has demonstrated how advocacy for the graduate students can benefit the University as a whole. The Department of Student Life should explore how the role of GSA can be more institutionalized and formalized similarly to the role of Student Government. On the same note, we also discussed that in order to achieve this goal, the Department of Student Life should establish more of a partnership with the Graduate School.

He had planned to share the Annual Report of GSA at this meeting, but it is in the final stages of completion. Maggie Carson will be able to share it with you later in August and highlight the key successes and major achievements of the 2020 - 2021 academic school year.

On a personal note, it has been a very rewarding experience for him to serve on the Graduate Council. It is always great to be involved and to learn new things. Thank you all for your supportive and inclusive role.

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

No report.

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 May 10, 2021 Grad Council

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

None at this time; no May meeting of the Faculty Senate Committee

Distributed Learning Proposals

None at this time; no May meeting of the Faculty Senate Committee

11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

None at this time.

12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Wright Culpepper for Joanna Casey)

Wright Culpepper reported that they announced the winners of the current graduate student fellowships and awards on Friday via the graduate director listserv, the program administrator listserv, the graduate student listserv, and on the Graduate School website. They appreciated your patience as they worked to get the nominations sorted out. They had 101 nominations/applications for those awards which is far greater than they have ever received.

They got access to the SREB award applications on Friday afternoon. He will be in the process of distributing those out to the Committee and determining who will be able to review those now that the Spring semester is over. He hopes to have some good news about the recipients by the end of the month.

13. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Murray Mitchell for 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=101&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.”

- **EPID 788** (3) Practical Methods for Secondary Data Analysis, Public Health, CCP: Fall 2022

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=101&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.”

- **ACCT Major / Degree Program**, Accountancy, M.A.C.C., Business, Change Program: Fall 2022
- **ACCT 743** (3) Accounting for Management Control, Business, CCP: Fall 2022
- **EDPY 785** (3) Motivation and School Learning, Education, CCP: Fall 2021
- **EDST Major / Degree Program**, Counselor Education, Ed.S., Education, Change Program: Fall 2022

- **EDTE 812** (3) Research in STEM Education, Education, NCP: Fall 2021
- **EDTE 827** (3) Principles of Engineering in STEM Education, Education, NCP: Fall 2021
- **FINA 773** (3) Project Finance, Education, CCP: Fall 2021
- **MGMT 731** (3) Negotiations, Business, CCP: Fall 2021
- **MGMT 780** (3) Entrepreneurial Finance and the Dynamics of Emerging Ventures, Business, CCP: Fall 2021
- **MGSC 777** (3) Advanced Quantitative Methods in Business, Business, CCP: Fall 2022
- **MGSC 778** (3) Revenue Management, Business, CCP: Fall 2021
- **MGSC 779** (3) innovation and Design, Business, CCP: Fall 2021
- **MKTG 719** (3) Business to Business Marketing, Business, CCP: Fall 2021
- **MKTG 720** (3) Sales: Process, People and Performance, Business, CCP: Fall 2021
- **MUSC Major / Degree Program**, Master of Music Education, Music, Change Program: Fall 2022
- **MUSC Major / Degree Program**, Music D.M.A. Conducting, Music, Change Program: Fall 2022

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

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

No report.

16. Other Committee Reports

None.

17. Old Business

None.

18. New Business

None.

19. Good of the Order

Dr. Mitchell thanked everyone for their thoughtful participation and contributions for Graduate Council. This is a critical group for ensuring the quality of education that we offer at the graduate level across the institution--not just for individual programs. He realizes that it is challenging and time consuming, but he appreciates your willingness to serve.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42p.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