



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

October 23rd, 2023

The Graduate Council met on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 2:00P.M. in Room #584 of the Close-Hipp Building.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Hassan Anderson, Chair; Drs. Subra Bulusu, Dianna Inman, Kathy Kim, Terrance McAdoo, Wendy Regoeczi, David Reisman, Kim Thompson, Sriram Venkataraman, Christina Yao, and Gaurav Harshe (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Sourav Banerjee (excused), Jing Fang (excused), Edie Goldsmith (excused), Ann Lehman, William Matchin (excused), Nicholas Watanabe, and Neal Woods (excused).

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Ann Vail, Dr. Murray Mitchell (Secretary), Dr. Andrea Fleming, Dr. Jean Ellis, Dr. Angelina Sylvain, Dale Moore, Wright Culpepper, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representatives: Trena Houp

Guests: Ed Short (Registrar)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on November 23rd, 2023, if not challenged.

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Hassan Anderson, Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:04p.m., and the Agenda was approved.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes from September 25, 2023.** Approved actions by Graduate Council become effective 30 days after posting. A copy is available on the Graduate School website at: <https://bit.ly/3SvPO0E>.

The minutes from September were unanimously approved.

- 3. Report of the Chair** (Hassan Anderson)
Dr. Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 4. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School** (Ann Vail)
Dean Vail reminded the group that they have 89 participants signed up for the Building a Better Graduate Education Reading Group to further the discussion on *The New PhD: Building a Better Graduate Education*. They will be meeting on Wednesday, October 25th and November 29th in Russell House Ballroom C, 2:00 – 3:30pm.

Please mark your calendar for the Inaugural Graduate Education Summit for January 26, 2024. The conference will be keynoted by Leonardo Cassuto and Robert Weisbuch, the authors of *The New PhD: Building a Better Graduate Education*. We will also have break out groups exploring a variety of topics

including AI Assisted Graduate Education: Are You/We Ready?

The Graduate School continues to have a robust applications process for Fall 2024. To date, we have received 2,471 applications with 712 of those being completed. Completed applications are up from 496 this time last year for a 400% year-over-year increase. Our greatest increase is among international students.

Our Emerging Scholars traveled to the University of Arkansas for their annual meeting. This is an important group that contributes to the development of a diverse faculty at the University of South Carolina. Thank you to Dr. Jean Ellis for her leadership of this group.

We are gearing up to begin the Admissions Process Improvement Project led by the Office of Organizational Excellence. Staff from that office will work with The Graduate School staff to gather customer feedback, map the admissions process, and use the customer feedback and process map to generate improvement ideas that will lead to an action plan. Stakeholders will be consulted throughout the process.

Dean Vail had the privilege of listening to our Graduate Council Chair Hassan Anderson's solo oboe performance with the USC Symphony Orchestra. His playing sounded like angels singing, and she highly recommends attending one of his performances.

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

Dr. Mitchell noted that the proposal to amend the procedures for identifying members for Graduate Council, that involves a change to the Faculty Manual, will be up for a vote at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate that will be held in Close-Hipp on the 8th floor, at 3:00pm, on November 1st, 2023. Graduate Council members who are available may wish to attend.

Dr. Mitchell also noted a professional development opportunity open to faculty and graduate students will be held on Tuesday, October 24th, from 1:15pm to 2:30pm in the Center for Teaching Excellence. The topic is a part of a collaborative effort between the CTE and the Graduate School as a part of the Certificate of Completion: Entering Mentoring: Fostering Independence.

6. Report on Presidential Fellows (Jean Ellis)

Dr. Ellis shared that she is thankful for the opportunity to share information about the Presidential Fellows program. This is her fourth year leading this group as she continues to serve in even in her capacity as Interim Associate Dean of The Graduate School.

This year, they have 38 Presidential Fellows with 10 of them being new. Presidential Fellows meet at least seven times per semester in a zero-credit hour course named GRAD 801. The goal is to build a scholarly community and foster professional development skills. Every semester, our third-year fellows present their research. She formulated their speaker series by discussing ideas with her Advisory Council. Some highlights of this semester's seminar series:

- She instituted a tradition as the director of Presidential Fellows to invite the winner of the Mungo Graduate Award. Professor Myrick from Chemistry and Biochemistry graciously visited this year.
- They will have their own 3MT presentations.
- This week, they are discussing possible Presidential Fellows collaborative research projects.

In addition, she hosts two coffee hours per semester and meets with her Advisory Council twice per semester. The Fellows are aligned with the service activities, specifically, Discover USC and TRIO.

7. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

Wright revealed that there are eight Professional Development workshops scheduled for this week-- including Dr. Mitchell's "Entering Mentoring" workshop that he mentioned. Most of them are being hosted by USC library staff as part of the SHARPGrads Workshop Series. SHARPGrads is the **Skills, Habits, and Research Program for Graduate Students**. This workshop series, sponsored by University Libraries, Research Computing, and the Graduate School, provides free training in digital scholarship, computing, and library research concepts for students enrolled in graduate-level courses. He commended the tremendous work that they do in keeping that program active and relevant each year. It seems like they are constantly offering a new subset of workshops in a new category each year. SHARPGrads is information literacy. It covers a wide range of topics from appropriate literature review to data visualization. Students who go through the core classes and the appropriate number of optional workshops can earn the digital badge which is all the rage right now. Please talk about this to your students and faculty in your programs. Nigel Smith in the Career Center is also offering a salary negotiation workshop this week.

The 3MT Competition registration will close on Thursday, October 26th at midnight. They have 31 participants signed up and would like to have above 40 signed up. Please encourage your students to sign up.

8. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Gaurav Harshe)

Gaurav reported the following regarding GSA:

- They had over 80 participants at their Fall Social on September 27th
- Support for students affected by the Middle East conflict and how can GSA help.
- Funding and other supplemental resources
 - Are insurance copays higher?
 - Employer/employee relations
- International student basic needs issues
 - housing (GSA President has addressed Mayoral committee)
 - transport
 - food insecurity
- Overnight parking in graduate lot disallowed, gameday parking overtake.

9. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Terrance McAdoo)

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 October 2023 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal). Total:

ENHS 555 (3) Climate Change and Human Health (NCP: Spring 2024)

HTMT 574 (3) The Global Business of Beverage Distribution (CCP: Fall 2024)

INDE 591 (3) Smart Manufacturing (NCP: Spring 2024)

INDE 593 (3) Supply Chain Engineering (NCP: Spring 2024)
INDE 595 (3) Systems Simulation (NCP: Spring 2024)
ITEC 520 (3) Exploring the Internet of Things (NCP: Spring 2024)
SPTE 515 (3) Sport in Film (CCP: Fall 2024)

11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

Name: **Anfel Crews, DNP**
Program: College of Nursing
Term: Fall 2023 – Fall 2029

Name: **Eboni H. Harris, PhD**
Program: College of Nursing
Term: Fall 2023 – Fall 2029

Name: **Austin Crane, PhD**
Program: Geography
Term: Fall 2023 – Fall 2029

Name: **Robert Kopack, PhD**
Program: Geography
Term: Fall 2023 – Fall 2029

Name: **Kelsey Collins, PhD**
Program: Criminology and Criminal Justice
Term: Spring 2024 – Fall 2029

These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Murray Mitchell for Srihari Nelakuditi)
No report.

13. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Murray Mitchell for Jing Fang)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 28

- **Marine Science, M.S.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Marine Science, PhD.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Master's Entry to Practice, M.S.N.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Nursing Science, Ph.D.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Epidemiology M.P.H.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **BIOS 720** (3) Advanced Data Management in Public Health (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **COMD 705** (3) Adult Speech and Language Disorders (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **COMD 717** (1) Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **COMD 725** (2) Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Disorders: Evaluation and Therapy (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **COMD 738** (2) Introduction to Autism for the Speech-Language Pathologist (CCP: Fall 2024)

- **COMD 750** (3) Introduction to Audiology and Aural Habilitation (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **EXSC 805** (1-3) Introduction to Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (NCP: Spring 2024; cross listed at **EPID 805**)
- **NURS 800** (3) Philosophical Foundations and Theoretical Applications in Nursing Science (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 803** (3) Scientific Knowledge in Nursing, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 804** (3) The Role of the Nurse Scientist, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 810** (3) Introductory Methods and Analysis in Nursing Science, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 811** (3) Advanced Methods and Analysis in Nursing Science, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 813** (3) Qualitative and Mixed Methods in Nursing Science, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 818** (3) Social and Structural Determinants of Health, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **NURS 855** (3) Measurement in Biobehavioral Research, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 856** (3) Research Literature Synthesis, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 870** (3) Grant Proposal Development, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **RCON 701** (3) Foundations in Addictions and Treatment in Counseling, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **RCON 703** (3) Foundations in Career Counseling, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **RCON 712** (3) Addiction and the Family, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **RCON 735** (3) Leadership in Rehabilitation and the Helping and Healthcare Professions, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **Behavioral Health in Athletic Training, Certificate**, New Program Proposal: Summer 2024)
- **Critical Incident Management & Primary Care in Athletic Training, Certificate**, New Program Proposal: Spring 2024)

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

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

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 27

- **Art Education, M.A.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Public Administration, M.P.A.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Accountancy, M.A.C.C.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Human Resources, M.H.R.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **GEOG 730** (3) Seminar in Environmental Geography, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **GEOG 735** (3) Seminar in Political Geography, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **GEOG 746** (3) Seminar in Climatology, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **GEOG 763** (3) Seminar in Geographic Information Systems, (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **Library and Information, Ph.D.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Library and Information, SLIS**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Information Security and Cyber Leadership, Certificate**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Information Security and Cyber Leadership, M.S.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Art Education, M.A.T. (P-12 Certification)**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Physical Education, MAT (P-12 Certification)**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **ACCT 711** (3) System and Organization Controls, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **EDEX 809** (3) Single-Case Research Designs in Special Education, (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **EDRM 711** (3) Educational Statistics II, (CCP: Spring 2024)

- **EDRM 812** (3) Hierarchical Linear Modeling, (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **RETL 735** (3) Leadership for Retailers, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **RETL 795** (3) Financial Management for Retailers, (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **International Business/Vlerick Business School, M.I.B.**, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2024)
- **MIB Dual Degree – ESADE**, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2024)
- **Retailing, M.R.**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **SOWK 777** (3) Advanced Theory for Social Work Practice, (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 782** (3) Field Instruction II: Generalist Social Work Practice, (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **Sustainability in Business, Certificate**, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2024)
- **Trauma-Informed Practice, Certificate**, (New Program Proposal: Spring 2024)

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

15. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (David Reisman)

- Dr. Reisman moved for the Graduate Council to go into Closed Session.
- Upon return to open session, the motion to approve the recommendation of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee was unanimously approved.

16. Other Committee Reports

None at this time.

17. Old Business

- Update on Incomplete Grade Policy (Murray Mitchell)
Dr. Mitchell reported that he is still soliciting input on the topic.

18. New Business

- Clarification of “quorum” from the *Graduate Council Manual* (Murray Mitchell)
Dr. Mitchell reported that the definition offered is that a simple majority of members is the current language. The Policy and Practices Committee will be charged with providing some additional clarification to this language to ensure the appropriate representation of faculty with respect to the conduct of future business of the Graduate Council.
- Update on Graduate Attendance Policies from other schools (Murray Mitchell)
Dr. Mitchell reported that information has been solicited from other SEC schools and from Clemson (as representative of the other major school in South Carolina). Feedback indicates a range of leaving the policy to individual faculty members who must include the information in the first or second meeting of the class, to pages of policy language stipulating many factors to be considered. The Policy and Practices Committee will be charged with crafting an appropriate set of guidelines for an attendance policy for graduate courses.
- Dr. Mitchell addressed one additional topic that warrants further consideration. Dealing equitably with graduate student withdrawals may benefit from additional input from a set of undergraduate “hardship withdrawal” procedures where there is additional expertise available to interpret the kinds of documentation in support of such a request. Their procedures may be helpful in ensuring appropriate consideration of these kinds of requests, while remaining sensitive to different implications for graduate students who are supported by assistantships.

The timing of a withdrawal can possibly have a dramatic impact on tuition and fee bills that must also be considered.

19. Good of the Order

Dr. Bulusu expressed his disappointment with the cancellation of the Graduate Scholar Awards ceremony program this year. He is in hopes that another entity will get this program up and running again as it was good for the students and the faculty.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC: Michael Amiridis, President
Donna Arnett, Provost
Ann Vail, 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