GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 23rd, 2020

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Jim Mensch, Chair; Drs. Suzanne Adlof, Nate Bell, Ron Benner, Matt Boylan, Joanna Casey, Robin DiPietro, Shanna Harrington, Elise Ince, Hippokratis Kiaris, Carmen Maye, Srihari Nelakuditi, Spencer Platt, Stephen Shapiro, Todd Shaw, Sherl Wiskur, Nikki Wooten, Songhua Xu and Sudipta Saha, GSA Representative.

Graduate Council members absent: None

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Cheryl Addy, Dr. Murray Mitchell (Secretary), Dale Moore, Wright Culpepper, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representative: Trena Houp

Guests: President Caslen, Dr. Robert Moran (Epidemiology and Biostatistics), Dr. Mark Ferguson (DMSB), Dr. Jean Ellis (Geography), Dr. Mark Sarzynski (Exercise Science), Dr. Susan Bon (President's Office), Sally McKay (Executive Communication), and Maggie Carson (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on December 14, 2020 if not challenged.

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Jim Mensch, Chair)
   The meeting was called to order at 2:01p.m., and the agenda was unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from October 26, 2020**. 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 October were approved.

3. **Remarks from President Caslen**
   President Caslen shared with the Graduate Council that with respect to COVID-19 prevention efforts, 90% of our students are being responsible and doing the right thing regarding social distancing and wearing masks. We are doing more random antibody testing and we are trying to get as random and representative samplings as possible. We don't have large numbers, but roughly 50% of the student body has had the virus. We are pushing testing hard to have students tested before they go home for Thanksgiving. He is pleased with the students' responses. We have tested about 14,000 so far. He credited the School of Public Health and the College of Pharmacy for initiatives that they have taken towards testing. The School of Public Health came up with waste-water sewage testing directly from the student residence buildings. When a spike was detected, they would go in with the saliva testing

and identify where the problems are and remove them to quarantine. This allows us to stay ahead of the game and it has really made a huge difference. This was all done from our own resources.   Dr. Deborah Birx, Chair of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, commended the UofSC for the great initiative and great effort by the faculty to use University resources to tackle this problem.

Technology makes the pathways to attend college successful. The power of digital transformation and its impact on the future of higher education is key. President Caslen credits IT and Doug Foster with synchronizing every one of our 650 classrooms. The modality and optionality appear to be moving to the new normal for higher education. COVID and the digital transformation that has taken place is really putting us into an interesting position in trying to understand where the future of higher education is going. Graduate students are now choosing to take more classes on-line. Assuming that the intellectual needs of the graduate students are met, institutions like ours must embrace technology to deliver education to them.   The traditional resident model will still be there, but there will be a growing number of students who will be more interested in on-line education. Interesting dynamics.

In finding where the opportunities are, we have put some cost-saving measures in place to address some of the challenges that we are currently experiencing. We have created a committee of nine from Faculty Senate. We also have the future planning group, the Counsel of Academic Deans, and the Cabinet as they look at some of the different challenges. There have been some smaller cost-saving measures identified such as furloughs, hiring freezes, etc. Some of the larger possible coping strategies really come to the issue of organization and organizational restructuring, and consolidations. The Board has requested that we look into the consolidation of IT. We have brought in a consultant to assist us--EAD.   EAD is an external organization with an external view that will help us get as much collaborative input as we can.

The pandemic has changed a lot of things which has required the implementation of a strategic plan. The highlight of this strategic plan is the vision statement that says that we will be the preeminent flagship university in the nation with a mission that says that we will transform the lives of the people of South Carolina (our students who come here). Out of that we have eight priorities:

1. Student centric
2. Faculty centric
3. Research in order to be AAU eligible
4. Campus Culture inclusive and equitable
5. How we operate as a system
6. Innovation and economic development through impactful community partnerships
7. Sustainable infrastructure that supports academic excellence
8. Developing a culture of excellence and a culture that wins

This strategic plan includes implementation and assessment. Your feedback is requested and essential by the first quarter of 2021. Dean Addy will assist with this assessment effort. The plan is to have all eight priorities in place by the next fiscal year to align with the new budget cycle in July 2021.

We are in the middle of our Reaffirmation with SACSCOC. We received our initial feedback which was strong. We had the vice president visit last week, and he gave us some good feedback. We have a total of 8 to 10 standards that we were not in compliance with that need to be addressed. That is a good number comparatively for the first look. We know what is required to get it corrected.

President Caslen is thankful to all faculty for having made all required adjustments last Spring semester from face-to-face to total on-line delivery with so little notice.

Sudipta Saha, GSA Representative, thanked President Caslen for attending the Graduate Council meeting and offered some sentiments from the GSA. They feel that since he took office, he has been putting graduate students in the priority list of his agenda. His presence here today reflects his commitment to provide a better graduate experience in our school. The Graduate Council, within its capacity, has been doing great on serving the interests of graduate students. As you know, GSA has enhanced their activities over last couple of years to a significant level. This year, one of their top agenda items is to fill the communication gap between grad students and different offices of the university. While working on that, they have found that there has been some level of communication gap regarding graduate students among those offices. Another way of saying it: While the different offices are doing their part on graduate student interests excellently, sometimes it seems like they are not synced properly.

Also, it is often discussed that the lack of centralization of graduate student information and the department-based data model, is hurting graduate students at some levels. In many of the cases, communication does not reach the graduate students—mostly on employment and DEI initiatives. So, they believe that there is a need for systemic improvement in this regard.

4. **Report of the Chair** (Jim Mensch)
   No report.

5. **Report of the Dean of Graduate School** (Cheryl Addy)
   Dean Addy is thankful to President Caslen for the number of communications that he is sending out regarding SACSCOC requirements and pandemic updates. The SACSCOC process requires that we document the academic credentials of every instructor (including graduate student instructors as well). SACSCOC identified 48 items that we had not properly documented. That frankly is remarkable! A few months ago, we had several hundred that we were aware of that hadn't been properly documented. Ninety-nine percent of the institutions are non-compliant in that standard, so that is not a big deal. The assessment for learning outcomes was deemed as non-compliant. She doesn't think that this an issue with our system, but she thinks that it is the issue that we didn't provide the information they were looking for at a sufficient level of detail. She thinks that we have the information, and it will take work to put it together. Our assessment is that it was very favorable review off-site and things that we can work with going forward.

   Last year, pre-pandemic about 25% of our graduate students were already enrolled in on-line programs. We have a few on-line programs that are sizable that helped make the on-line transition easier. That number was about 35% for the fall. The change in modality was much less impactful on graduate students than it was undergraduate students because we already had so much on-line previously. That said, some of our disciplines that traditionally have not done much with on-line education are looking at what those options are. As for classroom teaching, there is a wide range of quality in on-line education, and we are seeing an increased number of proposals for on-line delivery. It does not show up in this month's agenda, but she feels that we will be seeing even more proposals for courses for on-line delivery in December and the following months.

   To reiterate what President Caslen said, quality on-line education requires significant opportunity for the students and faculty to interact. If that is not provided, the asynchronous delivery where the professor looks like a talking head and there is little to no opportunity to engage directly, is not quality on-line education. The important thing is to do it well. One of the key factors is to have the opportunity for engagement—whether it happens synchronously or asynchronously. There is a lot that we can do with that. This is a growth area for graduate students. Many are working or coming out of the full-time work force; so, the ability to deliver quality education on-line is critically important to our future. There has been a lot of discussion at the university level--pre-pandemic--

about growing on-line graduate education. Our potential for on-line education really is at the graduate level meeting the needs of working professionals. That is where you and your programs will come in as we go forward.

If we want to look like AAU eligible, PhD production is very, very important. That is a direct metric. The skills, work, and research of our doctoral students is also critically important to our faculty's success in research and those methods that are included in AAU. Graduate education, doctoral education in particular, is very important in that goal overall.

One of the opportunities that has been identified in the various processes in last few months is the demand and the potential to grow some of our more professionally oriented master's programs. The master's programs tend to not get as much attention sometimes, but there is a lot of talk about those opportunities for us to grow. We cannot do this successfully unless we can bring in top graduate students. We cannot grow just with numbers. We need to grow with quality as well. This has been demonstrated that it can be done at the undergraduate level. It is our time to do this successfully at the graduate level. She is extremely pleased with the growth of enrollment this semester for graduate students. We need to keep this up to maintain the high quality that we already have.

We need to offer more financial support and improve the graduate student experience. She has already gotten increased funding for Presidential Scholars program. It came too late to use it for the initial awards this fall, but we are looking to see if we can offer it to current students this spring. We will be moving into this for next year and looking to grow this program a little bit to basically provide that top-level opportunity for a few more of our top doctoral and MFA students. The Grace Jordan-McFadden Professors Program is one of the few programs called out by name in this strategic plan, and there is already a process of getting new resources for that program. Can we build that program and enhance it in terms the support that we offer those students, but can we bring more students into that much more intensive mentoring experience that this very small group has currently? There is talk about having a similar program for master's students, promoting graduate education opportunities for students from underrepresented minorities who may have more challenges taking advantage of these opportunities that we offer because of funding requirements.

The other pipeline in discussion is how can we enhance 4+1 programs. How can our university partner with other four-year institutions to bring the best of those students into some of our master's programs to help them get a master's degree within 12 to 18 months?   This is an excellent pipeline program.

6. **Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council** (Murray Mitchell)
   Full disclosure: Dr. Mitchell announced at the start of the meeting, and he wanted to mention again that the Graduate Council meeting was being recorded. He also confirmed that Graduate Council meetings are open to all who may be interested in attending to learn more about the business of Graduate Education at the University of South Carolina—please share that information with any faculty, staff or students who may be interested.

   There will be one final Graduate Council meeting for this calendar year, on December 14 at 2:00 pm. This meeting will again be virtual and will stand as the last chance for curriculum proposals that are changes to make it into the Academic Year 2021-2022 Graduate Bulletin. Please note that proposals must be received by the curriculum committee by the end of business on Monday, December 1, 2020—not submitted to APPS by that date.

   Related to APPS, discussions are ongoing as a replacement system for APPS is being constructed. The hope is for a more seamless software package that will facilitate submission through approval

and updating of relevant documents (e.g., Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins).

Otherwise, his hope was that all remain safe and healthy and are able to stay that way across the holiday season and beyond.

7. **Report on Professional Development** (Wright Culpepper)
Wright expressed how thankful he is to our campus partners who came through in the clutch by moving everything to a virtual format as best they could. They really did a great job, and he has received a lot of good feedback from our students on the variety of opportunities that there offered by our partners across campus. Virtual events were very well attended this fall, and he hopes that this will continue into Spring 2021. He hopes to gather some data on the effectiveness of the virtual events versus the face-to-face events that were offered in the past once we get back to a more normal climate. Doing so will help him see what is the more appropriate and graduate-student approved method of delivery for these seminars. We have several offerings in the works for the Spring 2021 semester. He is planning to meet with the Career Center by the end of this semester to talk about some upcoming opportunities. We requested suggestions from GSA and Presidential Fellows on opportunities that we may include next semester and beyond.

On March 3rd, we will take part in the non-academic career fair for graduate students that will be offered through the Graduate Career Consortium. We are currently working with the Career Center and some people from Engineering and Computing to gather a list of about 30 employers that we can provide as folks that this Career Consortium can contact to get them to participate in this career fair. This is a free event and open to all disciplines. While we are working with those two units, any suggestions that you may have that he can contact to take part in this effort, please let him know.

April 23rd will be the virtual offering of the DiscoverUSC. There are still a lot of details to be worked out, but he hopes to have more information for you in the next new months. They do plan to have virtual 3MT competitions and virtual poster competitions. If you as faculty have any suggestions for professional development opportunities, please email them to him. He looks forward to hearing from you.

8. **Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative** (Sudipta Saha)
Sudipta gave some updates from their Townhall that was held on November 11th. They were glad to have Dean Addy as the guest speaker. Two other officers from the Graduate School also attended the townhall. Garrick Queen discussed and responded to questions related to admissions and enrollment management. Wright Culpepper spoke on upcoming professional development opportunities. A couple of important points from the discussion:

- Regarding professional development, there is a scope of partnership between the Graduate School and the Career Center. The Career Center is heavily centered upon serving the undergraduate students and is not designed to serve the interests of graduate students—that's from resume cover letter preparation to the Career Fair that is organized by the Career Center each semester. Wright Culpepper recognizes the concern and intends to follow up with that.
- There was another issue that has been in discussion for a while now--the length of time that students can keep their email ID after graduation. Dean Addy recognized the concern with utmost importance.

GSA had its bi-weekly meeting last Friday with President Caslen as the guest speaker. He provided updates on the Covid Response of the university. He reiterated the guidelines on traveling during the holiday season. He also sketched out his roadmap to bring UofSC to the AAU status. He is

expecting significant federal funding through the partnership with the Savanah River National Lab. Receipt of these funds would help greatly down the line on graduate students' research funding especially in engineering departments. The Daily Gamecock ran an article on this meeting: https://www.dailygamecock.com/article/2020/11/covid-future-gsa-bingham-news

9. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Nikki Wooten)
No report.

10. **Report of the 500/600 Level Courses, Distributed Learning and Special Topics Courses** (Murray Mitchell)

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

500/600 Courses for November 2020 Grad Council
(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal)

BIOS 650 (3) Quantitative Methods in the Health Sciences (Delete: Fall 2021)
BMEN 532 (3) Micro/Nanofluidics and Lab-on-Chip (Cross list with EMCH 562; NCP: Spring 2021)
BMEN 537 (3) Bio Nano/Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems (Cross list with EMCH 567; NCP: Fall 2021)
BMEN 546 (3) Delivery of Bioactive Agents (CCP: Fall 2021)
BMEN 547 (3) Immunoengineering (CCP: Fall 2021)
BMEN 548 (3) Cardiovascular System: From Development to Disease (CCP: Fall 2021)
BMEN 565 (3) Advanced Biomechanics (CCP: Fall 2021)
ECIV 502 (3) Life Cycle Assessment of Civil and Environmental Engineering Systems (NCP: Spring 2021)
ECIV 543 (3) Traffic Safety Analysis (NCP: Spring 2021)
ECIV 563 (3) Subsurface Hydrology (CCP: Fall 2021)
ECON 516 (3) Political Economy (NCP: Spring 2021)
EMCH 562 (3) Micro/Nanofluidics and Lab-on-Chip (Cross list with BMEN 532; CCP: Fall 2021)
EMCH 567 (3) Bio Nano/Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems (Cross list with BMEN 537; CCP: Fall 2021
ENVR 590 (3) Environmental Issues Seminar (CCP: Fall 2021)
EPID 594 (1-6) Special Topics in Epidemiology (NCP: Spring 2021)
GEOL 501 (3) Principles of Geomorphology (Cross list with MSCI 501; CCP: Fall 2021)
MSCI 501 (3) Principles of Geomorphology (Cross list with GEOL 501; CCP: Fall 2021)
PSYC 524 (3) Nature of Students with Mental Retardation (CCP: Fall 2021)
SOCY 460 (3) Sociology of Mental Health (CCP to SOCY 511: Fall 2021)

Distributed Learning Proposals

CRJU 551 (3) Adolescent Mentoring (Cross list with WGST 551; CCP: Spring 2021)
SPTE 590 (3) Special Topics in Live Entertainment (CCP; Fall 2021)
WGST 551 (3) Adolescent Mentoring (Cross list with CRJU 551; CCP: Spring 2021)

Special Topics Course Proposals

These proposals now go directly to the Registrar for scheduling.

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

      Name: **Sarah Rogers** (PhD)
      Program: Criminology and Criminal Justice
      Term: Spring 2021 – Spring 2027

                           This nomination was unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

12. **Fellowships and Scholarships Committee** (Joanna Casey)
No report.

13. **Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (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://www.sc.edu/programproposal/agenda/?id=93&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."

- **BIOE Major / Degree Program,** Biomedical Engineering Overview and Admissions Pages in the Graduate Bulletin, Engineering and Computing, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
- **BIOS 751**, Health Data Systems, Public Health, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **BIOS 752**, Vital Record and Health Survey Data Analysis, Public Health, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **BIOS 798**, Public Health Practice, Public Health, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **BIOS 805**, Categorical Data Analysis, Public Health, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **BIOS 808**, Environmetrics, Public Health, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **BIOS 809**, Environmetrics II, Public Health, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **BMSC Major / Degree Program**, SOM Physician Assistant Program, Medicine, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
- **BMSC 783** (1) Physician Assistant Capstone Portfolio, Medicine, NCP: Spring 2021
- **ECIV 742** (3) Intermodal Freight Transport, Engineering and Computing, NCP: Spring 2021
- **ECIV 744** (3) Discrete Choice Analysis of Travel Demand, Engineering and Computing, NCP: Spring 2021
- **ECIV 746** (3) Flows in Transportation Networks, Engineering and Computing, NCP: Spring 2021
- **EXSC 723** (3) Genetics in Health Sciences, Public Health, NCP: Spring 2021
- **NURS Academic Certificate,** Advanced Practice Nursing, Certificate, Nursing, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
- **NURS Academic Certificate,** Nursing Education, Certificate, Nursing, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021

- **NURS Major / Degree Program,** Master of Science in Nursing Education, Nursing, New Program: Fall 2021
- **PHYT 851** (4) Clinical Experience in Physical Therapy II, Public Health, CCP: Fall 2021
- **ZZMD Major / Degree Program**, Master of Science in Genetic Counseling, Medicine, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021

These proposals were 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://www.sc.edu/programproposal/agenda/?id=93&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 725** (3) Financial Accounting for Professional MBA Students, Business, NCP: Spring 2021
    - **ACCT 726** (3) Managerial Accounting for Professional MBA Students, Business, NCP: Spring 2021
    - **AFAM 798** (3) Advanced Topics in African American Studies, Arts and Sciences, NCP: Spring 2021
    - **EDEX 716** (3) Functional Behavioral Assessment and Behavior Interventions, Education, CCP: Fall 2021
    - **EDST Major / Degree Program**, Special Education, MEd, Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **EDST Major / Degree Program**, Educational Psychology and Research, Ph.D., Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **EDST Major / Degree Program**, MAT in Special Education, Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **HRTM Major / Degree Program**, Master's International Hospitality and Tourism Management, HRSM, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **INTE Major / Degree Program**, Language and Literacy, Ph.D., Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **INTE Major / Degree Program**, Teaching and Learning, Ph.D., Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **LANG Major / Degree Program**, Ph.D. in Spanish, Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **POLI Major / Degree Program**, Political Science Ph.D. Program**,** Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
    - **PSYC Major / Degree Program**, Ph.D. in Psychology, Arts and Sciences, New Program: Fall 2021

- **SOWK Major / Degree Program**, Social Work, M.S.W., Social Work, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
- **SOWK 734**, Advanced Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities: Community Social Work, Social Work, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **SOWK 745**, Housing and Community Development, Social Work, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **ZZBA Academic Certificate,** Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity Management, Business, New Program: Fall 2021
- **ZZBA Dual Degree Program**, Combination in degree in Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration (Pharm.D./MBA), Business, New Program: Fall 2021
- **ZZED Major / Degree Program**, College of Education Graduate Bulletin Entry, Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021

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 reminded the members of the Graduate Council that the next meeting is on December 14th at 2:00 pm.

20. **Adjournment**
    The meeting was adjourned at 3:11p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC: Bob Caslen, President
      William Tate, Provost
      Cheryl Addy, 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