



## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 27th, 2023

The Graduate Council met on Monday, November 27, 2023, at 2:00P.M. in Room #584 of the Close-Hipp Building.

Graduate Council members present: Mr. Hassan Anderson, Chair; Drs. Sourav Banerjee, Subra Bulusu, Jing Fang, Edie Goldsmith, Kathy Kim, William Matchin, Wendy Regoeczi, Sriram Venkataraman, Neal Woods, Christina Yao, and Gaurav Harshe (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Dianna Inman, Ann Lehman, Terrance McAdoo (excused), David Reisman, Kim Thompson (excused), and Nicholas Watanabe (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: Dr. Besim Dragovic (Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Mark Yancey (Joseph F. Rice School of Law), and Lisa Jerald (Student Advocacy Center).

**NOTE: These minutes will become final on December 11th, 2023, if not challenged.**

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Hassan Anderson, Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 2:02p.m., and the Agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of the Minutes from October 23, 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 October were unanimously approved.***

**3. Report of the Chair** (Hassan Anderson)

Mr. Anderson shared that he was pleased to serve as a judge for the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition earlier in the month and was impressed by all the finalists. The competition was so well organized, and it was delightful to see the level of research happening at the University.

He had the opportunity to attend the Assistant and Associate Dean's Meeting that was well led by Dr. Mitchell. He is so pleased to see the multiple layers in which graduate education is being supported, advocated for, and pushed ahead by such well-meaning and intelligent people.

The School of Music is pleased to welcome Dr. Danny Jenkins as the new Associate Dean and Director, Graduate Studies. He has been a leader in the field of public music theory. His own efforts in public music theory in South Carolina include community engagement projects with Lee

Correctional Facility, the Lourie Center, and Toby's Place. The School of Music is pleased to have him and looks forward to working with him.

#### **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*. The third and last meeting is on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 4,684 applications with 1,153 of those being completed applications. This is a 300% increase in applications from last year and a 180% increase in completed applications.

Please note that we still have applications to address for Spring 2024. Currently, there are 400 applications (160 completed) awaiting a decision. All applications deserve a decision and a response. Please submit decisions as soon as possible; so, The Graduate School can inform the applicants.

We completed the first stage of the Admissions Process Improvement Project led by the Office of Organizational Excellence. Staff from that office will work with The Graduate School staff to map the admissions process. The next step is to solicit customer feedback and generate improvement ideas that will lead to an action plan. Members of the Graduate Council will receive a survey requesting user feedback this month. We hope that you will complete the survey and encourage your colleagues to do so as well.

The Graduate School is considering the use of a transcript evaluator to review international transcripts. Specifically, we are reviewing World Education Services (WES). They offer a document-by-document evaluation or a course-by-course evaluation. We would select the course-by-course evaluation. There is a fee to the student of approximately \$217. They also offer the option to departments to purchase vouchers that can be given to potential applicants. They work with about 3000 universities worldwide and are very knowledgeable in these evaluation services. Once the students pay for the service and are in the portal, they will have access to the evaluation for the rest of their lives for future applications to various universities for a nominal fee.

The Graduate School is partnering with the Libraries and The Writing Center to offer a 3-week dissertation writing experience in May. The application and additional details will be available in January.

The Graduate School is partnering with CADO to offer an alternative spring break at the Robert Penn Writing Center. Details will be available in January.

Dean Vail had the opportunity to tour The Gamecock CommUnity Shop which includes Gamecock Pantry, Clothes Closet, school supplies, and household items. The biggest group of users of The Gamecock CommUnity Shop are graduate students. She urges all to support The Gamecock CommUnity Shop in this important outreach effort in any way that you can. They are in the Carolina Coliseum, Suite 4000.

On a personal note, Dean Vail has on her reading list this semester, a book edited by one of our Graduate Council members—Christing Yao. *A Handbook for Supporting Today's Graduate Students* is a must read for anyone wanting to improve the support of graduate students in their program, college, and across campus! A sample list of chapters topics includes first-generation graduate students, the hidden curriculum, mentoring international students, financial matters, and mental health, to name a few.

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

Dr. Mitchell began with a follow-up to concerns about responding to applicants. We certainly appreciate that it is a busy time for all, and that there are many moving parts in making an admission decision about whether to admit applicants. We simply wanted to raise awareness of the national findings that applicants tend to be most receptive to the first responses they get to their application. This may be an important consideration as you reflect on the details surrounding your application-to-decision process.

On a related note, there remain many applications to Spring 2024 that have not been resolved. He wanted to address a misconception that was shared with him in a previous semester. A Graduate Director suggested that if an applicant has not received a response, they should be able to discern that they were denied admission. He wants to clarify that this is not an appropriate response, and it reflects poorly on our institution. If students have taken the trouble (and for the present applicants) and expense to apply, they deserve a response. So, whether it is because we do not have a good fit for their goals, their credentials do not meet published requirements, or simply because their application was incomplete, a response is expected and required.

Dr. Mitchell offered a reminder and requested that you share with your graduate faculty colleagues with respect to the appropriate use of assigning the grade of “incomplete.” A recent request for the extension of a deadline reads as if the student has been given the opportunity to repeat the course and this is not an acceptable accommodation. The grade of incomplete is designed for students who have completed the majority of course demands, and for some reason beyond their control (e.g., sudden health issue, injury, or perhaps the loss of access to a data source, equipment failure and delayed repairs, loss of access to an internship site, faculty, or other supervisor transition, etc.) would all be reasonable requests. Simply being overwhelmed with the demands of a course, or a faculty member’s belief that the student could do better with a second attempt to take the course again the next time it is offered would not be appropriate use of the “incomplete” grading mechanism.

Dr. Mitchell reminded the group that our final meeting of the Fall 2023 semester will be on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 2:00pm. By prior arrangements, this meeting will be virtual. In advance of the meeting, an agenda and link will be provided for joining the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

#### **6. Report on Presidential Fellows (Jean Ellis)**

Dr. Ellis discussed the Presidential Fellows in the October meeting and chose to elaborate on the other fellows that she works with:

- Rising Star Fellows currently has 19 total scholars, 12 are in the new class participating in professional development activities. For example, they had an online workshop with the Student Health & Wellbeing, Healthy Campus Initiatives later that day.
- SEC Emerging Scholars currently has 4 scholars. They recently all attended a conference at the University of Arkansas. These students also have professional development activities at USC throughout the year. While at the conference at the University of Arkansas, she met students from other universities that she is mentoring now.

- SREB - There are two types of SREB Fellows - Dissertation (one year) and Doctoral - multi-year funding (both are at \$20k/year). A perk to SREB is that they receive an all-expense paid trip to the Mentoring and Teaching Experience conference in October. About 1000 people participated, including Gates, McNair, and Sloan representatives. They have bi-monthly webinars and receive funding for materials and supplies for their dissertation. We currently have ten doctoral fellows at various stages of their studies.

Information regarding fellowships and awards can be found at:

[https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/graduate\\_school/paying\\_for\\_graduate\\_school/fellowships\\_awards/index.php](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/paying_for_graduate_school/fellowships_awards/index.php).

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

Wright announced that the 3MT Competition was a tremendous success. The winner was MD Fakhruddin Patwary, a doctoral student in Chemical Engineering. He will compete in the regional competition hosted by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in Greenville in March to represent the University. Second place went to Fakhreddin Emami, a doctoral student in Mechanical Engineering. Third place went to Zhendong Zuo, a doctoral student in Business Administration. There were 36 students who participated in this competition. This number was very manageable, but he would love to get the number of participants to the point where the numbers are unmanageable. He welcomes any suggestions as to how they can encourage more students to take part in this competition. Master's and doctoral students are eligible to participate, and students increase their capability to effectively communicate the importance of their research to a non-specialized audience.

The Student Success Center has expanded its offerings to graduate students with a virtual money management workshop that was hosted on Wednesday, November 30. The workshop was aimed to provide graduate students with tools, information and resources for budgeting, managing their credit, paying off student loans, and other financial concerns.

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

Gaurav reported that the GSA President, Andrew Kramarchyk, is out of the office until the end of this semester on medical leave. He is recuperating well. The rest of the officers have taken on his duties until he returns to the office in the spring semester.

The Mindfulness Baking Program will take place on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> with the Center for Health and Well-Being. The 25-slot registration filled up very quickly; so, they will be looking into offering another one in the Spring semester.

In the Spring semester, the Mentorship Affiliate Luncheons (with support from the Office of Access and Opportunity), Headshots, Spring Social, Elections, a Year-end celebration, and an Awards program will be forthcoming.

#### **9. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Murray Mitchell for Terrance McAdoo)**

Dr. Mitchell indicated that there are several items that will require the attention of this committee. He has been assembling supporting information for their consideration and these items may not be ready for their consideration until the New Year. Otherwise, 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 November 2023 Grad Council**

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal). Total: 39

**BIOL 573** (4) Insect Ecology (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**BIOL 633** (3) Biology of Human Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**CSCE 544** (3) Functional Programming (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**CSCE 569** (3) Parallel Computing (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**CSCE 587** (3) Big Data Analytics (CCP: Fall 2024; Cross-listed with **STAT 587**)  
**CYBR 531** (3) Advanced Topics in Cyber Policy and Ethics (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**ECON 532** (3) Research and Policy from Birth to Kindergarten (NCP Spring 2024)  
**EMCH 577** (3) Aerospace Structures I (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**ENHS 515** (3) Disasters and Public Health Emergency Management (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**GEOG 512** (3) Migration and Globalization (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**GEOG 545** (4) Weather Analysis and Forecasting (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**GEOG 548** (3) Landscape Ecology (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**GEOG 551** (3) Remote Sensing of the Environment (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**GEOG 560** (3) Source Materials for Geographic Instruction (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**GEOG 566** (3) Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Planning (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**GEOG 575** (3) Digital Techniques and Applications in Remote Sensing (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**GEOL 599** (1-3) Topics in Geological Science (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**HIST 600** (3) Approaches to Global History (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**HIST 601** (3) Science, Technology, and Environment: A Historical Introduction (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**HPEB 512** (3) Southern Discomfort: Public Health in the American South (Cross listed with **SOST 512**; CCP: Fall 2024)  
**ITEC 540** (3) Cloud Computing and Virtualization (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**ITEC 560** (3) Project Management Methods (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**MATH 529** (3) Introduction to Deep Neural Networks (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**MATH 572** (3) Mathematical Foundation of Network Science (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**PEDU 511** (3) Effective Applied Sport and Performance Psychology (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**PEDU 516** (3) Diversity and Cultural Perspectives in Sport & Performance (NCP: Spring 2024)  
**PEDU 647** (3) Coaching Ethics, Law and Compliance (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**PEDU 650** (3) Theoretical Foundations of Athletic and Mental Performance Coaching (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**PSYC 507** (3) Cognitive Neuroscience (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**PSYC 528** (3) Psychology of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**PSYC 571** (3) Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**PSYC 575** (3) Developmental Psychology Laboratory (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**PSYC 580** (3) Intermediate Statistics for Psychologists (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**STAT 530** (3) Applied Multivariate Statistics and Data Mining (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**STAT 540** (3) Computing in Statistics (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**STAT 582** (3) Bayesian Networks and Decision Graphs (Cross listed with **CSCE 582**; CCP: Fall 2024)  
**THEA 552** (3) Costume Flat Patterning (CCP: Fall 2024)  
**THEA 558** (3) Costume Draping (CCP: Fall 2024)

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

Name: **Traci Dingle, PhD 2021**  
 Program: Criminology and Criminal Justice  
 Term: Spring 2024 – Fall 2029

Name: **Danielle Simmons, DNP**  
 Program: College of Nursing

Term: Fall 2023 – Fall 2029

Name: **Lana Burgess, PhD 2010**  
 Program: School of Visual Art and Design  
 Term: Fall 2023 – Summer 2029

Name: **Austin Crane, PhD 2021**  
 Program: Geography  
 Term: Fall 2023 – Fall 2029

Name: **Robert Kopack, PhD 2020**  
 Program: Geography  
 Term: Fall 2023 – Fall 2029

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

**12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Edie Goldsmith)**

No report.

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

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 19

- **Counseling and Rehabilitation, MA**, (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **HSPM, MHA** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **BIOL 710** (1) Scientific Teaching and Pedagogy (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **CHEM 723** (3) Separation and Detection Methods in Analytical Chemistry (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **COMD 722** (3) Feeding and Swallowing Disorders: Evaluation and Therapy (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **ENHS 750** (2) MPH Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **EPID 861** (3) Fundamentals and Applications of Translational Science (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **EXSC 796** (2) Physical Activity Integrative Learning (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **EXSC 797** (1-5) Physical Activity Applied Practice Experience (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **HSPM 788** (3) Applied Practice Experience (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **HSPM 796** (2) Integrative Learning Experience (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **NURS 762** (3) Midwifery Care in Women’s Health (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **RCON 780** (3) Advanced Career Counseling and the World of Work (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **RCON 880** (3) Practicum in Counseling and Rehabilitation (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **RCON 884** (3,6) Internship in Clinical Addiction Counseling (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **RCON 885** (3,6) Internship in Career Counseling (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **Nurse Midwife, D.N.P.**, (New Program Proposal: Summer 2025)
- **Nurse Midwife, M.S.N.**, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2025)
- **Nurse Midwife, Certificate**, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2025)

**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: 30

- **Languages, Literatures and Cultures, MA** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Economics, MS** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Adapted Physical Education, MS** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Education Administration, EdS** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Special Education, M.Ed.** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **Learning Design and Technologies, M.Ed.** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **ECON 798** (1-3) Economics Independent Study (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **EDET 700** (3) Foundations of Learning Design and Technologies (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **HIST 778** (3) Global History of Capitalism: Approaches and Issues (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **MKTG 726** (3) Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **MUSM 703** (3) Museum Management: Independent Study (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **PEDU 748** (3) The Art and Science of Coaching Applications (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **PEDU 749** (3) Practicum for Coaching Athletes and Performers (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **SOWK 714** (3) Diversity and Social Justice Issues for Social Work Practice (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 718** (3) Systems Analysis of Social Work Practice (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 732** (3) Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 735** (3) Advanced Social Work Practice with Individuals (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 739** (3) Intervention Strategies in Military Behavioral Health (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **SOWK 740** (3) International Social Work and Social Justice (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **SOWK 755** (3) Advanced Social Work Practice with Organizations (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 758** (3) Family Dynamics and Substance Abuse (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **SOWK 766** (3) Advanced Social Work Practice with Families (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 775** (3) Advanced Social Work Practice with Groups (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 776** (3) Advanced Social Work Practice with Communities (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 783** (3) Field Instruction III: Advanced Social Work Practice (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **SOWK 784** (3) Field Instruction IV: Advanced Social Work Practice (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **SOWK 792** (3) Evaluation of Social Work Practice (CCP: Fall 2024)
- **THEA 763** (3) Graduate Acting for the Camera, Introduction (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **THEA 764** (3) Graduate Acting for the Camera, Advanced (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **Environmental Law and Sustainability, Certificate** (New Program Proposal: Spring 2025)

*These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.*

**15. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee** (Murray Mitchell for David Reisman)  
No report.

**16. Other Committee Reports**  
None at this time.

**17. Old Business**

- Update on Incomplete Grade Policy (Murray Mitchell)
- Update on progress regarding “quorum” definition (Murray Mitchell)
- Update on progress regarding a Graduate Attendance Policy (Murray Mitchell)

Dr. Mitchell mentioned previously that several items will require the attention of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee. These three items fall under their area of responsibility and will be handled in the Spring semester.

**18. New Business**

None at this time.

**19. Good of the Order**

Dr. Mitchell offered one more friendly reminder that our December meeting is out of our typical order of being held face-to-face on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. With respect for the many demands at this time of the semester, and for the upcoming winter break, our December meeting will be held virtually on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 2:00. In advance of the meeting, an agenda and link will be provided for joining the meeting via Teams.

**20. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54p.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