



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 22nd, 2024

The Graduate Council met on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 2:00P.M. in Room #584, Close-Hipp Building.

Graduate Council members present: Mr. Hassan Anderson, Chair; Drs. Kenneth Campbell, Edie Goldsmith, Dianna Inman, William Matchin, Terrance McAdoo (Vice Chair), Wendy Regoeczi, Sheri Silfies, Sriram Venkataraman, Neal Woods, and Gaurav Harshe (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Sourav Banerjee, Besim Dragovic (excused), Fang Jing (excused), Marketa Kubickova, Amy Lehman, David Reisman (excused), Nick Watanabe, and Christina Yao (excused).

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

Provost Office Representatives: Trena Houp and Dr. LaTrice Ratcliff-Small

Guests: Dr. Suzy Hardie (Education Leadership and Policies) and Hannah Malcom (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on May 13, 2024, 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 March 25, 2024. 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 March were unanimously approved.

3. Report of the Chair (Hassan Anderson)

Mr. Anderson, who oversees the Graduate Wind Quintet called FUSE, showcased the quintet from the School of Music to serenade the Graduate Council to showcase some of USC's finest and the work that they do. FUSE performed a piece called *New Orleans* by Argentine composer Lalo Schifrin, and they did an outstanding job. As a point of reference, Lalo Schifrin composed the theme for Mission Impossible. FUSE presented their culminating recital that evening at the Cayce United Methodist Church on 12th Street. The members of FUSE are as follows:

- Chase Ketron, Flute
- Katie Eaton, Oboe

- Andrew Kevic, Clarinet
- Ed Senn, Bassoon
- Hunter Poe, Horn

Dean Vail thanked FUSE for their wonderful performance, and she presented Mr. Anderson with a plaque as a token of remembrance for his leadership as chair of the Graduate Council for this academic year.

Mr. Anderson thanked Dean Vail, and he also thanked Dr. Murray Mitchell for his great mentorship and guidance as he chaired the Graduate Council this academic year.

4. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School (Ann Vail)

Dean Vail reported that the Recognition of Excellence Awards ceremony was very lovely and nicely done. The students were fabulous and appreciative. We must come up with a way to get more of the recipients to show up to receive their honors. The recipients that were there seemed to have enjoyed themselves. She acknowledged and thanked Dr. Jean Ellis for her leadership of the event. The list of winners are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Jon Ahuna | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Elizabeth Bodalski | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Paul Ernst | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Sarah Miller | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Sophia Negaro | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Claire Silva | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Erin Wilson | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Atticus Wolfe | Presidential Fellows – Recognition |
| Cearra Harris | SEC Emerging Scholars - Recognition |
| Tempestt Johnson | SEC Emerging Scholars - Recognition |
| Sowmya Raghu | SEC Emerging Scholars - Recognition |
| Kemardo Tyrell | SEC Emerging Scholars - Recognition |
| Arianna Minns | Rising Star Fellows - Recognition |
| Sonalis Muhammad | Rising Star Fellows - Recognition |
| Shanikque Barksdale | Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program - Recognition |
| Samantha Case | Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program - Recognition |
| Brittany Crawford | Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program - Recognition |
| Walter Quiller | Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program - Recognition |
| Jonathan Rann | Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program - Recognition |
| Nancy Uriegas | Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program - Recognition |
| Edwina Chen | Dera D. Parkinson Fellowship |
| Rachel Hantman | Rhude M. Patterson Fellowship |
| Erin Kemp | George M. Reeves Fellowship |
| Sarah Miller | Rhude M. Patterson Fellowship |
| Hem Regmi | C.C. Royal Fellowship |
| Shana Scucchi | Rhude M. Patterson Fellowship |
| Savannah S. Simpson | Rhude M. Patterson Fellowship |
| Julia van de Sandt | Charles Coker Fellowship |
| Macie R. Goodman | Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award |
| Taylor Berrier | Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award |
| Grace Thaggard | Outstanding Research Award |
| Nancy Uriegas | Excellence in Access and Opportunity |
| Sarah Davis | Outstanding Community Engagement Award |

Kyoungcul Park
Erin Looney

Dean's Award for Doctoral Achievement
Dean's Award for Master's Achievement

Dean Vail added as an update on the international transcript evaluation that she is still meeting and having many discussions with various groups on this topic, and she will continue to do so. She is still committed to using the transcript service and is open to modifying that use to better meet the needs of programs. There are still many with concerns that this move might impact international enrollment, and she acknowledges that this is a concern. We are now considering how this might be done incrementally; so, each step of the way we can evaluate the impact it is having on us. To date, we have received over 13,000 applications. Approximately 7,000 of those are completed. Over 9,000 of those applications are international--which is a huge load for us. Not all 9,000 are complete, but graduate directors can look at them. Each application will have to be dealt with in one way or another. To date, we have admitted 865 international students. This is still of concern as last year at this time, we admitted about 500 international students. The actual numbers will be in your report that you will receive this week.

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

Dr. Mitchell reported that at our March meeting, there was a request for future discussion surrounding dissertation requirements, and he wanted to offer some preliminary thoughts for that discussion. One of the key concerns raised was the requirement for citation and reference formatting to be consistent throughout the document. This requirement has been questioned in the context of students who may have demonstrated the merits of their work through publication in top journals in their field, where reference formats may differ across those publications. The concern, as he understood it, was the additional work imposed on students to reformat their already published papers for inclusion in the dissertation.

Discussion about the format of dissertations at the University of South Carolina is timely. The requirements surrounding this milestone have evolved over time, and that evolution is continuing. It is unfortunate that sometimes there is some lag between desirable practices and the regulations that govern these practices. Some of you will likely recall dissertations as single author documents that followed a traditional format of an introduction, review of related literature, methods, findings, conclusions with implications, and a comprehensive reference list. A variety of variations on that format are already evident in both the archives of published dissertations from USC and beyond.

The challenges we face currently are to ensure the maintenance of a standard of quality that represents the rigor of a doctoral degree at the University of South Carolina, while also remaining responsive to the changing models across disciplines. Managing this evolution is a process that is going to require some time and input from multiple stakeholders.

What we would like to propose is the following:

1. No changes to requirements for May 2024 graduates.
2. For documents submitted for format approval for August 2024 and until further notice:
 - a. Chapters that have been accepted for publication, and/or published may follow the citation style as required by the publication.
 - b. If chapter citation styles vary, the variable style may be used for each chapter as dictated by the source publication of that chapter.
 - c. An introductory chapter that provides an overview of the chapters to follow is still required.

- d. A cumulative reference list that includes all citations listed in the preceding chapters is still required and these references must be in a uniform style.

Going forward, we propose the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the state of graduate education demands on dissertation requirements, that would then make recommendations for an action plan to be considered by the Graduate Council. Membership on this ad hoc committee will be comprised of invited and volunteers from across disciplinary fields that represent doctoral degrees at USC.

6. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

Wright thanked everyone for their assistance with Discover USC last Friday. They had 232 students who presented posters, which is the most they have ever had. They were able to handle that number due to the number of faculty and post docs who volunteered their time to serve as reviewers. They had about 85 graduate students registered to review undergraduate presentations. There was a lot of engagement and involvement across the board on Friday, and he is very appreciative to everyone who advised students to participate or who served as reviewers.

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

Gaurav shared that the affiliate and social events were well attended. These consisted of the Women’s Luncheon, Sustainability Luncheon, Black/African/American Art Luncheon, International Community Luncheon, 2SLGBTQIA+ Social, Spring Dinner at Top of Carolina (80+ attendees), and the Meal Prep Cooking Class.

The End-of-the-Year Celebration honored faculty and staff from the Graduate School and Student Affairs (Department of Student Life, Leadership and Service Center), as well as cabinet secretaries and both outgoing and incoming executive members. All were given a certificate of appreciation and a GSA year-branded coffee mug as a memento.

Elections for 2024-2025 are complete: Gaurav Harshe (President-Elect) won unopposed, Erin Looney (Vice President-Elect) won after a close margin run-off election, Iftakhar Ahmad (Treasurer-Elect) won unopposed, Hannah Malcom (Graduate Council Representative-Elect) won with a close margin.

Transitory meetings are concurrently taking place between the Department of Student Life, the Graduate School, and the incoming/outgoing executive members to close out this year and start planning for next year.

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

No report.

9. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses (Jean Ellis)

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

500/600 Courses for April 2024 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal). Total: 7

EDEX 590 (3) Foundations to Support Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities through Applied Transition Coaching, (NCP: Summer 2024)

LAWG 568 (3) Coastal Law, (NCP: Summer 2024)

MUSC 546 (3) Black Sacred Music: Local and Global Perspectives, (CCP: Summer 2024)

- MUSC 529 (3) Eighteenth-Century Counterpoint, (Course Inactivation: Fall 2025)
- MUSC 530 (3) Sixteenth-Century Counterpoint, (Course Inactivation: Fall 2025)
- MUSC 560 (3) Introduction to Teaching Artistry, (CCP: Fall 2025)
- MUSC 561 (3) Teaching Methods and Practicum for Teaching Artists, (CCP: Summer 2024)

10. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

None at this time.

11. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Edie Goldsmith)

Dr. Goldsmith announced that they have 9 Presidential Fellows acceptances. Wright Culpepper is working his way through the waitlist in hopes of getting the last 3 acceptances to reach our goal of 12. She thanked Wright and Dr. Jean Ellis for their guidance, support, and hard work with this committee this year.

12. Recognition of Excellence Awards (Jean Ellis)

Dr. Ellis thanked Dean Vail for her hard work and input towards the award ceremony. She also thanked Dr. Edie Goldsmith, Dr. Sheri Silfies, and Wright Culpepper for presenting the awards. She is asking for feedback from attendees to help make the ceremony even better next year. In addition, she thanked Gaurav Harshe and GSA for their participation and for co-sponsoring the ceremony.

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

None at this time.

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: 9

- **Applied Behavior Analysis, M.Ed.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Education Administration, M.Ed.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Specialized Study in Information Science, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Sacred Music Minor**, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2024)
- **EDEX 721** (3) Organizational Behavior Management, (NCP: Summer 2024)
- **LAWG 709** (3) Administrative Law, (NCP: Summer 2024)
- **LAWG 731** (3) Environmental Law and Policy, (NCP: Summer 2024)
- **LAWG 773** (3) Environmental Justice Seminar, (NCP: Summer 2024)
- **LAWG 826** (3) Energy Law, (NCP: Summer 2024)

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

None at this time.

18. New Business

None at this time.

19. Good of the Order

Reminder Dates:

May 4th:

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony

May 6th – 23rd:

Dissertation Writing Academy

May 13th:

The last meeting of Graduate Council for Spring 2024 will be virtual (Teams), at 2:00 pm.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45p.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