



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

August 22nd, 2022

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, August 22nd, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Stephen Shapiro, Chair; Drs. Demetrius Abshire, Hassan Anderson, Jean Ellis, Edie Goldsmith, Shana Harrington, Kathy Kim, William Matchin, Srihari Nelakuditi, David Reisman, Sheryl Wiskur, Neal Woods, Songhua Xu, Christina Yao, and Rajat Das Gupta (GSA)

Graduate Council members absent: Dr. Subra Bulusu

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Cheryl Addy, Dr. Toby Jenkins, Dr. Murray Mitchell (Secretary), Dr. Angelina Sylvain, Dale Moore, Wright Culpepper, Libby Cross, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representative: Trena Houp

Guests: Dr. Michael Bizimis (SEOE), Dr. Sheryl Mitchell (Nursing), Dr. Dwayne Porter (Environmental Health Sciences), Dr. Matthew Wilson (Political Science), Dr. Sheri Silfies (Exercise Science), Dr. Beth Barnes (COMD), Dr. Dewei Wang (Statistics), Jenell Peoples (Academic Programs), Ed Short (Registrar), and Maxwell Akonde (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on September 26th, 2022, if not challenged.

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Stephen Shapiro, Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:02p.m., and the agenda was approved.
- 2. Approval of the [Minutes from May 9, 2022](https://bit.ly/3ekoSm3).** Approved actions by Graduate Council become effective 30 days after posting. A copy is available on the Graduate School website at: <https://bit.ly/3ekoSm3>
The minutes from May were unanimously approved.
- 3. Report of the Chair** (Stephen Shapiro)
Dr. Shapiro welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the fall semester and is looking forward to an exciting year. He appreciates everyone's commitment to the Graduate Council as it is really an important part of the process.
- 4. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School** (Cheryl Addy)
Dr. Addy thanked those in the group, their colleagues, and especially the Graduate School staff for welcoming her back to this position so warmly. With regular communication with Dr. Weldon and other Graduate School staff over the past 18 months, it almost feels like she never left. She expressed

her appreciation to Dr. Weldon for her work over the past year and a half. She was the first full time Dean of the Graduate School in over 25 years, and she leaves high expectations for the next person. She firmly believes that the Graduate School or graduate education more generally deserves this, and the Graduate School will get another full time Dean. She is excited about the direction of this university and the leadership of our new President, Dr. Michael Amiridis, and our new Provost, Dr. Donna Arnett. They both are committed to advancing this University on multiple levels, and she sees the Graduate School as being a key component of their plans. She thinks that it is a very positive statement that Dr. Arnett met with the Graduate School staff for a full hour to discuss the leadership transition and the staff's perspectives.

Dr. Addy has no expectation of being in this position long-term. However, graduate education has been her career at UofSC, and we have her unwavering support for as long as she is Interim Dean and beyond. She has had some conversations with Provost Arnett about the search process. The committee will be co-chaired by a current dean (selected by the provost) and an associate dean for DEI (selected by CADO). The Graduate Student Association (GSA) will be represented. There will be some continuation from the search committee from last spring, but more broadly, the committee membership will reflect the diversity of our faculty by rank and discipline. Ideally, the provost would like to have somebody appointed to the position by January, but we all recognize that may be optimistic.

She attended the GSA leadership orientation last week and met with the GSA executive committee on Monday morning; so, that partnership is off to a strong start. They are already looking at how to plan the graduate/professional version of the undergraduate Imagine Carolina event that President Amiridis is sponsoring on September 11th. She has also already opened a conversation about their concerns about the level of compensation for graduate assistantships (or financial support in general).

In late September, she and Dr. Toby Jenkins will be attending a workshop at the University of Missouri with our five SEC Emerging Scholars. This is a combination network and professional development, with a goal of encouraging some of our doctoral graduates to consider faculty positions in our other SEC institutions since we are unlikely to have them here.

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

Dr. Mitchell echoed Dr. Addy's comments in appreciation of Dr. Weldon's service to the Graduate School, and he also welcomed Dr. Addy back. He welcomed all of members of the Graduate Council back to a new academic year.

He presented two orders of business that required a vote of current Graduate Council members.

The first order of business was a nomination for vice chair. The vice chair serves as the chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee, and typically rotates into the role of chair of the Graduate Council in the following year. Dr. Jean Ellis from Geography has been nominated for this role. Procedurally, he asked if there were any other nominations for this role. There were no additional nominations. He then asked Dr. Shapiro to call for a vote for the nomination of Dr. Ellis to serve as vice chair of the Graduate Council. There was a unanimous vote of support.

The second order of business was the six positions available for 3-year terms. He had identified five candidates who were eligible and available. He identified all five and then asked for a single vote for their candidacy:

- Neal Woods – Political Science. Dr. Woods completed the term of a colleague who was not able to finish a full 3-year term. Dr. Woods is eligible for and willing to

- serve his own 3-year term starting this year.
- Edie Goldsmith – School of Medicine
- Jing Fang – College of Pharmacy
- Hassan Anderson – School of Music
- Terrance McAdoo – Instruction and Teacher Education

There was a unanimous vote of support for all five candidates.

Dr. Mitchell thanked and welcomed all new Graduate Council members. There are two additional positions available: (1) One more 3-year term, and (2) a 1-year replacement from another colleague who was unable to complete a full 3-year term on the Graduate Council.

He is also in search of representation on various committees that report to the Graduate Council. Chairs of these committees must be members of the Graduate Council. Other committee members may be associate or full graduate faculty members. So, if you or any of your colleagues may be qualified and interested in serving, please let him know.

The committees include:

- Fellowships and Scholarships Committee—Srihari Nelakuditi has volunteered to chair this committee; additional members are needed.
- Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee—chair and members needed.
- Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee—Chair and members needed.
- Grievances, Appeals, and Petitions Committee—Shana Harrington has agreed to serve as chair, David Reisman has volunteered to serve and Rajat Das Gupta (by virtue of being our GSA representative is a member). At least one additional member is needed.

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

Dr. Jenkins reminded the Graduate Council that there are new mandatory trainings for new and incoming graduate students. They are as follows:

- ***Sexual Assault Prevention*** presents realistic and interactive skill-building scenarios related to interpersonal violence.
- ***Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging for Students*** helps students better understand and celebrate the diverse campus community we call home.
- ***Mental Well-being*** helps educate students on critical social and emotional well-being topics that they may face on campus and provides strategies on how to manage them.

First completion date is coming up on Sept 18th, but this will be a flexible launch process as they work out the kinks. They ask for programs and colleges to encourage and remind students to complete these new requirements.

Dr. Jenkins also shared additional highlights. They are trying to expand on some existing inclusive excellence open house initiatives that have been happening in individual colleges like what the College of Information and Communications and Social Work has traditionally offered. An inclusive excellence Open House for HBCU undergraduate students will take place on Friday, November 4th. The participating colleges are Information & Communications, Social Work, Education, Law, Arts and Sciences (Sociology, Anthropology, Physics and Astronomy), and Public Health. The morning joint session will start with a welcome from UofSC leadership. There will be presentations on

graduate life at UofSC (institutional resources, student opportunities, and professional experiences). A luncheon with either a keynote speaker or panel discussion with graduate students and faculty will follow. There will possibly be a Research Center Fair that will showcase the exciting work of various research centers across campus. This will allow students to see the various shapes that research takes across campus. A campus tour on their way to colleges of interest by graduate student ambassadors (possibly doctoral scholars from GJMPP, Presidential Fellows, SREB, and SEC). There will be afternoon visits to colleges and programs. Each college will plan their afternoon activities independently to take place in their college before the students return to the Russell House and depart UofSC. They are excited to have a planning committee of representatives from every college that will be participating. This committee will be working with her in building this new broader visit day program. Anyone interested in coming on board for the HBCU open house can contact her. There is still room to add colleges/programs.

Dr. Jenkins also shared more information on the SEC Emerging Scholars. This program is an opportunity for the SEC to share in the recruitment of doctoral students and to collectively have a first look at some of our best and brightest scholars who can be recruited and particularly diversify SEC campuses. This year is relatively new as far as UofSC participating and having scholars. We are still forming the process and ensuring it up. The way that they identified scholars this year was that they put the call out to Associate Deans of DEI in each of the colleges for nominations. There will be a formal announcement and process this coming year but still through academic diversity officers. This year they have five scholars from Social Work, Applied & Computational Mathematics, Engineering & Computing/Informatics, Educational Foundations & Inquiry, and Clinical-Community Psychology. They have a representative group across disciplines. As Dr. Addy mentioned earlier, they will be accompanying these scholars to the SEC Career Prep Workshop at the University of Missouri next month, Sept 27-29th. While there, these scholars will be engaging in some professional development sessions. Upon their return to campus, the Graduate School is developing a series of sessions for them through the Graduate Hub; so, they can continue to engage in professional development during this fellowship year as a cohort. They are excited, and congratulations to the colleges who have a SEC Emerging Scholar.

Last year, she shared that they started a podcast series called “The Grad Cohort Podcast” that is a series that identifies a graduate course that will tackle DEI related issues through their study and scholarship in the course. The graduate students in that course agree to plan, host, and facilitate a podcast doing an intellectual exploration of whatever the topic is. They have a new episode set for this year that will probably launch in September. It will just be one episode per year, and last year’s episode is still up on the Graduate School’s website right now but will be switched to the new episode/course in September.

There will be updates to come on new Graduate Faculty DEI Professional Development Opportunities & Inclusive Leadership Symposium. A part of their DEI priorities not only identify service to students but to faculty who teach faculty students and as providing some virtual lecture opportunities or workshop opportunities to graduate faculty to enhance their engagement of DEI in graduate education. They hope to have more information on Inclusive Leadership Symposium for this coming year.

7. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

Wright gave a rundown of professional development opportunities that are coming up over the next few weeks. On Friday, August 26th, they will host a Graduate School orientation at the Russell House Theater from 10a.m to noon. It is completely optional, and they will have information that is relevant to new and continuing students. It will be live streamed on the Graduate School’s YouTube channel, and it will be documented and live there for easy access. They will cover topics like enrollment

requirements, the electronic thesis and dissertation process (early in the game for new students but will be covered early rather than late), and student services. They will have a representative from University Health Services to talk about mental health initiatives and services that are available to graduate students. They are requesting that you encourage your students to visit the Grad Hub this year. The Career Center and National Fellowships have done a great job at building an even more robust state of programming this semester. There are at least two workshops being offered every week this semester in the Grad Hub. The representatives from the Career Center and National Fellowships both can meet with students one-on-one in person and virtually. It is an important resource that they are excited to see continuing to grow over the courses of this academic year.

University Libraries has completely revamped its sharp graduates programming; so, if you have students who are interested in diving deeper into topics relevant to information literacy, digital scholarship, digital visual data visualization, these are workshops that are offered asynchronously and as part of a certificate program. It is a kind of a micro credentialing type program, but also a one-off programming as well if they are interested in just one topic. Those opportunities are located on the University Libraries website, we also cross promote them and another partner that we cross promote programming for is the Center for Teaching Excellence which is a tremendous resource in the preparing for future faculty program; but again, many one-off workshops as well. If you have students that are interested in maybe a workshop or topic here or there this year, they are offering mentorship workshops, four different workshops throughout the semester that are available not just to faculty and postdocs, but also now to graduate students. We encourage our students to get involved in those coming up. They also have financial literacy workshop coming up on Friday, September 9th, and then again on Friday, October 7th, and Friday, November 4th. Those topics will range anywhere from basic personal finance, budgeting, and all the way through investing 101. He is sure that they have graduate students who are interested in some topic on that spectrum somewhere. Please help them promote those opportunities.

Finally, if you have students that are entering the ABD phase or they are thinking about their first pursuit of their first tenure track faculty position, they are hosting a 3-hour workshop on Friday, September 16th from 1p.m. to 4p.m. about the process from finding an opportunity that fits what they are looking for all the way through the interview process and salary negotiation. That will be hosted by Dr. Sam Todd, Associate Dean for Faculty and Operations and International Affairs and HRSM. Dr. Todd has led over 60 searches at the faculty level. He thinks they will do a fantastic job of helping students regardless of what academic unit they're coming from to prepare for that process if they are entering it this fall. This information will go and may have already gone out to graduate students, graduate directors, and program administrators. They appreciate your partnership and willingness to carry the news back to your departments.

For more information on support and professional development opportunities, please click on the following links:

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/opportunities_support/index.php

<https://25livepub.collegenet.com/calendars/cal-grad-prof-dev>

8. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Rajat Das Gupta)

Rajat shared the following regarding GSA:

- President: Maxwell Akonde
 - PhD student in Epidemiology

- Email: Makonde@email.sc.edu
- Vice President: Catherine Coates
 - PhD student in Linguistic
 - Email: coatesc@email.sc.edu
- Treasurer: Rose Sweetwood
 - Masters of Higher Education and Student Affairs
 - Email: sweetwor@email.sc.edu
- Graduate Council Representative: Rajat Das Gupta
 - PhD student in Epidemiology
 - Email: rajatdas@email.sc.edu

The President's Cabinet members are as follows:

- Chief of Staff (President) – Shea Ferguson
- Chief of Staff (Vice President) – Divine Nwanekezie
- Press Secretary – Ashley McGraw
- Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Christina Xan
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs - Andrew Kramarchyk
- Secretary of Disability Affairs – Allison Blanks Coomes & Barbara Rohrer
- Secretary of International Student Affairs - Kenneth Aba & Yu Cheung
- Secretary of Women's Affairs – Caroline Hulett
- Secretary of Transportation and Parking Services – Iftakhar Ahmad
- Secretary of General Health – Amanda Pylar
- Secretary of Graduate Student Organizations- Sweta Mandilwar
- Secretary of Mental Health – Emily Collie
- Secretary of Professional Development – Erin Looney
- Secretary of Graduate Assistantship - Mahbub Alam
- Secretary of Community Outreach – Mackenzie Keane
- Secretary of Data Management – Alexander Bath
- Secretary of GSA Awards – Gaurav Harshe
- Legislative Affairs – Jack DeOliveira
- Senate Chairs – Augenblick Lee and Sowmya Raghu
- Executive Board Advisor – Maggie Carson
- Secretary of GSA Affairs- Giovanna Morara
- **Social Media Communication:**

GSA Activities:

Cabinet Orientation:

- Orientation of President's Cabinet for 2022-23 session
- **Time and Place:** 17 August 2022 (3 pm- 5pm) at Russell House 322
- Around 40 persons attended the orientation program including President Dr. Michael Amiridis

Farewell to Dr. Tracey Weldon:

- **Time and Place:** 17 August 2022 (5:30 pm- 6:30 pm) at Russell House 322
- Approximately 50 persons attended the program

Upcoming Events:

- **Biweekly Meetings in Fall:**
Sept 9th, Sept 23rd, Oct 7th, Oct 21st, Nov 4th, Nov 18th
- **Fall Social Event: TBD**
- **Mentorship Luncheon:**
 1. Women
 2. Black Graduate/Professional
 3. International
 4. LGBTQ+

Previously, the Mentorship Luncheons were limited to female graduate students. GSA will expand their horizon and include African American graduate students, professional graduate students, international graduate students, and LGBTQ+ students as well. They have submitted a grant proposal to Dr. Julian Williams, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, for that support.

Dr. Ellis commented that she thinks the mentoring luncheons were an incredible experience for both the faculty that participated and for the students. She is happy to hear that they are expanding who can participate. She would like if he could get that grant so make sure to widely distribute that information for how to sign up. In whatever manner faculty can help him distribute that information, she is willing to help and is confident that every person in the meeting would be willing to help as well. Please use them to disseminate that information because those luncheons were excellent. Faculty will do whatever they can to help GSA secure that grant.

9. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Jean Ellis)

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 August 2022 Grad Council

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

- COMD 500** (3) Introduction to Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (CCP: Fall 2022)
- ECHE 520** (3) Chemical Engineering Fluid Mechanics (CCP: Fall 2023)
- ECHE 521** (3) Computational Fluid Dynamics for Engineering Applications (CCP: Fall 2023)
- ECHE 571** (3) Corrosion Engineering (CCP: Fall 2023)
- ECHE 574** (3) Combustion (CCP: Fall 2023)
- EMCH 551** (3) Nuclear Energy in the Hydrogen Economy (CCP: Fall 2023)
- HRTM 574** (3) The Global Business of Beverage Management (CCP: Fall 2023)
- ISCI 560** (3) Data Visualization (CCP: Fall 2023)
- PHIL 560** (3) Advanced Special Topics in Philosophy (NCP: Fall 2022)
- RELG 552** (33) Buddhist Studies Seminar (CDP: Fall 2023)

11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

Name: **Sally Miedema (PhD)**
Program: Physical Education
Term: Fall 2022 – Fall 2028

Name: **Joanna Appel** (PhD)
Program: School of Medicine
Term: Fall 2022 – Fall 2028

Name: **Michael Ryan** (PhD)
Program: Biomedical Sciences
Term: Fall 2022 – Fall 2028

These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Srihari Nelakuditi)

No report.

13. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (TBD)

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

15. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Shana Harrington)

No report.

16. Other Committee Reports

None.

17. Old Business

None.

18. New Business

Dr. Mitchell relayed as an accommodation to international applicants who faced challenges to providing language proficiency test scores, we accepted scores provided by Duolingo in addition to our existing and approved scores from TOEFL, IELTS, and PTE. There have been concerns raised regarding the accuracy of test scores provided by Duolingo with respect to applications in academic settings. Recent national professional association meetings, correspondence from peer institutions, and evaluation provided by experts on our own campus have resulted in a change to our practices. Beginning with admissions in Summer 2023, the Graduate School will no longer accept Duolingo scores as a demonstration of language competence. Only qualifying scores from TOEFL, IELTS, and PTE will be accepted.

The Graduate School would strongly encourage graduate faculty considering applications from international students to supplement these test scores and written applications with some sort of video discussion (e.g., Skype, Teams, Zoom, etc.). The intention of such an additional step would be to confirm both language proficiency and the extent to which there is an appropriate match between the skills and goals of an applicant, and the expertise available in the program. There is a moral obligation to do the best that we can to ensure this match exists for applicants who will be investing a great deal of time and money to come to this country to study. Admitting someone who must then

participate in intensive language preparation (rendering them ineligible for many kinds of funding) may delay or even prevent their eventual progress to degree completion.

After much discussion, Dr. Hassan Anderson asked whether there might be insight into the results of two different versions of the Duolingo assessment—a “free” version vs. a more comprehensive version that is offered for a fee. Dale Moore indicated that we did not have that level of insights across different versions of the test.

Dr. Anderson also asked whether there was more information available as to the access to various tests based on race, expressing concerns that there are inequities in many international settings. No one present had more information on this important concern.

Dr. Addy shared the following link regarding displaced students in association with the Russia-Ukraine war.

https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/academicpriorities/special_initiatives/displaced_scholar_inquiry/index.php

19. Good of the Order

Dr. Mitchell thanked everyone for their return and reminded them that the nominations are open for chairs of the various committees. Self-nominations are readily accepted.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC: Michael Amiridis, President
Donna Arnett, Provost
Cheryl Addy, Interim 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