



# The Graduate School

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### Graduate Council Minutes May 23, 2016

The Graduate Council met on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 11:30 P.M. in room 311 of the Byrnes Building.

**Graduate Council members present:** Dr. Julia Lopez-Robertson, Chair; Drs. David Tedeschi, Bobby Brame, Jr., Matt Brown, Caryn Outten, Nancy Brown, Kay Edwards, Christian Jensen, Lorne Hofseth, Drucilla Barker, Heather Brandt, and Susan Yeargin

**Graduate Council members absent:** Drs. Jerry Hilbish, Jennifer Arns, Dirk den Ouden, Swann Adams, and Scott White

**Graduate School Representatives:** Dr. Lacy Ford, Dr. Murray Mitchell, Dale Moore, and Wanda Barr

**Provost Office Representative:** Dr. Kristia Finnigan

**Guests:** Drs. Kathleen LaSala, Stephanie Burgess, Christina Andrews, Georgia L. Narsavage, Hanif Chaudhry, and Mr. Mark Van Driel

**NOTE:** *These minutes will become final on August 22, 2016 if not challenged.*

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Julia Lopez-Robertson, Chair)
2. **Approval of the [Minutes from April 25, 2016](http://app.gradschool.sc.edu/gradcouncil/minutes.asp).** 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>
3. **Report of the Chair** (Julia Lopez-Robertson)  
Dr. Lopez-Robertson welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the fiscal year and announced that it was her last meeting as Chair of the Graduate Council.
4. **Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies** (Lacy Ford)

Dr. Ford announced to the Graduate Council that this was the last Graduate Council under his leadership as Dean of Graduate Studies. He will be assuming a new role at the University of South Carolina as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as of July 1, 2016. Information on exactly how the administration will be reorganized is not available at this time. Provost Gabel is considering how best to proceed with continuing to move The Graduate School and The University of South Carolina in a

positive direction. Dr. Ford thanked everyone for their hard work on the Graduate Council and the various committees on which they and others have served over the past five years. There were no questions from the Council for Dr. Ford.

**5. Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council / Associate Dean (Murray Mitchell)**

Dr. Mitchell described this semester as filled with a surprising number of requests for grade changes, incomplete extensions beyond 12 months, and requests for all sorts of exceptions this semester. Faculty members appear to not to understand the rules that have been in place for a very long time. He has received numerous requests for extending incompletes for reasons that are simply inappropriate. In defense of faculty, there are many regulations that are harder to discover and follow than should be true. We are looking for better ways to get this kind of information out to the faculty. Graduate Directors are frequently replaced and are less frequently apprised of the rules and regulations. There used to be a once per semester meeting for the graduate directors but the feedback was not very positive. Some long-serving individuals came and found no new information, while others new to their position simply had no idea about what was being discussed. We need to find a better way to get information to the graduate directors and their administrative assistants.

There will be some new members joining us on the Graduate Council. A few people who have already agreed to serve on the Graduate Council: Christina Andrews from Social Work and Dave Stodden from Physical Education will join us for a 3-year term, and Mark Van Driel will replace Brittany Walter as the GSA representative for a 1-year term. Several other invitations have been extended, and we are waiting on their reply. The three confirmed replacements were unanimously approved by the Graduate Council.

The Graduate Council members who will rotate off this semester are as follows: Drs. Nancy Brown, Kay Edwards, Jerry Hilbish, Julia Lopez-Robertson, Christian Jensen, Lara Lomicka-Anderson, and Brittany Walter. Any one rotating off of the Graduate Council can still serve on any of the Graduate Council committees. Your participation is desired, encouraged, will be welcomed.

Dr. Matt Brown was previously elected as the new Chair, and he will be convening our August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**6. Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative (Brittany Walter)**

Ms. Walters introduced Mr. Mark Van Driel as her replacement as the GSA representative. He is a Presidential Fellow and a doctoral candidate in History.

**7. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Matt Brown)**

None reported

**8. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses, Distance Education and Special Courses (Murray Mitchell)**

A listing of 500/600 Level Courses is presented to Council for informational purposes only.

### **500/600 Level Courses**

The Faculty Senate Committee considering these courses will not meet again until the fall semester.

### **Distance Education Delivery**

The Faculty Senate Committee considering these courses will not meet again until the fall semester.

### **Special Topics Courses**

- **EMCH 791** (3) Nuclear Analysis using Computer Codes for the Nuclear Industry (Summer 2016)
- **ENGL 738** (3) Topics in American Women Writers: Twentieth Century US Women Writers (Fall 2016)
- **ENGL 840** (3) Studies in American Lit: Blackface Minstrelsy (Fall 2016)
- **ENGL 841** (3) Studies in American Lit: Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the US (Fall 2016)
- **HPEB 792** (3) Mass Incarceration and Public Health (Fall 2016)
- **MKTG 712** (3) Sales: Process, People and Performance (Fall 2016)
- **SLIS 797** (3) Marketing for Libraries (Fall 2016)
- **SMED 729** (3) Science and Engineering Practices for Elementary Grades Science Teachers (Fall 2016)
- **SOWK 768** (3) Motivational Interviewing (Fall 2016)
- **SOWK 768** (1) RCSD School Practicum (Fall 2016)
- **EXSC 555** (3) Fundamentals of Clinical Trials in Exercise Science (Fall 2016)

#### **9. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)**

None received

#### **10. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Heather Brandt)**

Dr. Brandt thanked all of the Scholarship Committee for their work this semester with the fellowships and scholarships. They had a particularly large pool of very talented incoming graduate students for the Presidential Fellows. Last count, they were in the 20 – 30 range of new Presidential Fellows, including several new programs that have never had a Presidential Fellow before.

They just recently met with the Bridge Humanities Corps for the ABD students and the newly minted PhDs. Ten ABD nominations were received and nine have been accepted. No word yet if any of these have declined. Two newly minted PhD applicant nominations were received and both accepted but one of them has already accepted a position elsewhere. Hopefully, all offers will be accepted. By the end of July – early August, a mandatory 10-day training from 9a.m. until noon will commence for them

all to meet each other.

The committee is also working on the SREB awards. There are three awards. More applications were received than anticipated; so, the committee must work quickly to make those awards by the deadline of June 1.

#### 11. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (David Tedeschi)

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/gradagenda/?id=15>

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.”

- **MATH 739** (3) Introduction to Complex Geometry II, Arts and Sciences. NCP, Spring 2017
- **NURS Major / Degree Program**, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Nursing. Program Change: Fall 2017
- **NURS Major / Degree Program**, MSN in Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing, New Program: Fall 2017
- **NURS Major / Degree Program**, MSN Adult Gerontology – Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Nursing, New Program: Fall 2017
- **NURS Major / Degree Program**, MSN Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Nursing, New Program: Fall 2017
- **ZZEN Concentration**, Non-thesis option, Engineering and Computing, Program Change: Fall 2016.

***All proposals were unanimously approved by the Graduate Council.***

#### 12. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Drucilla Barker)

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/gradagenda/?id=15>

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.”

- **PSYC 726** (3) Lifespan Psychopathology and Resilience, Arts and Sciences. CCP: Fall 2017
- **SOWK 727** (3) Social Work in an Educational Setting, Social Work. NCP: Summer 2016
- **SOWK 729** (3) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Social Work. NCP: Summer 2016
- **SOWK 730** (3) Trauma-informed Social Work Practice, Social Work. NCP: Summer 2016

**All proposals were unanimously approved by the Graduate Council.**

**13. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee** (Nancy Brown)

None received

**14. Other Committee Reports**

None

**15. Old Business**

None

**16. New Business**

Mr. Dale Moore addressed an on-going issue regarding academic departments that have no formal appeal, grievance, or petition procedures. After much discussion it was recommended by the Graduate Council that any academic program that doesn't have a formal appeal policy should create one. A note will go out to all deans, graduate directors, program directors, and department chairs informing them of this request.

**17. Good of the Order**

Members took a brief break for lunch and for a chance to consider a copy of the report from the External Deans along with a “draft” of the Provost Blue Ribbon Committee priority goals, based on discussion and consideration of the external report:

1. Hire a full-time resident Graduate Dean
2. Welcome the Graduate School to the Council of Academic Deans
3. Enhance Professional Development for graduate students (part time Associate Dean is anticipated to start July 1, 2016)

4. Create an enhanced Graduate Web Portal
5. Implement a Continuous Enrollment policy
6. Improve financial arrangements for graduate students (increase health insurance subsidy and better define fellowships and graduate assistantships)
7. Inspire interdisciplinary: Pilot new thematic efforts based on common interests, 2016-2017

Discussion followed and key points from that discussion were:

- 1 Substantive agreement with the findings, especially the first two bullets (full time dean; representation at CAD).
- 2 Mild concern that the more systemic recommendations might be watered down by the presence of some of the “fluff” (example given: formal recognition of the outstanding Graduate Advisor).
- 3 Concern was raised regarding the “continuous enrollment” recommendation—especially in regard to the non-traditional students with financial constraints. Seems almost contradictory to the larger report (e.g., explore options on how better to serve vulnerable populations of graduate students).
- 4 Additional discussion surrounding what possible impact there might be on Z-Status requests if the continuous enrollment “rule” is to be established.
- 5 In sum, regarding the continuous enrollment recommendation, more discussion and a thoughtfully crafted policy would be critical.
- 6 Last, some question about how to know where these recommendations might be on the respective agendas of the President and Provost, and a desire for some sort of response/reaction from the higher administration regarding “So, what do you think and what’s next?”

## 18. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

**Murray Mitchell, Secretary**

CC:

Harris Pastides, President

Joan Gabel, Provost

Lacy Ford, Senior Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies

Deans

Department Chairs

Graduate Directors

Aaron Marterer, University Registrar

Jodie Morris, Office of the Registrar

Andrew Graves, Office of the Registrar

Nancy Floyd, Office of Institutional Assessment and Compliance