



The Graduate School

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 27th, 2020

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Tom Regan, Chair; Drs. Suzanne Adlof, Nate Bell, Matt Boylan, Bobby Brame, Maks Chruszcz, Sharon DeWitte, Robin DiPietro, Jean Ellis, Elise Ince, Hippokratis Kiaris, Jim Mensch, Sirivatch Shimpalee, Nikki Wooten, Songhua Xu, and Jennifer Mandelbaum, GSA Representative.

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Ron Benner, Joanna Casey, Rick Creswick, and Spencer Platt.

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

Provost Office Representatives: Trena Houp

Guests: Dr. Bob Brookshire (IIT), Heidi Tolles (Biological Sciences), Dr. Lana Burgess (McKissick Museum) and Debra Brown (HSPM)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on May 11, 2020 if not challenged.

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Tom Regan, Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:05p.m. and the agenda was approved by the Graduate Council.
2. **Approval of the [Minutes from February 24, 2020](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** (Tom Regan)
No report.
4. **Report of the Dean of Graduate School** (Cheryl Addy)
Dr. Addy thanked the Council for joining the meeting and wished everyone well during these

strange times. She also thanked the Council for their responsiveness to the discussion and approval of the Pass/Fail grade option. She has been working with the Registrar's office on the process by which students can submit their individual decisions about choosing the Pass/Fail grade option. She has been dealing with a lot of questions about the implications of the Pass/Fail grade option vs what happens in terms of the individual program level progression requirements. We will not be overruling any of those decisions.

Dr. Addy is not sure of the technical aspects of the operational requests. Once faculty post their letter grades, the students will then have the individual option to make their selection. Instructors will not know which grade option the student has chosen until grades post.

After discussion with the Registrar's Office and the Faculty Senate, it was decided that the students will not be able to reverse their grade option on their own once they make it. It can be reversed, but the process will be instructor or program director assisted. After July 1, transcripts will show the students' Pass/Fail grading, but an actual underlying letter grade will be available should faculty need to see later.

The future planning process is in full swing. A huge number of people are involved at various levels. No decision for Fall 2020 has been made. They are now focusing on two different directions. Once the governor opens the campus beyond essential employees, what is going to be our transition process of getting back on campus. Graduate students are being considered pretty much equally with faculty and staff regarding the need to return to campus. They are looking at safety procedures, can we maintain social distancing, and cleaning requirements, etc. Concurrent with that, there have been complicated discussions of what Fall 2020 will look like. The course delivery level option may range from business as usual to 100% on-line course delivery, to any combination in between. Layered with that is the potential for utilizing parts-of-term for any of these courses. They are working through what the needs are, what can be managed on campus when in terms of the size of the classes, and the number of students on campus in general, layered with non-academic issues of housing for undergraduates and those types of things. It is a hugely complicated process.

They are getting ready to send out probably two different surveys. One will be talking about research and scholarship and what are your needs to get back on campus. The other survey will be looking at course section level, what are your potential ways of handling this for the fall in terms of the different modalities and the different kinds of classes you teach and so forth. A lot will be happening in the next few weeks.

Please share the following with your faculty in your home units. As you are working on your course syllabi for the summer and for the fall, when you are doing a hybrid course or a totally on-line course, be sure to include the technology requirements so the students will know what is needed as they go into that class. It should be obvious, but it is better to put this in writing up front to be very clear.

Some students have health conditions they are dealing with, some are suffering significant trauma dealing with all that is going on, and there are some that are experiencing significant financial needs. Our Student Health Services is fully functioning, and they are doing a lot of things virtually. There is one limitation for the summer. Since we are totally on-line right now

and because of the way the regulations are written, our medical providers are only licensed to practice and treat students located in South Carolina via tele-counseling and tele-medicine. They cannot virtually treat students who are located out-of-state. There are several web-based resources available for students who need assistance regarding mental health.

We do have a student relief fund and a faculty and staff relief fund. If you have students who are in financial distress due to the loss of campus employment or the loss of outside employment, the emergency relief fund is available. Please encourage them to apply if needed. She encourages all faculty and staff to consider contributing to either of these relief funds.

The question was asked how much of the federally funded relief funds donated to universities would be earmarked for graduate students. Dr. Addy was uncertain of the breakdown as she has not seen a detailed disbursement plan. Out of an estimated 21 million dollars given, the legislation requires that roughly half of the funds given is for university expenses with 10.7 million for disbursement to students. She hasn't seen the rules to describe disbursement between undergraduates and graduates. Unfortunately, legislation did make a clear ruling late last week that International students would not be eligible for these funds. They were considering it, but the last word she received was that International students would not be eligible.

If you have graduate students who had assistantships that had to have their hours reduced or be terminated for some reason related to the COVID-19, these students might be eligible to apply for unemployment. They may also be eligible for other emergency federal relief funds as well.

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

Dr. Mitchell had two items to share. First, we have a number of courses in each of the curriculum committee queues that will need approval from the Graduate Council. Course changes can wait until next semester; but, we have about a dozen new course proposals for summer delivery. Hence, we will need to meet at our final scheduled meeting in May (May 11, 2020, at 2:00 pm). Please make a note as a reminder.

Second, we have six faculty members who are rotating off of the Council at the end of the current academic year, with appreciation:

1. Bobby Brame (Criminology and Criminal Justice)
2. Maksmilian Chruszcz (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
3. Rick Creswick (Physics)
4. Jean Ellis (Geography)
5. Tom Regan (Sport and Entertainment Management)
6. Sirivatch Shimpalee (Chemical Engineering)

Jennifer Mandelbaum, the Graduate Student Association (GSA) representative will also be rotating off and the GSA has elected their new representative, Sudipta Saha.

If you have any nominees, please forward contact information to me at your earliest convenience. Elise Ince has offered a nominee from Chemistry and Biochemistry, so, we have five additional openings, if Elise's nominee is willing and available to serve. He also mentioned that all new members must be approved by the Graduate Council. If there are more nominees than openings, we will have a vote to elect members to a 3-year term.

6. **Report on Professional Development** (Heather Brandt)

Dr. Brandt shared with the Council that the Graduate Civic Scholars Program, continuing now in its fifth year, will have Allison Marsh from History and Breanne Grace from Social Work as the faculty directors. That program begins its Summer Intensive Sessions on Monday, May 11, with 12 doctoral students and 2 masters students. This is the largest cohort for this program to date. We are looking forward to announcing that formally next week.

The Bridge Humanities Corps, as we currently know it in the Graduate School, is coming to an end. However, the College of Arts and Sciences has picked up the program and re-envisioned it. The new program is the Bridge Humanities Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship and will include only newly minted PhDs. They will have six newly minted PhDs. This program previously also included ABDs in Humanities. Dr. Cynthia Davis from Arts and Sciences will be overseeing that program. The deadline was last Friday, and they will be meeting in the next few weeks to make selections.

They wrapped up their academic year for the current Presidential Fellows on last Friday. They had 50 fellows for this academic year, and they had a rather large cohort of 18 Fellows complete their time in the program. Some will be graduating officially in either May or August, and some will continue to finish up their dissertations and then graduate in the future.

GradProfdev Professional Development Fridays and programming also ended on last Friday in the Graduate School. They have been promoting a number of virtual resources. As you have graduate students who are looking for opportunities to enhance their professional development, you can refer them to the Graduate Professional Development website to the recorded webinars. They have been pushing out resources from CTE, from university libraries, and from others on campus including professional development through HR and Nathan Strong and his group that have been doing a number of virtual offerings that graduate students can participate in.

During this time with communication, they have been supporting Dean Addy and all the communication coming out of the Graduate School. There will be another communication coming soon, and they will have those posted on their website. If you ever have questions regarding this, you can email Gradcom@mailbox.sc.edu.

7. **Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative** (Jennifer Mandelbaum)

Jennifer reported that the current GSA term is coming to an end. As in previous years, they are putting together a year-end report. GSA held elections earlier in April for executive positions and they are as follows:

Maggie Carson – President
Maxwell Akonde – Vice President
Christopher Eddy – Treasurer
Sudipta Saha – GSA Representative for Graduate Council

8. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Jim Mensch)

No report.

9. **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 April 2020 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal; STC=Special Topics Course)

CRJU 551 (3) Adolescent Mentoring (NCP: Summer 2020; Cross list with WGST 551)

EDUC 610 (3) Case Study in Classroom Management (NCP: Summer 2020)

JOUR 563P (3) Public/Civic Journalism (CCP: Fall 2021)

MATH 528 (3) Mathematical Foundations of Data Science and Machine Learning (NCP: Fall 2021)

MATH 554 (3) Analysis I (CCP: Fall 2021)

MATH 572 (3) Mathematical Foundations of Network Science (NCP: Summer 2020)

SPAN 501 (3) Contemporary Spanish America (CCP: Fall 2021)

SPAN 543 (3) Spanish-American Literature from the Independence Through Modernism (CCP: Fall 2021)

SPAN 555 (3) Spanish-American Literature from Modernization Through 1960 (CCP: Fall 2021)

WGST 551 (3) Adolescent Mentoring (NCP: Summer 2020; Cross list with CRJU 551)

Distributed Learning Proposals

BIOL 620 (3) Immunobiology (CCP: Summer 2020)

EDEX 691 (3) Collaborative Partnerships PK-12 (CCP: Summer 2020)

PSYC 565 (3) Psychology of Physical Activity (CCP: Fall 2021)

Special Topics Course Proposals

These proposals will now go directly to the Registrar for scheduling.

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

None at this time.

11. **Fellowships and Scholarships Committee** (Jean Ellis)

Dr. Ellis reported that they had a total number of 61 applicants over 3 rounds. They made 20 offers and had 9 acceptances, 7 of which identify as female (1 is pending right now). The breakdown is as follows:

Program Name:	Number of Acceptances:
Educational Psychology and Research – PhD	1
School Psychology – PhD	1
Clinical-Community Psychology – PhD	1
Foundations of Education – PhD	1
English – PhD	1
Creative Writing – MFA	1
Sociology – PhD	1

Social Work – PhD	1
Marine Science – PhD	1

Trustee Fellowships

8 total applicants for the Cecil Scott and Rhude Patterson Awards

The 5 that we recommended accepted (2 for Scott and 2 for Rhude Patterson).

Note: we could have awarded one more for Scott, but there were not enough applicants.

Scott award limited to counseling, physiology and guidance

Rhude Patterson is limited to female graduate student in humanities or social sciences.

Both awards are \$5,000.

I already reported previously on our committee’s action regarding Grace Jordan McFadden Program

Continuing action items for the committee:

1. Currently evaluating current student awards; we are behind compared to the normal calendar because we first wanted to provide extra time to the faculty to conduct the reviews with everything going on with COVID-related stressors; 2) there was no formal awards announcement, so all that matters in our opinion is that the students will get their recognition but then end of the AY.
These awards include outstanding dissertation, thesis, instructor, etc.
2. SREB - this is delayed b/c of COVID.

She wanted to acknowledge the support of Wright Culpepper and her committee members who are also Graduate Council members: Jim Menseh (Exercise Science), Songhua Xu (Integrated Information Technology), and Nate Bell (Nursing) and two other non-grad council members: Kirk Foster (Social Work) and Greg Stuart (Music).

12. **Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (Murray Mitchell for Rick Creswick)

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=85&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.”

- **ELCT 780**, Semiconductor Physics, Delete an Existing Course, Electrical Engineering, Fall 2020

- **ENHS 764** (3) Principles, Methods, and Issues in Air, Public Health, NCP: Summer 2020
- **EPID 768** (3) Psychiatric Epidemiology, Public Health, CCP: Fall 2021
- **ITEC 760** (3) Cyberinfrastructure and Information Assurance, Integrated Information Technology, NCP: Summer 2020
- **ITEC 761** (3) Management of Cyberinfrastructure, Integrated Information Technology, NCP: Summer 2020
- **PUBH Major / Degree Program**, Public Health, General, Public Health, Terminate Program: Fall 2021
- **PUBH Major / Degree Program**, General Public Health, Pharmacy, M.P.H. / PharmD, Public Health, Terminate Program: Fall 2021
- **PUBH Academic Certificate**, Public Health, Certificate, Public Health, Terminate Program: Fall 2021
- **PUBH Major / Degree Program**, Public Health (General)/ Medicine-MPH-MD, Public Health, Terminate Program: Fall 2021

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

13. 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=85&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."

- **ANTH Major / Degree Program**, Anthropology, Ph.D., Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Program, Fall 2021
- **ANTH Major / Degree Program**, Anthropology, M.A., Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Program, Fall 2021
- **EDEX 715** (3) Applied Behavior Analysis in Special Education, Education, CCP: Summer 2020
- **EDEX 891** (3) Advanced Educational Procedures for Exceptional Children, Education, CCP: Summer 2020
- **EDRD 750** (3) Literacy Curriculum Development, Education, NCP: Summer 2020
- **EDRD 776** (3) Coaching Within Classrooms: Improving Teaching and Literacy Instruction, Education, CCP: Fall 2021
- **FINA 770** (3) Fixed-Income Securities, Business, CCP: Fall 2021
- **IBUS 704** (3) Comparative Corporate Governance, Business, CCP: Summer 2020
- **IBUS 706** (3) Nations, States, Regional Networks and Global Markets, Business, CCP: Summer 2020

- **IBUS 708** (3) International Business Legal Environments, Business, CCP: Summer 2020
- **IBUS 710** (3) Global Stakeholder Management, Business, CCP: Summer 2020
- **IBUS 720** (3) International Entrepreneurship, Business, CCP: Summer 2020
- **IBUS 740** (3) Data Analytics for International Business, Business, CCP: Summer 2020
- **INTB Major / Degree Program**, Master of International Business, Business, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2021
- **ZZBA Major / Degree Program**, Master of Science in Business Analytics, Business, New Program: Fall 2021

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

14. **Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee** (Bobby Brame)
No report.

15. **Other Committee Reports**
No report.

16. **Old Business**

Dr. Addy revisited a proposed revision of the section in the Columbia Faculty manual that deals with Graduate Faculty. The primary issue was clarifying the associate membership needed to be someone qualified both for supervising doctoral work and for being involved in faculty governance. She cleaned up the wording and other details and shared it with Faculty Advisory for approval. Most of the changes that are new are related to that discussion. They felt that the section on nominations actually belongs more appropriately elsewhere. Regular Graduate Faculty aren't nominated, that is a default action until someone takes it away. Faculty Advisory also recommended that she remove some of the procedural detail about what the nomination looks like. She has removed it, but she needs to find another place for it. Her thought is to incorporate this information into the Graduate Council manual given that both appeal of a non-reappointment and the approval for associate membership come through Graduate Council.

After much discussion, it was decided that the permanent updated procedural detail from the Columbia Faculty manual will be relocated to the Graduate Council manual with a hotlink to the Columbia Faculty manual to avoid asking permission to reproduce the same language update in several locations. This change will require some coordination, but it can be done.

17. **New Business**

Dr. Addy is preparing a communication that will be sent out to graduate students. During this time, graduate students are stressing about many situations due to COVID-19. They are missing out on their field work, some have lost family members due to COVID-19, some have a lack of data collection because of time missed on campus, while others fear that they might lose their funding for various reasons. The Graduate School will do what can be done to assist with some of these issues. She is also working on a graduate director letter that will address some current issues such as getting back on campus, administering qualifying exams, faculty tenure track extensions, etc.

The Graduate School has a new ETD Coordinator. Her name is Laura Kotti, and she is currently working with Wright Culpeper during her transition period to get up and going in her new position.

Dr. Addy is working on finding a new faculty leader for the Presidential Fellows to replace Dr. Brandt. Due to a hiring freeze and the provost transition, the search for a replacement for Dr. Brandt has been postponed. Most of the current responsibilities will be divided among our current staff, and Wright Culpepper will probably be a big piece of that.

18. Good of the Order

Dr. Mitchell mentioned that he had received numerous inquiries about waiving the GRE as an admission criterion. If there is a published admission requirement in the Graduate Bulletin, departments may not waive it. ETS has made a number of adjustments to aid applicants who are unable to take standardized tests in test sites. If that still does not work, we have asked programs to request an exception to their admission requirements, and to provide additional information about the applicant that is not already in the application materials. For example, some graduate faculty have held Zoom, Skype (or whatever program you may have) to hold a virtual interview with applicants, where additional insight may be gained into language and content expertise. Others have supplemented such an interview with some sort of written task that goes beyond the letter of intent to gain additional insight into writing skills and professional goals. Graduate faculty in other programs have contacted additional possible references who have not already written in support of the applicant, to gain more information into applicant potential to successfully complete the program. Doing as much as we can to ensure a good admission decision is a question of equity to both the applicant and to the faculty. Admitting someone who does not have a strong chance of successfully completing the degree program is not helpful to anyone—the applicant or to the faculty.

On a related note, there has been a recent trend of programs seeking the removal of specifically the GRE as an admission requirement. If this (or any other standardized test) is not a requirement published in the Graduate Bulletin, no endorsement of the Graduate Council is required. He mentioned this as an information item for Council members to consider. What might be the implications of removing this requirement for perceptions of our graduate programs? This may be a worthy discussion item for a future meeting.

Dr. Ellis raised the fact that Graduate faculty need to be aware that the GRE remains a qualifying criterion for Presidential Fellows. If faculty are trying to recruit a student who does not have a GRE score, they are not eligible for this recruiting incentive.

Dr. Mitchell thanked Dr. Ellis for bringing up that important piece of information and added that he does try to remind faculty of this caveat when they pursue removing the admission requirement.

Reminder: Our next meeting will be Monday, May 11, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC: Bob Caslen, President
Tayloe Harding, Interim 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