



The Graduate School

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA

January 23, 2017

The Graduate Council met Monday, January 23, 2017, at 2:00 P.M. in the Byrnes Building, Room 311.

Graduate Council Members Present: Dr. Matt Brown, Chair; Drs. Swann Adams, Bobby Brame Jr., Matt Brown, Matt Childs, Dirk Den Ouden, Douglas Pittman, David Tedeschi, Kellee White, Scott White, Susan Yeargin; Mark VanDriel, GSA representative

Graduate Council Members Absent: Drs. Drucilla Barker, Cathy Brant, Maryah Fram, Blaine Griffen, Jason Hattrick-Simpers, Sali Li, Caryn Outten, and David Stodden.

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Cheryl Addy, Dr. Murray Mitchell, Dale Moore, and Dr. Emily Rendek

Provost Representatives: Drs. Kris Finnigan and Tena Crews

Guests: Dr. Duncan Buell, Andy Graves, Tilda Reeder, and Piper Wideman

Note: These minutes will become final on February 23, 2017 if not challenged.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda (Matt Brown, Chair)

Dr. Brown called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and received Council approval of the agenda.

2. Approval of the [Minutes from December 12, 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>

The Council approved the minutes from December 12, 2016.

3. Report of the Chair (Matt Brown)

Dr. Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and relayed the following information from Dr. Heather Brandt. Emails about spring [professional development programming](#) were sent to graduate directors and graduate students the week of January 16.

- Professional Development Fridays continue this semester on Graduate School social media (search for #GRADprofdev).
- The next Start Smart Workshop (financial literacy) is February 1—registration required.
- Webinars lined up for this semester include, among others, the “paper chase” on team science publishing and PIVOT on graduate student funding. Registration required.
- George Thompson, publisher-in-residence, will visit on February 23-24 presenting to the Bridge Humanities Corps, Bilinski Fellows, and Presidential Fellows; individual and small group meetings with graduate students and faculty will be available. Graduate Council members are invited to attend the February 24 presentation to the Presidential Fellows (11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., PHRC 114).
- Jennifer Polk, From PhD to Life, will visit on March 16-17 presenting to the Bridge Humanities Corps, Bilinski Fellows, and Presidential Fellows, as well as giving a workshop for all graduate students on the afternoon of March 17. Registration required.
- Isaiah Hankel, the Cheeky Scientist, will visit on April 7 and give a workshop open to all graduate students from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in RH Theater. Registration required.

The **Bridge Humanities Corps** received approval from the College of Arts and Sciences to continue. We plan to release the call for applications in early February.

An initial meeting is being held on February 1 to discuss applying for [Understanding PhD Career Pathways](#), a project of the Council on Graduate Schools to collect data on PhD careers in the humanities. Letters of intent are due on February 17. At the initial meeting, we will discuss if we will move forward or not.

4. Report of the Dean of Graduate School (Cheryl Addy)

Dr. Addy reported that there is an ongoing discussion regarding health insurance. The university is looking at broadening options to make coverage better and/or less expensive, as well as increasing the subsidy provided to graduate students.

Dr. Addy also reported on her attendance at the December CGS meeting, which took place in Washington D.C. The theme of the meeting was “Building graduate education’s narrative.” Dr. Addy attended a pre-conference workshop that asked, “How do we tell our stories?” It is clear that other institutions have more success with development opportunities when presenting fellowships versus specific requests for the graduate school. USC is looking at a naming opportunity for the Graduate School.

Dr. Addy also discussed the presentation of the CGS Pathways funding project. It is currently limited to the humanities; CGS is pursuing funding opportunities for STEM fields. This project looks at tracking graduate students’ viable careers (beyond the tenure track).

Dr. Addy presented at CGS on distance education. USC has the smallest scale program of those present, but, she noted, we deal with a greater variety of programs compared to other institutions. Several sessions discussed the future of the dissertation. Alternative options for the dissertation included audio and video portions. 3MT competitions, designed for the level of a lay audience, were also discussed. Dr. Addy sees it as a valuable tool that could aid in recruiting if we were to create a video library presenting our story. North Dakota State requires their doctoral students to do a 3-minute video of their dissertations. The Graduate School has done 3MT previously. Dr. Addy reminded the Council that Graduate Student Day is now a part of [Discover USC Day](#) (which will take place on 4/21). The Graduate School will host 3MT presentations at Discover USC.

Dr. Addy noted that one of the other topics discussed at the CGS meeting was the handling of transfer credit.

Dr. Kellee White asked for further information on how/when USC is doing 3MT. Dr. Addy said that an announcement should go out at the end of this week and noted that graduate students will also be able to present posters.

Dr. Swann Adams asked whether departments would be able to use videos from their students as promotional materials. Dr. Addy stated that we would need to work with legal for permissions and releases.

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

Dr. Mitchell says that academic regulations need to be standardized. Information regarding admission standards should no longer be referred to in graduate bulletins; information will instead be housed on programs' websites, which is easier to update than the bulletin. Dr. Mitchell noted that departments have been delayed with their special topics course submissions—spring courses began on 1/9/17, and submissions are still coming in.

6. Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative (Mark VanDriel)

Mr. VanDriel noted that the GSA has been using social media to post information for graduate students. They are happy to consider information for wide dissemination. If there are any questions, email Mr. VanDriel (vandriel@email.sc.edu) with information.

7. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Dirk den Ouden)

Dr. den Ouden spoke about the Academic and Policy and Practices Committee, which has been focused on international programs and revising and/or growing academic partnerships, which need greater faculty oversight. Faculty oversight has not always been secured—though it is required. The committee met with Dr. Allen Miller. There are 34 active programs that involve the Graduate School. The committee discussed the language used in MOUs.

Dr. den Ouden noted that the issues with the current system include the following: Dr. Miller checks with representatives of the Graduate School before he signs off on them (Dr. Mitchell said he has not received such documents. Dr. Finnigan said she receives them.) Dr. den Ouden said we want to be careful to avoid a post-negotiation check. The Graduate School requirements need to be very clear beforehand. Dr. den Ouden suggested a decision tree be created.

Dr. den Ouden also asked whether formalization should be through Graduate Council, which would involve a time delay since the Council only meets once a month, or through the Dean. He also asked whether the Graduate School signature should be present on forms. Other questions to consider: Should GRE scores be waived? (There may be valid reasons to do so—same with TOEFL or IOES.) The cost and ability to tamper with scores should also be considered. Should language requirements be waived for specific countries or universities? The Shorelight Company recruits students who first enter EPI as nondegree students; if they successfully complete that program, they can enter as degree-seeking students. Should the Graduate School conduct a separate review of this program?

Dr. Addy responded that it was only this semester that Shorelight began recruiting graduate students. We must think about whether we want to centralize admissions (like undergraduate admissions). Right now Shorelight just recruits for one program.

Dr. Tedeschi asked if “dual degree” could be defined. Dr. Addy responded that it is semantics—it depends on what people are doing. SACs definitions: 1) a degree from two different universities 2) joint degree: 1 degree jointly awarded from 2 universities 3) student could transfer courses from one university to another. (NB: exchange programs are different.) Dr. Brown noted that Sport and Entertainment Management has a dual degree program where the GRE is waived, resulting in different admissions standards. Dr. Addy responded that she has been sensitive to this issue since going to China this summer. For example, an institution signed an MOU that the Graduate School had not seen. The MOU proposed to waive the GRE admissions requirement, creating new criteria for admissions. If faculty agrees upon this then it is all right, but this should not be an administrative decision because it takes away from faculty rights.

Dr. Finnigan brought up ACAF 2.06, which governs international agreements. She is currently working with others to draft ACAF 2.05 because SACS identified an area of need for USC in 2011. She noted that USC needs a generic contract policy. We have a list of entities to be consulted (the draft went through the Academic Program Liaison Committee on Friday, 1/20/17). Dr. den Ouden asked to be on the circulation list for that draft. Dr. Addy said she would make sure that the committee gets the draft.

Dr. Swann stated that waiving the English proficiency requirement poses problems for faculty and students. At the department level, Nursing has initiated interviews with students to see if their language proficiency is high enough (with 10-15 minute interviews). Dr. den Ouden noted that some programs might opt to do that. Faculty at some level can have oversight. He asks if faculty oversight is enough from the Graduate Council or if it should come from each program in question. Dr. Mitchell responded that the issue, especially with for-profit partners recruiting for UofSC at the undergraduate level, is that a different scale is used: numbers are looked at rather than individual students—Faculty are concerned with more than simply numbers at the graduate level. Dr. Addy stated that the advantage with MOUs is that they are specific to institutions, so we can tailor them individually. The problem is when we make exceptions to admissions. Our involvement is more when a new dual degree program is created because of a new curriculum.

Dr. den Ouden proposed that the committee work on an initial proposal. Suggestions can be emailed to him (OUDEN@mailbox.sc.edu). He hopes to have a draft in time for discussion at our next meeting; he will work to distribute a draft prior to the meeting for members to review in preparation for discussion.

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

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

No report.

Distance Education Delivery Courses

No report.

Special Topics Courses

CHEM 739 (3) Nanoscale Behavior and Characterization of Block Copolymers (Spring 2017)

EDUC 632 (3) Promoting School Success in Homeless and Other High-Risk Students: Concepts and Strategies (Spring 2017).

EDUC 633 (3) Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics in Grades K-8 (Spring 2017).

ENCP 789 (1) IGERT 719 – Ethics in Research (Spring 2017).

ENCP 789 (1) IGERT 720 – Public Energy Policy (Spring 2017).

ENCP 789 (1) IGERT 722 – Obstacles to Successful Commercialization (Spring 2017).

POLI 792 (3) Current Readings in Comparative Politics (Spring 2017).

SOWK 768 (3) Health Aspects of Aging (Spring 2017).

The special topics courses were approved.

9. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

Name: **Shana Harrington**, Ph.D., P.T., O.C.S.

Program: Exercise Science

Term: Spring 2017 – Fall 2022

Dr. Shana Harrington's nomination was approved.

10. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Scott White)

Dr. White announced that the deadline for Presidential Fellows for the first round produced 30 nominations, which includes 19 programs, 3 international students, and 10 students who have 3.9 GPAs or higher. The committee meets this Friday morning (1/27/17). There are 2 more rounds. The next is on 2/17/17.

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://sc.edu/programproposal/gradagenda/?id=20>

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."

- **MRC Major/Degree Program**, Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling, Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, Medicine, CCP: Fall 2017

The proposal was approved.

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

No report.

13. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Maryah Fram)

No report.

14. Other Committee Reports

No report.

15. Old Business

No report.

16. New Business

No report.

17. Good of the Order

- Tilda Reeder stated she was present for two of her colleagues in Psychology.
- Dr. Brown reminded everyone to sign in.

It was noted that this meeting was Dr. Finnegan's last meeting before her retirement. Dr. Tena Crews will now serve as the Provost Representative.

18. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:51p.m.

Next meeting: February 27, 2017 at 2:00p.m.

Dr. Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC:

Harris Pastides, President

Joan Gabel, 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

Andrew Graves, Office of the Registrar