GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25th, 2022

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, April 25th, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Nikki Wooten, Chair; Drs. Demetrius Abshire, Matt Boylan, Subra Bulusu, Jean Ellis, Shana Harrington, Elise Ince, Hippokratis Kiaris, William Matchin, Jim Mensch, Srihari Nelakuditi, David Reisman, Stephen Shapiro, Sheryl Wiskur, Songhua Xu, and Maggie Carson (GSA)

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Marketa Kubickova, Neal Woods, and Christina Yao

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Tracey Weldon, 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. Robert Brookshire (ITT), Dr. Kevin Leblanc (School of Medicine), Dr. Robert Lipe (DMSB), Dr. Sheryl Mitchell (Nursing), Dr. Myriam Torres (EPI/BIOS), Ed Short (Registrar), and Maxwell Akonde (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on May 9th, 2022, if not challenged.

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Nikki Wooten, Chair)
   The meeting was called to order at 2p.m., and the agenda was approved.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from March 28, 2022**. 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 minutes from March were unanimously approved.

3. **Report of the Chair** (Nikki Wooten)
   Dr. Wooten congratulated Dr. Tracey Weldon on her appointment as Dean of the Graduate School. She also thanked everyone for their service to graduate students this semester.

4. **Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School** (Tracey Weldon)
   Dr. Weldon announced that she has accepted the position as Dean of the Graduate School for the next five years, and she looks forward to continuing to work with everyone on an official basis.

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

Dr. Mitchell also congratulated Dr. Weldon on being named the official Dean of the Graduate School. He also reminded everyone of the next and last meeting of the academic year for Graduate Council will be on May 9th at 2p.m. rather than on the fourth Monday of May. He also asked that everyone add this meeting to their schedules. It will be on Microsoft Teams. This meeting will be another opportunity for a little more discussion as to how you would like to hold the first meeting of next academic year. Some of the reactions from folks the last time he inquired about preferences was to suggest that perhaps the new group should have the opportunity to make that decision. Please take a moment to think a bit about your preferences and offer some input at our next meeting on May 9th.

He announced that the May 9th meeting will be the final meeting for at least seven of our members. They are as follows:

- Matthew Boylan (Math)
- Elise Ince (Marketing)
- Hippokratis Kiaris (Pharmacy)
- Jim Mensch (Athletic Training)
- Neal Woods (Political Science)
- Nikki Wooten (Social Work)
- Songhua Xu (Integrated Information Technology)
- Maggie Carson (GSA)

He is happy to field invitations for new members for Graduate Council. We will be searching for seven members of Graduate Council for next academic year, we will certainly continue to be looking for members who are graduate faculty members who would be willing and available to serve on the various committees that respond to or report to the Graduate Council. He has received one nomination from Music for a new nominee—thanks to Cliff Lehman in Music. He has not heard from anyone else yet. Please only nominate people who would be willing, available, and interested in serving and will indeed have fourth Mondays at 2p.m. free to attend the meetings regardless of if they are in person or virtual. For folks that anticipate in either the fall or the spring semester, having a class that will happen on Monday afternoon at 2p.m., 2:30p.m., or 3p.m. probably their participation as a Graduate Council member is not a best choice for them, but perhaps they would benefit from exploring their interest in one of the several committees that services the Graduate Council. Committee work might be another way to engage with graduate education at this university and make a valued and important contribution to what we do and be available to do that on a time schedule that will fit in and around their other obligations.

6. **Report of the Interim Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Associate Director, Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program** (Toby Jenkins)
   Dr. Jenkins shared some updates on recent occurrences. They just closed out Graduate Appreciation Week. They had a few student representatives serve on a planning committee to help them flush out what that week would have in it. They had a few workshops that they encouraged folks to participate in within The Grad Hub to continue to generate energy around and encouraging students to use that space. They did some online daily raffles 3 days per week. They did some raffles that would allow our online out-of-state students to also participate in actively during the week. Approximately 100 students participated in the raffle, and they were able to give away about 70 food gift certificates and coupons to various places like Starbucks, Jersey Mike's, Smoothie King, etc. Most of these incentives were donated and some were purchased.

   The capstone of the week was The Inclusive Leadership Symposium, the inaugural symposium that they hosted this year. The response was good. Faculty, staff, and graduate students participated as a

collective community. The feedback has been fantastic. The registration was close to 180 and 120 or so attended the event—not capturing the presenters. For the first one, the turnout was outstanding. They look forward to seeing this initiative grow and continue in the coming years.

The Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP) has delayed contacting programs or nominators to say officially who has been selected as they wait to hear back from offers that have been extended before they officially close out and make the fellowship announcements. They currently have a waitlist as acceptances and declinations are received.

She has been meeting with diversity officers in your various colleges who should be reaching out to many of you in the coming weeks or months about them coming together to host a joint visit day for diversity recruiting into graduate programs. Many programs are already doing this. There is a visit day and particularly as a recruiting opportunity to HBCU students and other underrepresented students. They realized what was happening across individual colleges and recently had a conversation about them hosting a joint day to bring everyone together for a UofSC graduate visit day in the fall. They will come together with some type of shared program during the morning followed by a tour of campus and then break off into the different colleges. The conversation has been had with the diversity officers in the colleges and interest has been shown in this endeavor. Even if all colleges and programs are not interested in participating, there are a few programs that can benefit from the representation in the visit day. You might be receiving communication soon as they are going to move forward with planning a visit day for November of next year. Planning for November of next year will allow UofSC and HBCUs to get through this year's homecoming season.

7. **Report on Professional Development** (Wright Culpepper)
Wright thanked everyone who played a role with Discover USC on Friday, April 22nd. It was a hugely successful event. They will be announcing the winners at some point this week when the VPR's office releases an entire overview of the winners from every competition. It was a wonderful day, and he appreciates every ounce of support they received from the entire university community every year. It was great to be back in person and it was great to several people face-to-face.

Professional Development is already in discussions with GSA. He is scheduling a planning opportunity in the upcoming weeks for a debriefing of activities that took place this academic year. Now is the time to act so that they can make any possible big scale changes. Please feel free to email him with any insight on ideas to grow the program.

8. **Report of the Graduate Student Association** (Maggie Carson)
Maggie informed the Graduate Council that GSA has been busy wrapping up their programming for the year. Their second annual Graduate Student Recognition Awards program was a huge success and well-attended. They had 9 award categories and 27 recipients. Those names have been published on their social media, and they will also be included in their upcoming newsletter.

Their last Women's Mentorship Luncheon was last week. It went well and included two excellent speakers—Luke Kennedy from Nephron and Naida Rutherford, Richland County Coroner. Thank you to those who attended and mentored our students. This has been a wonderful pilot program, and they hope to continue next year. The Evening of Pride also took place last week and it also went well.

Graduate Students are asking if there are any plans for graduate student inclusion in the UofSC Awards Day that takes place. The Graduate School has awards, but there isn't really any graduate student recognition during that program, and will those ever be integrated? Dr. Weldon replied that the Awards Day operation is run by the Office of Student Affairs; so, that's a conversation that would need to be had with Anna Edwards at their next meeting.

Maxwell Akonde, the GSA President for academic year 2022-23, announced a concern about the timeline for the dissertation formatting was moved up this year. Dr. Mitchell replied that the desire on the part of everyone is to encourage students who are working on their dissertation to submit the document that they use when they propose for a format check. In general, the document used for a format check is going to be sufficient if it gives a title page, table of contents, some sense of what a general Chapter 1 would look like typically, an introduction and why this topic matters something related to the literature that supports what is going on or traditionally in Chapter 2, and how you are going to do it or methodology traditionally in Chapter 3, and a list of references. With that much of the document completed, which is foundational to what most proposals would be, if students will submit that document, it means they will create their account in Proquest, and they will get that initial formatting in condition that will closely approximate what they will have to do for their final document clearance. If they do that when they propose their topic, that should be way in advance of when they are working on their final document. That will be after their data are collected, after they have scheduled a meeting with their committee, and when their committee has now given suggestions for what else they want to be fixed. Students would then be able to focus all their attention on those final refinements as opposed to initiating a format clearance when they are 2 weeks from trying to graduate. This is what we are trying to encourage students to do. We are trying to encourage major professors to encourage their students to do that. We are trying to encourage graduate directors to encourage their major professors in their programs to encourage their students to get that format check done very early. So, the intention is not to shorten the time that students must complete their work. It is to encourage them to master one of those critical milestones early in the process so that it hopefully will relieve some of the pressure and frustration that happens at the end of the semester because for some reason, someone has communicated to them that the only way they can submit for a format check is when the document is very nearly complete—which is not true. So, that is the myth that we are trying to overcome and help facilitate students graduating in a timely fashion, not make it harder for them to graduate.

Dr. Weldon added that the deadlines were moved up after her first semester as Interim Dean where she saw more panic than she needed to see as students were realizing that the last minute that they had to complete this process to graduate on time. Our ETD coordinator, along with Dr. Mitchell, have done an incredible job looking at the entire process of trying to understand where we might be able to better educate students, graduate directors, and graduate advisors on what is required for them to graduate in a timely way. More workshops have been added that includes the opportunity for students to submit their proposals early so that they have a clearer sense of what they need to get their dissertations formatted properly early in the process. Doing so will give the students an earlier set of milestones so that they are not pushed to the last minute and not be able to graduate on time. Moving the deadlines up was to better educate everyone about what the process looks like. She has not seen the panic for this semester and does not recall panic from last semester. From where she sits, the process is working. f there are other concerns and implications that this change has created, please make them known.

Dr. Reisman requested an approved minimal sample of what students need to submit. Dr. Mitchell advised that some of those resources are already online, but some of those challenges are that various programs require different formats (such as journal article(s) rather than traditional) and use different referencing styles such as APA, Chicago style, index Medicus, etc. These kinds of things are simple to sort out early, but they become a massive hassle towards the end of the graduation race, while trying to reanalyze, rewrite, and revise concluding implications. All these kinds of questions are addressed during the workshops (face-to-face, asynchronously, online synchronously). We have a variety of templates available as well. We have indeed tried to be responsive to those needs in the hopes of alleviating some of those concerns. Thesis and Dissertation Format Guide and recorded

webinars are on the Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation webpage:

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

9. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Stephen Shapiro)
   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 April 2022 Grad Council
    (CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal)

    ARTS 570 (3) Visual Arts Computing (CCP: Fall 2023)
    EDML 598 (3) Internship A in the Middle School (CCP: Fall 2023)
    ENTR 501 (1-3) Independent Study in Entrepreneurship (NCP: Summer 2022)
    MUED 533P (1) Practicum in Methods of String Instruction I (CCP: Fall 2023)
    MUED 534 (2) Methods of String Instruction II (CCP: Fall 2023)

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

    None at this time.

12. **Fellowships and Scholarships Committee** (Jean Ellis)
    Dr. Ellis reported that Fellowships and Scholarships Committee has almost wrapped up for the year, and gave updates on the following:

    Regarding current student awards:
    They recommended winners for Community Engagements, Leadership, Research, Teaching (2x), and the Trustee Award (Patterson, Royal, Parkinson, Reeve). They are waiting on confirmation of those.

    Recruiting awards:
    They recommended awards for the Trustee Recruiting Fellowships (Patterson and Scott)

    Twelve students have accepted the Presidential Fellowship; so, this class is full.

    The committee is meeting virtually in May to discuss possible improvements to the fellowships and scholarships process to present for consideration to the Dean.

    She acknowledged the work of the committee that comprises Dr. Marketa Kubickova and Dr. Jim Mensch from this committee and our 'external' members Dr. Jason Bakos, Dr. Andrew Gross, and Dr. Greg Stuart.

13. **Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (Hippokratis Kiaris)

    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/agenda/?id=115&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."

- **CIVE Major / Degree Program**, Civil Engineering, M.S., Engineering & Computing, Change Program: Fall 2023
- **CSCE 775** (3) Deep Reinforcement Learning, Engineering & Computing, NCP: Summer 2022
- **ITEC 799** (1-6) Thesis Preparation, Engineering & Computing, NCP: Summer 2022
- **MATH Major / Degree Program**, MS in Mathematics, Arts and Sciences, Change Program: Fall 2022
- **MATH Major / Degree Program**, PhD in Mathematics, Arts and Sciences, Change Program: Fall 2022
- **MATH Major / Degree Program**, MM in Mathematics, Arts and Sciences, Change Program: Fall 2022
- **MATH Major / Degree Program**, MA in Mathematics, Arts and Sciences, Change Program: Fall 2022
- **NURS 855** (3) Measurement in Biobehavioral Research, Nursing, NCP: Summer 2022
- **NURS 856** (3) Research Literature Synthesis, Nursing, NCP: Fall 2022
- **NURS 899** (1-6) Dissertation Preparation, Nursing, CCP: Fall 2023

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

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

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/agenda/?id=115&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."

- **BADM Dual Degree Program**, Business Administration/Pharmacy, MBA/Pharm D., Business, Change Program: Fall 2023.
- **CRJU 816** (3) Applied Quantitative Data Analysis, Arts and Sciences, CCP: Fall 2023
- **EDEL 743** (3) Studies and Internship in Teaching Social Studies – Elementary, Education, CCP: Summer 2022
- **EDEL 790** (9) MAT Internship in Elementary Education, Education, CCP: Summer 2022
- **ELDP 700** (3) Introduction to Educational Administration, Education, CCP: Fall 2023
- **EDLP 706** (3) The Principalship, Education, CCP: Fall 2023
- **EDRM 736** (3) Program Evaluation, Education, CCP: Fall 2022
- **EDTE 733** (6) Reading and Language Arts in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Education, CCP: Summer 2022

- **EDTE 771** (3) Studies and Internship I in Teaching Math – Early/Elementary Education, Education, CCP: Summer 2022
- **EDTE 830** (3) Adolescent Literacy Learning in a Multimodal and Digital World, Education, CCP: Summer 2022
- **HRSM 700** (3) Quantitative Methods in HRSM, HRSM, CCP: Summer 2022
- **HRTM 795** (3) Tourism and Hospitality Field Project, HRTM, CCP: Fall 2023
- **ISCI 700** (0) Introduction to Graduate Studies in Library and Information Science, Information & Communications, NCP: Summer 2022
- **ISCI 794** (3) Internship in Library and Information Science, Information & Communications, NCP: Summer 2022
- **ISCI 796** (1-6) Independent Study in Library and Information Science, Information & Communications, NCP: Summer 2022
- **JOUR 710** (3) Organizational Communication, Information & Communications, CCP: Summer 2022
- **MKTG 711** (3) Business, Markets and Sustainability, Business, NCP: Summer 2022
- **MKTG 740** (3) Digital Marketing & Social Media Analytics, Business, NCP: Summer 2022
- **SOWK 759** (3) Psychopathology and Psychodiagnostics for Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents, Social Work, CCP: Summer 2022
- **SOWK 760** (3) Psychopathology and Psychodiagnostics for Social Work Practice with Adults and Older Adults, Social Work, CCP: Summer 2022
- **ZZBA Major / Degree Program,** Master of Sciences in Business Analytics, Business, Change Program: Fall 2023

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

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. Weldon announced that the Graduate School will be participating in the Give 4 Garnet campaign this year. It starts on May 18th. Wright Culpepper will be taking the lead on getting this set up. If you are so inclined to support, we are hoping that we will be able to raise some funds to support our scholarly initiative groups, Professional Development, and our new Graduate Student Resources Hub. Encourage others to support the campaign as well. There will be a lot of correspondence coming out about this effort soon.

Wright added that there are certain challenges that are a part of the event whereas there may be something like a "power hour" where if the unit that receives the most amount of donations in that given hour –not the total dollars but total individual donations, they get an additional monetary amount unlocked for that department. Since we are on the smaller end relative to some of the larger departments, we want to monitor when those challenges are so we can strategize on when we want to donate on that day, May 18th. As we get more information, we will push it out to everyone associated with graduate studies and the like.

Dr. Angelina Sylvain, Vice Dean for Graduate Education, has distributed some correspondence about a graduate student needs assessment survey that is circulating from the Graduate School in coordination with the Department of Student Life. She is trying to get at least 50% of our graduate student population surveyed. This survey is quite comprehensive. It covers their program experience, professional development, campus resources, housing, and transportation, mental heal, and family obligations. It really gives us a sense of the graduate student perspective from various ranges. We are currently at 14% response rate with a 10% completion. We are really anticipating strong feedback from the graduate students with your assistance. As much as you can, please encourage graduate students to fill out the survey. Each student has received a unique link in their email addresses. If they are not able to assess the survey, please have them reach out to her at asylvain@mailbox.sc.edu . They do plan to be very transparent about these survey results. This is something that will be disseminated to the stakeholders at the institution to be able to inform programs and resource planning into the coming years.

19. **Good of the Order**
Dr. Wooten reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on May 9th at 2p.m.

20. **Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 2:46p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

CC: Harris Pastides, Interim President
Stephen Cutler, Interim Provost
Tracey Weldon, Interim 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 Wright, Office of the Registrar