



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 24th, 2025

The Graduate Council met in person on Monday, February 24th, 2025, at 2:00 pm in Room #584, Close-Hipp Building.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Terrance McAdoo, Chair; Mr. Hassan Anderson, Drs. Sourav Banerjee, John Doering-White, Lorie Donelle, Ashley Gess, Edie Goldsmith, Andrew Graciano, Carolyn Harmon, Bill Hauk, Daniel Kilpatrick, Sanjib Sur, Sriram Venkataraman, Jing Wen, Rachel Williams, Mark Yancey, and Md. Ariful Islam Sanim (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Jing Fang, Haylee Mercado, and Sanjib Sur (excused).

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Ann Vail, Dr. Lingyu (Lucy) Yu, Dr. Angelina Sylvain, Dr. Matt Klofenstein, Dale Moore, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representatives: Trena Houp and Dr. LaTrice Ratcliff-Small

Guests: Dr. Brad Wright (HSPM), Harlan Smith (ISSS), Kara Law (CIC), and Gaurav Harshe (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on March 24, 2025, if not challenged.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda (Terrance McAdoo, Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00p.m., and the Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes from December 9, 2024. Approved actions by Graduate Council become effective 30 days after posting. A copy is available on the Graduate School website at: <https://bit.ly/3SvPO0E>.

The minutes from December were unanimously approved.

3. Report of the Chair (Terrance McAdoo)

Dr. McAdoo welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that during these unprecedented times to “Let no man pull you low enough to hate him” in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. Please keep this in mind as we move forward in these uncertain times.

4. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School (Ann Vail)

Dean Vail welcomed everyone back and wished everyone a Happy New Year with this being her first opportunity to do so since we did not meet in January.

Dean Vail introduced Dr. Lingyu (Lucy) Yu, the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Engagement, in The Graduate School. She doesn't start officially until May 16th. In her new role, Dr. Yu will focus primarily on students and will provide oversight and supervision for graduate

student recruitment, admissions, retention, records, progression, and degree certification. She will advocate for graduate students' diverse needs related to mental health, financial aid and fellowships, professional development, career development and placement. She currently serves as the Associate Dean in the College of Engineering (Molinaroli College) and has a full research agenda there. Dr. Yu will continue her active research agenda and the mentoring of her graduate students at Molinaroli College for the rest of this semester. The program responsibilities that Dr. Murray Mitchell performed have been moved to Dr. Angelina Sylvain.

Dean Vail has been working very hard to keep up with the student requests and graduate faculty appointment requests. Please let her know if you have not heard back on any requests that you have submitted.

The work of the Admissions Systems Optimization Taskforce in association with the Strengthening Graduate Admissions Initiatives that Dr. Sylvain facilitated has been completed. The report is complete and has been presented to the Provost and to the CIO. The Provost has given The Graduate School permission to proceed with the bid process for the graduate admissions system. Once we have direction from Purchasing, we will have a better understanding of the next steps. It appears we will not be able to implement the new system for Fall 2025.

We are rethinking recruitment. Traditional, time-honored recruitment strategies are not as effective as they have been in the past. The Graduate School cannot conduct recruitment in person. With that in mind, The Graduate School convened graduate recruiters from across campus to discuss best practices and how graduate recruiters might collaborate on recruitment initiatives and share resources. Quarterly meetings are planned.

There was some confusion last fall regarding the minimum PhD stipends. With support from the deans, the Provost has moved the minimum PhD stipend to \$21,000 for academic year 2025-26. If your budget allows, please consider a higher stipend as well as increasing stipends for master's and other doctoral students.

The final deadline for Presidential Fellowship nominations is March 7th. To date, nominations are down. While we have strong nominees, we want to make sure we consider all qualified incoming doctoral students. Dr. Goldsmith will present more information on the Presidential Fellowships.

ProQuest is the depository for our dissertations and theses. This year there were two students who had never heard of ProQuest and didn't know that they had to submit their documents. Please remind major professors and graduating students in your colleges that submitting their thesis or dissertation to ProQuest is a requirement. Details about submission and approved templates are available on The Graduate School's website. Students will not be cleared for graduation until these steps have been accomplished.

Related to ProQuest, the Embargo Policy for theses and dissertations has been modified and expanded. New information will be available on The Graduate School website next week. The main changes address the need to expand what type of information is eligible for embargo and how Controlled Unclassified Information will be handled. The expansion will include students who are dealing with politically sensitive issues that would jeopardize their safety. We anticipate having to deal with classified information next. We have also expanded it to include some of the literary projects that are awaiting publication. Please review and share this information with your colleagues.

The Graduate School is developing an introductory course for incoming graduate students that focuses on orientation and graduate student success during their first semester. An advisory committee is

working on this effort. This course model will be structured like that of University 101. Some of our peer institutions have begun to require this course for their incoming graduate students as part of the whole graduate student success. We need feedback from you regarding several issues:

1. Instructor: faculty or peer graduate student
2. Team teaching with faculty and a peer graduate student
3. # of credits
4. Length – semester or accelerated
5. Tuition

If you have thoughts, please share them with her or Dr. Matt Klofenstein who is leading this for The Graduate School. This course will include some orientation, but they really want to teach to those outcomes that determine students' success. They hope to have this pilot available for Fall 2025.

Harlan Smith, Director of International Student and Scholar Support, shared data comparing international enrollment from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025. In addition, he advised about Executive Orders regarding international students and international travel. Mr. Smith stressed that it is imperative that professors do not advise international students about international travel, and they should not put anything in an email. He is happy to meet with your students at his office. His report and advisories are attached for your information and convenience.

5. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Md. Ariful Islam Sanim)
Ariful offered the following for GSA:

Special Election for Graduate Council Representative (GCR)

- Seven candidates ran for the GCR position.
- A run-off election took place between the top two candidates.
- Md Ariful Islam Sanim (2nd year PhD student in Statistics) was elected as the GCR on Friday, January 31, 2025

Spring Social Event

- The in-person Spring Social was held at Russell House on Thursday, February 13, 2025.
- The event lasted for two hours, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
- 58 attendees, 14 returned Survey (Finances and Basic Needs were top priorities, GS STUDENTS listed topped how they learned about the event, Swag options: USB sticks and stickers were top, Food and Location were top attracting features, Overall rating: 8.64)

First-Generation Graduate Student Support

- 35 RSVPs, 2 Faculty panelists, Tabling (Campus Partners present: GSA, Grad School, Student Care and Outreach Team/Community Shop, Health Campus Initiatives/CAP, Grad Hub, FG Center), low turnout.
- Grad Student Panel: 2/24 (tonight), for undergrad students, some GSA Cabinet secretaries signed up

Graduate Student Stipend Concern

- A concern was raised regarding the financial difficulties of surviving on the current nine-month stipend of \$20,000.
- Fellowships
 - Updated from GC about minimum stipend increases in Presidential Fellows and other scholarship holders
 - Number of scholarships: increase, decrease, or stay the same

- Discussion on creating an official document for PhD students to reference.
 - This document aims to provide clarity on essential policies and resources.
 - Streamline the contractual processes for graduate employees, including clarity on [Dean Vail follow-up]
 - Delineate minimum pay based on program/degree and its duration, and options for summer funding if not in the contract.
- Professional development reimbursement lags from the Finance team.
 - Workplace conditions such as access to desks, monitors, workstations, and buildings/labs are uncertain.
 - Policies for in-person versus remote work expectations.

New Initiatives

- Graduate Student Course Advisory Group: develop a new graduate and professional student course to help holistically orient
- International Graduate Student Task Force: strategically address concerns that affect international graduate and professional students

Upcoming Events

Town Hall Meeting on Parking

- To address ongoing parking challenges, a **Town Hall Meeting** will be held with representatives from the **USC Parking and Transportation Office** and the **COMET bus system**.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to raise their concerns and seek solutions regarding campus transportation and parking policies.
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM, 8th floor, Eastview Room, Close-Hipp

General Elections 2025-2026

- Nominations for the 2025-2026 GSA Executive Board Elections are open.
Nomination Deadline: March 2, 2025
Voting Period: March 6 - March 7, 2025

DC Advocacy Trip

- April 3-5, 2025
 - Working with Dr. Hiott, Dr. Sylvain, and 3 other Cabinet Secretaries to craft a compelling itinerary and advocacy agenda; Needs Assessment Survey and IR Data highlights, and relevant federal legislation.
 - Connecting with the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS), Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), and the FAARM Project to align advocacy efforts at the federal level

6. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Bill Hawk)

Dr. Hawk shared that after meeting a few times with his committee on the different classifications of graduate faculty and possibly suggesting some revisions to the Faculty Manual. One big issue is clarifying graduate faculty who are not doctoral degree holders and what different responsibilities they might have vis-a-vis supervision of graduate projects (serving on dissertation committees and not possessing a PhD themselves). This Committee has also been tasked with coming up with a plan on how to treat the emeriti faculty and other faculty who have voluntarily left the University while they were graduate faculty and members of various committees. They want to come up with a way to streamline the process that would allow them to continue to serve on students' committees. He circulated a draft to change the language in the Faculty Manual to his committee over the weekend; so,

they have not had a chance to meet and discuss. He will share their draft suggestions with the Graduate Council at our next meeting.

Dean Vail requested approval for Dr. Sheri Silfies to remain as a Major Professor following her departure from the University of SC for another university. She has five students that she would like to remain on their committees until they graduate. A Council member made the motion, and it was seconded for the approval of a term appointment to allow Dr. Silfies to remain as a major professor on these students' committees. The Chair and the Graduate Director of the Department of Public Health have approved of Dr. Silfies' request.

7. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses (Angelina Sylvain)

This report is presented to Council for informational purposes only; no action is necessary.

500/600 Courses for February 2025 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal). Total: 7

EDEX 590 (3) Foundations to Support Youth & Young Adults with Disabilities through Applied Transition Coaching, (CCP: Fall 2026)

EDML 584 (3) Middle School Internship Seminar, (CCP: Fall 2026)

FINA 589 (3) Machine Learning and AI (3) Applications to Finance, (NCP: Summer 2025)

GEOG 552 (3) LiDARgrammetric and Photogrammetric Digital Surface Mapping, (CCP: Fall 2026)

PSYC 507 (3) Cognitive Neuroscience, (CCP: Summer 2025)

PSYC 521 (3) Psychology of Adolescence, (CCP: Summer 2025)

PSYC 576 (3) Psychology of Sleep Laboratory, (NCP: Summer 2025)

8. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations. Total: 3 (Ann Vail)

Name: **Cyntrice Thomas (PhD)**
Program: Sport and Entertainment Management
Term: Spring 2025 – Fall 2030

Name: **Brandi Anderson, PhD**
Program: College of Social Work
Term: Fall 2024 – Fall 2030

Name: **Ann Gowdy, PhD**
Program: College of Social Work
Term: Fall 2024 – Fall 2026

These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

9. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Edie Goldsmith)

Dr. Goldsmith reported that the Presidential Fellows committee has completed the first round of nomination reviews. There were 17 submissions, one later withdrawn; so, the committee evaluated 16 nominations. We identified the top 6 which were recommended to Dean Vail for funding. We expect to be able to fund 10 to 12 fellowships this year. It was noted that first round nominations decreased compared to last year--potentially due to the increase in required stipend support. The second round of Presidential Fellowship applications and Rhude Patterson nominations are due on March 7th. Trustee fellowships for continuing students are due on March 17th.

10. Report of the Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Sourav Banerjee)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 9

- **ATEP 735** (3) Contemporary Issues in Athletic Training, (CCP: Summer 2025)
- **Behavioral Health in Athletic Training, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)
- **Critical Incident Management & Primary Care in Athletic Training, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2026; Online Course Delivery Fall 2025)
- **Cyber Security Studies, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2026; Online Course Delivery Fall 2025)
- **EXSC 776** (3) Ergogenic Aids: Science vs. Myth, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **HSPM 810** (3) Fundamentals of Data Analysis, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **HSPM 811** (3) Linear Regression Models, (CCP: Fall 2025). The course number is changing. It was formerly known as **HSPM 717**.
- **HSPM 812** (3) Panel Data Analysis, (CCP: Fall 2025). The course number is changing. It was formerly known as **HSPM 720**.
- **HSPM 813** (3) Categorical Data Analysis, (NCP: Summer 2025)

As part of the Sciences Curriculum Committee discussion, a letter from the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics (dated 2/23/25) was presented. The letter raised two primary concerns: first, regarding the proposed titles of courses HSPM 810, 811, 812, and 813; second, related to the removal of an introductory statistics course as a prerequisite within this series. To request a copy of the departmental letter of concerns, please email asylvain@mailbox.sc.edu. The committee chair provided feedback regarding the timing of communication of these concerns, noting that extensive efforts had been made within the Arnold School of Public Health to coordinate and gain consensus across departments on the proposed course language and content over the course of the past couple of months. Ultimately, after Council discussion, the courses were put forth for a vote with their original titles and were approved.

These proposals were approved by Graduate Council with 2 abstentions.

11. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Andrew Graciano)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 13

- **Library and Information Science, S.L.I.S.**, (Program Inactivation Proposal: Fall 2025)
- **Health Care Compliance, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)
- **ACCT 749** (3) Tax Issues for Tax Professionals, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **ACCT 752** (3) Advanced Business Entity Tax Issues, (CCP: Fall 2026)
- **ACCT 753** (3) Advanced Individual Tax Issues, (CCP: Fall 2026)
- **ACCT 754** (3) Multijurisdictional Tax Issues, (CCP: Fall 2026)
- **EDUC 733** (3) Foundations of Teaching for Learning, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **IBUS 741** (3) From Algorithms to Strategies: Mastering Artificial Intelligence for Business, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **MGSC 896** (3) Business Intelligence Systems with AI Applications, (CCP: Fall 2026)
- **MKTG 722** (3) Machine Learning for Business Decision Making, (CCP: Fall 2026)
- **MKTG 725** (3) AI in Marketing, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **Artificial Intelligence in Business, Certificate**, (New Program Proposal: Summer 2025)
- **Public Safety Executive Leadership, Certificate**, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2025)

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

12. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Sriram Venkataraman)

Grade Change Petition Case review.

- Dr. Venkataraman moved for the Graduate Council to go into closed session.
- Upon returning to open session, the motion from the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee to support this student's petition was unanimously approved.

13. Other Committee Reports

None.

14. Old Business

None.

15. New Business

None.

16. Good of the Order

Reminder Dates:

March 24, 2025: The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Council will be in person on Monday, March 24th, 2025, at 2:00 pm in Room 584 in Close-Hipp.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22p.m.

Ann Vail, Dean

CC: Michael Amiridis, President
Donna Arnett, Provost
Ann Vail, 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

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Proposals in Queue

As of 02/14/2025

Course Proposals in Review

Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs

Course	Course Description
ARTE 701 (3) Seminar in Art Education, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Research methods used in art education and related areas.
ARTE 702 (3) Problems in the Teaching of Art, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Problems in teaching a discipline-based approach to art education; examination of the lives and works of famous artists and production of teaching materials.
ARTE 703 (3) Issues and Trends in Art Education, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Subject-centered approach to art history; the interrelationship of art and society, and the significance of art in social change.
ARTE 705 (3) Program Development in Art, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Comprehensive studies of curriculum designs and methods, methods and technologies from modernist to postmodernist assumptions in elementary and high school art education programs.
MART 781B (3) Research and Practice in New Media Art (3) Mobile Platforms, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Advanced study of new media art in one or more of the following topics: 781A Site- based and Installation Art; 781B Mobile Platforms; 781C Media Performance; 781D Video Game Design; 781E Sound Art. Course may be taken 2 times.
ARTE 701 (3) Seminar in Art Education, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Research methods used in art education and related areas.
ARTE 702 (3) Problems in the Teaching of Art, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Problems in teaching a discipline-based approach to art education; examination of the lives and works of famous artists and production of teaching materials.
ARTE 703 (3) Issues and Trends in Art Education, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Subject-centered approach to art history; the interrelationship of art and society, and the significance of art in social change.

Program Proposals in Review

Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs

Business Administration, P.M.B.A., (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)

Business Administration/Pharmacy, M.B.A. / Pharm.D., (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)

Business Administration, P.M.B.A., (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)



International Student and Scholar Support

24 February 2025

International Graduate-Doctoral Student Enrollment Comparison: 202401 to 202501

- ✓ F1 and J1 visas only
- ✓ Degree-seeking students only
- ✓ 939 students – January 2024
- ✓ 979 students – January 2025
- ✓ The Graduate School international student enrollment is up by 40 students
- ✓ The drop in enrollment numbers is mitigated by December 2024 graduations; enrollment numbers may rebound with Fall 2025 admission/enrollment.

School of Medicine – Greenville: No change (1)

School of Medicine – Columbia: No change (13)

School of Music: Down (42/36)

School of Public Health: Up (119/126)

School of Law: No change (6)

School of Information & Communications: Up (17/22)

School of Business: Down (111/107)

College of Social Work: Up (9/14)

College of Pharmacy: Up (12/15)

College of Nursing: Up (2/4)

College of Education: Down (34/33)

College of Arts & Sciences: Up (230/269)

College of Hospitality, Retail, & Sport Management: Down (53/50)

Interdisciplinary Programs/MAT: Up (0/1)

Executive Orders: Intl. Graduate Students

- ✓ We should know more on or around March 20th.
- ✓ CPT -> OPT -> OPT-STEM -> H1B (this pathway is at risk)
- ✓ ISSS advice to students is business as usual.
- ✓ At this time, the University of South Carolina will make no formal announcement regarding Executive Orders, international travel, etc. Faculty are cautioned from providing guidance to students that appears to be ‘institutional’ in nature.

International Travel

- ✓ If in the US w/no valid visa, consider deterring travel until future date.
- ✓ If in the US w/valid visa, carefully prep student for re-entry to the US (ex: at airport CBP):
 - Up-to-Date Form I-20
 - Bio Data Correct
 - Academic Program is Correct
 - Academic Program Ending Date is Correct
 - Recent Travel Signature for Form I-20
 - Valid Passport and Valid F-1 Visa
- Evidence of Current Academic Enrollment