The Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

May 13, 2019

The Graduate Council met on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. on the 5th floor of the Thomas Cooper Library in the Career Center.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Maryah Fram, Chair; Drs. Suzanne Adlof, Ron Benner, Matt Boylan, Bobby Brame, Cathy Brant, Rick Creswick, Maks Chruszcz, Jean Ellis, Hippokratis Kiaris, and Clint Saidy, GSA Representative

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Nate Bell, Joanna Casey, Jim Mensch, Tom Regan, and Sirivatch Shimpalee

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

Provost Office Representative: Dr. Tena Crews

Guests: Dr. Alicia Ribar (College of Nursing), Dr. Carmen Maye (Journalism and Mass Communications), Anna Cofie (GSA), and Jennifer Mandelbaum (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on August 26, 2019 if not challenged.

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Maryah Fram, Chair)
   The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m., and the agenda was unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from April 22, 2019.** 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** (Maryah Fram)
   No report.

4. **Report of the Dean of Graduate School** (Cheryl Addy)
   Dr. Addy thanked the members of the Graduate Council for their participation and support of the graduates at the various commencement exercises on Friday, May 10th, and the Doctoral Hooding ceremony on Saturday, May 11th. This ceremony is such a memorable one for the graduates and their families. Our incoming interim president, Brendan Kelly, was in attendance and agreed that it was such a nice ceremony for the graduates.

She also thanked Dale Moore and the supporting staff from the Graduate School for their tremendous work that went into making the Doctoral Hooding ceremony so special. Over 90 percent of the eligible graduates took part in the Doctoral Ceremony this time, the highest percentage in quite some time.

There is still no new information available regarding the appointment of an interim provost, or, with respect to the search for a new provost.

5. **Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council** (Murray Mitchell)
   Dr. Mitchell acknowledged that there were some departing Graduate Council members to whom we wish to extend our appreciation and to share a small token of thanks:

   Finishing terms:

   1. Cathy Brant (Instruction and Teacher Education)
   2. Maryah Fram (Social Work)
   3. Clint Saidy (Graduate Student Association Representative)

   The following nominees required a vote of endorsement from the existing Council:

   Nominees for new terms:(terms end 2022)

   1. Matt Boylan (Mathematics – finished out a term for a former graduate council member, now eligible for his own 3-year term)
   2. Hippokratis Kiaris (Pharmacy– finished out a term for a former graduate council member, now eligible for his own 3-year term)
   3. Carmen Maye (Journalism and Mass Communication)
   4. TBA
   5. TBA
   6. TBA
   7. Jennifer Mandelbaum (Graduate Student Association Representative 1-year term)

   Nominee to serve as Vice Chair
   - 2019-2020, then, Chair for 2020-2021
   - TBA
     These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

6. **Report on Professional Development** (Heather Brandt)
   Dr. Brandt reported that Monday, May 13th was the first day of the Summer Intensives for the Graduate Civic Scholar Program. This year, we have eight scholars participating from five different colleges. They will join for two weeks together to work on preparing for their project implementation in the fall.
   The Bridge Humanities Corp invitations are currently pending. May 15th is the deadline to accept or decline the offer to be a part of the Bridge Humanities Corp. This includes newly minted Ph.D.s and ABDs in the Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences.

   Professional Development programming had 34 events offered over the fall and spring semesters. They worked with Graduate Student Association and the Advisory Committee for Professional Development for

Graduate Students.

We ended up with 48 3MTs, and close to 200 poster presenters at Discover USC, totaling almost 1200 students who presented. Approximately one-fifth of those were graduate students.
Graduate students provided an important role as volunteers and reviewers of undergraduate research sessions. We are grateful for their service and participation in that way.

The Graduate School's website is being worked on right now in hopes of migrating to the new platform before the start of the fall semester. We are excited as this new migration will coincide with the full launch of CollegeNet and other resources.

7. **Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative** (Clint Saidy)
Mr. Saidy offered a heartfelt thanks to the members of the Graduate Council for allowing him to sit on the Council. He introduced two of the new 2019-2020 GSA officers: Jennifer Mandelbaum (new Graduate Council Rep) and Anna Cofie (new GSA President). In addition, Jennifer (as immediate past president) presented a summary of the GSA yearly report.

8. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Tom Regan)
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 Level Courses

BIOL 558 (3) Stem Cells and The Physiological Environment (New Course Proposal: Summer 2019)
EDEX 580 (3) Direct Instruction in Reading for At-Risk Learners (Course Change Proposal: Fall 2020)
EXSC 608 (3) Characteristics of Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (New Course
    Proposal: Summer 2019)
HPEB 640 (3) Behavioral Economics in Public Health (New Course Proposal: Summer 2019)

Distributed Learning Proposals

ELCT 891 (3) Digital Controls for Power Electronic Converters (Fall 2019) [APOGEE]

Special Topics Courses

CSCE 590 (3) Machine Learning Systems (Fall 2019)
ELCT 891 (3) Digital Controls for Power Electronic Converters (Fall 2019)
ENCP 789 (3) Entrepreneurial Engineering (Summer 2019)
ENGL 736 (3) Sex, Gender, and Nation in Irish Literature (Spring 2019)
ENGL 740 (3) Southern Poets Since 1945 (Spring 2019)
GEOG 510 (3) Landscape Ecology (Fall 2019)

10. **Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations** (Murray Mitchell)
    None at this time.

11. **Fellowships and Scholarships Committee** (Jean Ellis)
    Dr. Ellis reported that 25 Grace McFadden applications were received and 18 were eligible. The list was reduced to 12 by the Fellowships and Scholarships Committee. The Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program is interviewing and selecting five awardees. This decision will be made by May 15.

12. **Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (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=67&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."

    - **EPID 798** (3) Public Health Practice, Public Health, CCP: Fall 2020
    - **EPID 894** (3) Selected Topics in Epidemiology, Public Health, CCP: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 701A,** Precepted Clinical Practice (Clinical Leadership), Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 701B,** Precepted Clinical Practice (Nursing in the Community), Delete An Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 710**, Advanced Primary Care Nursing of Children, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 711** (3) Pharmacotherapies for Nursing Practice, Nursing, NCP: Summer 2019
    - **NURS 716**, Community Health Care Services, Delete an Existing Course, Fall 2020
    - **NURS 719**, Community Health Specialist Practicum, Delete an Existing Course, Fall 2020
    - **NURS 721** (2) Gerontological Nursing Care, Nursing, NCP: Summer 2019
    - **NURS 728**, Acute Care Nursing of Children, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 735**, Case Management, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 739**, Conceptual Base for Women's Health Nursing, Delete an Existing Course, Fall 2020
    - **NURS 743**, Healthful Reproduction, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 747** (3) Leadership and Safety for Nursing Practice, Nursing, NCP: Summer 2019
    - **NURS 749,** Occupational Nursing: Theory and Practice, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 752**, Current Issues in Gerontological Nursing, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 753**, Primary Care of Older Adults, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 754,** Acute Care of Older Adults, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 755,** Restorative Care of Older Adults, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 757A,** Nursing of Individuals with HIV/AIDS Practicum, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
    - **NURS 776,** Advanced Health Care of Women, Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020

- **NURS 782,** Advanced Family Nursing: Assessment and Diagnosis**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
- **NURS 785,** Clinical Decision-Making in Complex Patient Situations**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
- **NURS 788,** Field Study in Advanced Nursing Practice and Management of Adults with Complex Health Problems**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
- **NURS 792,** Special Projects in Nursing Research**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
- **NURS 795,** Seminar on Consultation**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
- **NURS 797,** Clinical Research Utilization**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
- **NURS 820,** Nursing Leadership Residency**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020
- **NURS 821,** Research Utilization Preparation**,** Nursing, Delete an Existing Course: Fall 2020

__These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.__

13. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Cathy Brant)

    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=67&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."

- **EDEX 719** (3) Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis, Education, NCP: Summer 2019
- **EDEX 891** (3) Advanced Educational Procedures for Exceptional Children, Education, CCP: Fall 2020
- **EDST Major / Degree Program**, Special Education, M.Ed., Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2020
- **EDRM 72** (3) Educational Measurement, Education, CCP: Summer 2019
- **GEOG 801** (3) Contemporary Approaches to Geography, Arts and Sciences, CCP: Fall 2020
- **LAWS Major / Degree Program**, Master of Law in Health Systems Law, Law, New Program: Spring 2020
- **LAWS Academic Certificate**, Certificate in Health Care Compliance, Law, New Program: Spring 2020
- **ZZED Major / Degree Program**, Curriculum and Instruction, Ed.D, Education, Change to Existing Program: Fall 2020

__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 other reports.
16. **Old Business**
    No old business.
17. **New Business**
    Dr. Addy initiated a discussion on the Graduate Student Policy of GPA calculation on the grades of "S" and "U" regarding thesis preparation grades.

Graduate Student policy: GPA calculation

Graduate Bulletin

Thesis or Research Project/Dissertation (parallel language for master's degree requirements and for doctoral degree requirements)
Completion or satisfactory progress in thesis/dissertation preparation will be indicated by the grade of T; unsatisfactory progress in thesis/dissertation preparation will be indicated by the grade of U, but thesis preparation **grades are not calculated into the graduate cumulative grade point average.**

Grading Policies

The letter grades **S** (satisfactory) and **U** (unsatisfactory) are assigned only in courses that have been approved for Pass-Fail grading or in a standard graded course where the student, with the approval of the dean of The Graduate School, has elected an individual Pass-Fail Option. Courses completed with an **S** may be counted in total credits earned. Grades of **T** (satisfactory progress) or **U** (unsatisfactory progress) are given for thesis (799) and dissertation (899) preparation. **Grades of T in thesis (799) and dissertation (899) preparation are not computed in the cumulative graduate grade point average. Graduate-level courses completed with the grade of U are calculated as an F in the cumulative graduate grade point average.**

Registrar procedure:

For graduate level courses on the Columbia campus, **if a course has grade mode of dissertation or pass/fail, a grade of U counts in the GPA.**

For undergraduate level courses on any campus, a grade of U for any grade mode does not count in the GPA.

Practical implications

Currently, we have contradictory statements about how unsatisfactory progress is handled for 799 and 899 registration. In practice, a U grade for either course does penalize the student's GPA.

- In separate discussions, we have acknowledged the number of students accumulating far more than the minimum number of required hours for 799/899.
- We require registration for students to be active on campus, i.e., access to library and other resources, theoretically to facilities and to faculty and staff although we do not actively monitor/enforce.
- There has been discussion of having a continuous enrollment policy. We have not adopted this policy, but the registration policy accomplishes the intent to some extent.
- We do not have clear standards for assigning grades of T/U/I for 799/899 courses. Anecdotally, we know faculty tend to assign T regardless of progress.
- For the student accumulating a large number of 799/899 hours, the assignment of U grades could quickly have a detrimental effect on GPA from which it can be very difficult to recover. [Recent case: student's GPA dropped to 2.7 after a semester with 6 hours of 899 graded U.]

After much discussion, there appeared to be general consensus of the Council that the appearance of a "U" on the student transcript, and the inability to use the credit hours toward the degree requirements was sufficient, and that having the grade also negatively impact the student's GPA was too punitive.

Additional information will be gathered regarding promising practices from a selection of SEC schools, peer and peer aspirant schools. The Associate and Assistant Graduate Deans Council will also be solicited for input regarding this policy.

18. **Good of the Order**

19. **Adjournment**
    The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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
Malia Kiehl, Office of the Registrar
Tara George, Office of the Registrar