



## GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA

March 22nd, 2021

To: Graduate Council

Dr. Jim Mensch, Chair; Drs. Suzanne Adlof, Nate Bell, Matt Boylan, Subra Bulusu, Joanna Casey, Robin DiPietro, Shana Harrington, Elise Ince, Hippokratis Kiaris, Carmen Maye, Shrihari Nelakuditi, Stephen Shapiro, Spencer Platt, Sheryl Wiskur, Nikki Wooten, Songhua Xu, Sudipta Saha, GSA Representative; Murray Mitchell (Secretary), Dale Moore (Graduate School: ex officio member).

CC: President Bob Caslen, Provost William Tate, Trena Houp, Deans, Department Chairs, Graduate Directors and Graduate Program Administrators

From: Dr. Tracey Weldon-Stewart, Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education

The Graduate Council will meet virtually using Microsoft Teams on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 2:00P.M.

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Jim Mensch, Chair)
2. **Approval of the Minutes from February 22, 2021**. 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** (Jim Mensch)
4. **Report of the Interim Dean of Graduate School** (Tracey Weldon)
5. **Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council** (Murray Mitchell)
6. **Report of the Interim Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Associate Director, Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program** (Toby Jenkins)
7. **Report on Professional Development** (Wright Culpepper)
8. **Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative** (Sudipta Saha)
9. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Nikki Wooten)

## 10. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses and Distributed Learning (Murray Mitchell)

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

### 500/600 Courses for March 2021 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal)

**ELCT 530** (3) Industrial Controls (CCP: Fall 2022)

**ELCT 566** (3) Semiconductor Optoelectronics (CCP: Delete Fall 2022)

**NURS 590** (1) Special Topics in International Nursing and Healthcare (NCP: Fall 2021)

### Distributed Learning Proposals

**ANTH 600** (3) Survey of Linguistics (Cross-listed with ENGL 680 & LING 600) (CCP: Summer 2021)

**CSCE 594** (3) Strategic Management of Information Systems (CCP: Summer 2021)

**EDTE 500** (3) Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching I: PK-8 (NCP: Summer 2021)

**EDTE 501** (3) Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching II: PK-8 (NCP: Summer 2021)

**ENGL 680** (3) Survey of Linguistics (Cross-listed with ANTH 600 & LING 600) (CCP: Summer 2021)

**LING 600** (3) Survey of Linguistics (Cross-listed with ENGL 680 & LING 600) (CCP: Summer 2021)

**STAT 509** (3) Statistics for Engineers (CCP: SU 2021)

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

Name: **Chao Cai** (PhD)  
Program: College of Pharmacy, Clinical Pharmacy & Outcomes Sciences  
Term: Summer 2021 – Spring 2027

Name: **Alex Gasparian** (PhD)  
Program: College of Pharmacy, Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences  
Term: Summer 2021 – Spring 2027

Name: **Carolyn Banister** (PhD)  
Program: College of Pharmacy, Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences  
Term: Summer 2021 – Spring 2027

## 12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Joanna Casey)

## 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=98&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.”

- **MATH 725** (3) Approximation Theory, Arts and Sciences, Change to Existing Course: Summer 2021

#### 14. 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://sc.edu/programproposal/agenda/?id=98&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.”

- **CRJU 705** (3)
- **EDAD 719** (3) Interpersonal and Group Relations in Educational Administration, Education, Change to Existing Course: Fall 2022
- **EDCE 710** (3) Change to Existing Course: Summer 2021
- **EDUC 700** (3) Proposal: Summer 2021
- **GRAD 801** (0 - 3) Graduate Student as Scholar, Graduate School: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **HRTM 730** (3) Strategic Leadership in the Hospitality Industry, HRSM: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **HRTM 740** (3) Services Management and Customer Experience in the Hospitality Industry, HRSM: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **HRTM 750** (3) Hospitality Marketing and Social Media, HRSM: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **IBUS 803** (3) Ph.D. Seminar in International Strategy and Economic Development, Business: New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **JOUR 709** (3) Fundamentals of Data and Digital Communications, Information & Communications: New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **MART 721B** (3) Research and Practice in Media Writing: Feature Film, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **MART 721C** (3) Research and Practice in Media Writing: Manga and Anime, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **MART 721D** (3) Research and Practice in Media Writing: Television Writing, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **MART 781D** (3 - 6) Research and Practice in New Media Art: Video Game Design, Arts and Sciences: Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021

- **MKTG 722** (3) Data Science for Business Decision Making, Business: New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 731** (3) Motor Skill Learning, Education, Change to Existing Course: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 744** (3) Coaching Administration and Management, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 746** (3) Growth and Development Principles for Athlete Selection and Coaching, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 748** (3) Practicum I for Coaching Athletes and Performers, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **PEDU 749** (3) Practicum II for Coaching Athletes and Performers, Education, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **SLIS 709** (3) Fundamentals of Data and Digital, Information & Communications, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **SLIS 781** (3) Critical Cultural Information Studies, Information & Communications, New Course Proposal: Summer 2021
- **SPTE 790** (3) Sport and Entertainment Finance, HRSM, Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **SPTE 798** (3 - 6) Directed Study in Sport and Entertainment Management, HRSM, Change to Existing Course: Fall 2021
- **ZZMC Academic Certificate**, Data and Communication, Information & Communications, New Program: Fall 2022

#### **15. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Carmen Maye)**

#### **16. Other Committee Reports**

#### **17. Old Business**

#### **18. New Business**

Discussion of possibly extending the suspension of standardized tests as a requirement for admission (please see the undergraduate admissions policy statement)  
[https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/faculty\\_senate/faculty-toolbox/documents/facsen\\_meetings/2021\\_3\\_3\\_fs\\_meeting/admiss\\_comm\\_test\\_opt\\_statement\\_support\\_fall\\_2021.pdf](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/faculty-toolbox/documents/facsen_meetings/2021_3_3_fs_meeting/admiss_comm_test_opt_statement_support_fall_2021.pdf)

#### **19. Good of the Order**

#### **20. Adjournment**

# Faculty Senate Admissions Committee Statement of Support for Extending Test Optional Policy Through Fall 2023

Faculty Senate Admissions Committee supports and affirms the efforts that Undergraduate Admissions has made to accommodate students applying without SAT or ACT scores for the Spring/Summer/Fall 2021 entry term(s). The current test-optional pilot for 2021 directly supports priorities 1 and 4 of UofSC's Strategic plan. Initial review of test-optional pilot practices suggests that UofSC would benefit from extending this policy through Fall 2023 to study student success and retention outcomes for two full cohorts. A one-year pilot does not afford the institution sufficient time and data needed to gauge the impact of test optional approach.

## Test Optional Policy Extension Justification

**Assessment will be improved with data from more cohorts.**

- **Data from several cohorts are needed to gauge effectiveness.** An institution is unable to assess the true impact of test-optional practices without consideration of students' first year success and retention rates over multiple years.
- Preliminary estimate of class profile suggests that **test optional has NOT had an adverse impact on quality** of students admitted, as evidenced by current SAT and ACT score averages.

**Restricted testing capacity is still an issue.**

- COVID-19 continues to disrupt both in-class and national test administrations of the SAT and ACT. **For the class of 2022 and 2023, the College Board estimates that PSAT registrations are roughly half of what is projected in a normal, non-pandemic year.**
- The PSAT participation is a key tool used by many colleges to identify prospective students. It is also a key college planning tool used by high school educators and students. Fewer testing opportunities lead to narrower opportunities to identify prospective students.
- **Current high school juniors and sophomores need guidance on how to prepare** for applying to college sooner, not later. Access to testing centers is difficult, especially among populations of interest to UofSC, namely low SES, first-generation, and students of color who are historically over-represented in less-resourced communities.

**Admissions operations and market position are improving.**

- **Current test-optional admissions pilot is working.** A solid foundation for expanded holistic review exists. New models allow for considering students in absence of SAT or ACT scores.

- Approximately **two-thirds of 4-year institutions in the U.S. are test optional** for the 2021 cycle. **About half of all state flagships are permanently test optional** or have announced they intend to continue assessing the approach for an additional 1 to 5 years.
- **Students and the school counseling community are extremely receptive to this approach.** The test optional movement has resulted in **increased application volume** at many of the nation's state flagships and highly selective institutions, including UofSC.
- **Institutions that do not offer a test-optional route are at a competitive disadvantage.** The approach's popularity, combined with **increased likelihood of attracting more diverse populations** of interest to UofSC, suggest that continuing the practice can solidify the institution's commitment to access.
- **Communication and marketing plans for Class of 2022 and 2023 are underway.** The institution must communicate admissions requirements early and often to assist prospective students and the school college counseling community with college search planning. This includes updating UofSC digital and print marketing materials, all of which must be finalized in early spring 2020.

**Unanimously Approved by Faculty Senate Admissions Committee on February 22, 2021**