



The Graduate School

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Graduate Council Minutes January 25, 2016

The Graduate Council met on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 2:00 P.M. in room 311 of the Byrnes Building.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Julia Lopez-Robertson, Chair; Drs. Swann Adams, Drucilla Barker, Bobby Brame, Jr., Heather Brandt, Matt Brown, Dirk den Ouden, Jerry Hilbish, Lorne Hofseth, Christian Jensen, Scott White, and David Tedeschi

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Jennifer Arns, Nancy Brown, Kay Edwards, Lara Lomicka-Anderson, and Susan Yeargin

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Jessica Elfenbein, Dr. Murray Mitchell, Dale Moore, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representative: Dr. Kristia Finnigan

Guests: None

NOTE: *These minutes will become final on February 22, 2016 if not challenged.*

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Julia Lopez-Robertson, Chair)

Dr. Lopez-Robertson called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. and received Council approval of the agenda.

2. **Approval of [Minutes for the meeting on December 14, 2015](#).**

The minutes were reviewed electronically and approved by the Council.

Minutes are on file at The Graduate School website at:

<http://app.gradschool.sc.edu/gradcouncil/minutes.asp>

3. **Report of the Chair** (Julia Lopez-Robertson)

Dr. Lopez-Robertson welcomed everyone to the meeting, to the spring semester, and to a new year.

4. **Report of the Dean of The Graduate School** (Jessica Elfenbein for Lacy Ford)

Dr. Elfenbein reported on the Provost Blue Ribbon Committee on Graduate Student Life and the work that they are doing. There were five focus groups conducted with graduate students over the course of the first week back this semester with great participation.

Many members of the Blue Ribbon Committee are going with some Graduate School staff

up to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools meeting to ensure that we are all singing from the same sheet in terms of Best Practice.

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

Dr. Mitchell informed the Council on Teresa's Smith's departure to Florida to pursue a career in Social Work. He introduced Wanda Barr who is adding Teresa's duties with respect to the Graduate Council to her existing portfolio. He gave Wanda's background with The Graduate School and explained that she is on a bit of a learning curve with the electronic version of things and asked that the Council be patient as she becomes acclimated to supporting him administratively and to the workings on the Graduate Council.

He stated that this is our second month of trying the reduced agenda and it comes at a time when submissions are also lower--which is helpful. Moving forward, he hopes this change will give The Graduate Council more time to deal with additional substantive kinds of issues and concerns. We will attempt to both inform and solicit input with respect to the Blue Ribbon panel mentioned by Dr. Elfenbein that will be conducted by Dr. Brandt after the Graduate Council meeting.

6. Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative (Brittany Walter)

Brittany stated that the GSA would try something new with the Graduate School this year. The GSA is planning to create Affinity Groups for the Spring semester as suggested by Dr. Elfenbein. The GSA will be getting the international graduate students together so they can talk, network and socialize. January 25th is the first meeting for the GSA; so, they will have those dates finalized later. They will also be doing another Feedback Forum where the graduate students can give them feedback on what is working and what is not working. It really helps the GSA to modify what they do from semester to semester. They will host a Stress-buster with the Health Center and offer a free CPR training event for graduate students. GSA will work with the libraries to do an open access/open resource event for graduate students.

Dr. Dirk den Ouden asked if the dates for the free CPR training were available yet.

Brittany replied that dates for all activities will be included in the upcoming GSA newsletter.

7. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Matt Brown)

Dr. Brown mentioned that the committee has met and will continue to meet to examine the policy regarding students who audit courses and discuss whether the course may be retaken for credit at a later date. Currently, they are not allowed to do so. Also, they are discussing should a graduate student who has audited a course be allowed to earn credit for that course by examination. They are at a consensus and just have to craft the language for presentation for the Graduate Council meeting in February.

Dr. Barker inquired about the ambiguity of how many 500/600/700 level credits graduate students are allowed to count towards their degree. She asked if that question could be considered by the Academic Policy and Practices Committee.

Dr. Brown replied that Dr. Mitchell normally lets him know when there is an issue that needs to be discussed with his committee.

Dr. Mitchell suggested that the question should come as a formal charge from the Graduate Council to ensure that everyone is accountable. Dr. Barker will forward info to Dr. Mitchell via email.

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

500/600 Level Courses

None

Distance Education Delivery

None

9. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

Angela McLeod, PhD Communication Sciences and Disorders, was nominated as Associate Graduate Faculty with supporting documentation from that program. All protocol was followed. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to award.

10. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Heather Brandt)

Dr. Brandt stated that their business is currently focused on the Presidential Fellows. The first round nominations are due on Monday, January 25th by midnight for departments to submit nominations for consideration. A committee meeting is scheduled for February 4th.

Ms. Walter asked if the dates for Graduate Student Day awards would be updated on the website soon.

Dr. Brandt replied that she would check with Wright Culpepper, who has been providing staff support for Graduate Student Day, to see when Graduate Student Day award information will be updated on the website.

11. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (David Tedeschi)

No report.

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

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/gradagenda/?id=11>.

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.”

- LANG Foreign Language PhD, Arts and Sciences, Changes to Major/Degree Program
- LANG Foreign Language MA, Arts and Sciences, Changes to Major/Degree Program
- PSYC 792A Issues and Ethics in Research in Psychology and the Teaching of Psychology and the Teaching of Psychology I, Arts and Sciences, Change course title and description
- PSYC 829 Community Psychology Practicum I, Arts and Sciences, Change in course hour type from fixed to variable

All proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

Dr. Mitchell apologized that the link for current proposals was not listed on the agenda as it will be on future agendas, due to a miscommunication. He also apologized for the glitch that prevented the link for only the current events for the given month to be available for review. Per our previous agreement, the link will be designed so that just the link for the current business that sits in front of the committee for that month be available but also a description for each of the items of business that the group has seen. At a glance, you can make a decision as to whether or not it is something that you want to delve deeper into and you won't have to go to the link to find out if it is anything warranting your closer scrutiny.

13. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Nancy Brown)

Dr. Brown was absent; Dr. Mitchell spoke on her behalf: No report.

14. Other Committee Reports

No report.

15. Old Business

Dr. Elfenbein offered a quick update regarding the grant proposal for the NEH. There is a group across campus working very hard on this. This grant is about better preparing our PhD students in Humanities for a wider range of employment possibilities. They have submitted a draft proposal and heard back rather quickly from NEH, and they were really rather pleased about what they were proposing. They had incredible cooperation across campus in preparation of the grant proposal.

Dr. Elfenbein reported that 85% of all Humanities PhDs in South Carolina graduated from the University of South Carolina. Over the course of 10 years (2004 – 2014), USC graduated about 244 PhDs in Humanities. Currently, Humanities PhD students on this campus represent about 14% of those pursuing doctoral degrees, and doctoral students receive about 36% of the essential available resources. The proposal is that there will be one professional

development program that will be optional initially but will eventually become a part of the curriculum for doctoral students in Humanities. With the help of professional development for faculty, these doctoral students will become better able to seek and secure a wider range of employment when they are done. The full proposal will be available next week if anyone is interested.

16. **New Business**

No report.

17. **Good of the Order**

Dr. Mitchell shared flyer on the Garnet Apple Award introduced by the Center for Teacher Excellence under the auspices of The Provost Office. This is designed for a new annual award for exceptional and innovative teachers.

He apologized for the tight time frame as he just heard about this award on Friday. Nomination deadline is February 1 at 5 p.m. Self-nominations are not appropriate for this opportunity. Nominations can be by faculty members, chairs, deans, associate deans or chancellors--for someone else who you believe to be an innovative teacher or designer of innovative courses or successful in pedagogies, classroom strategies, etc. This is a new prestige piece to honor not just the Breakthrough Awards for innovative research but to recognize that some people on this campus also have teaching responsibilities and do an awesome job with it. This is an opportunity to recognize something that so many people do an outstanding job, but have fewer opportunities for being recognized. Please share with your colleagues and your departments.

Dr. Brandt asked if there could be no student nominations—just peer nominations.

Dr. Mitchell further explained that this award is not like the Mungo Teaching Award where the nominations come from student testimonials.

The Garnet Apple Award nomination information can be viewed at this site:

https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/honorsandawards/internal/garnet_apple.php

The next Graduate Council meeting will be on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 2:00pm.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M., and Council members were asked to remain and participate in one of two focus groups in support of the Provost's Blue Ribbon Committee on Graduate Student Live at the University of South Carolina. One group was facilitated by Dr. Heather Brandt, and the other group was facilitated by Mr. Nick Elzy of Human Resources.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

cc:

President Harris Pastides

Provost Joan Gabel

Senior Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies Lacy Ford

Deans

Department Chairs

Graduate Directors

Aaron Marterer, University Registrar

Jodie Morris, Office of the Registrar

Andrew Graves, Office of the Registrar

Nancy Floyd, Office of Institutional Assessment and Compliance