



## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

March 24th, 2025

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

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Terrance McAdoo, Chair; Mr. Hassan Anderson, Drs., John Doering-White, Lorie Donelle, Jing Fang, Carolyn Harmon, Bill Hauk, Daniel Kilpatrick, Haylee Mercado, Kirk Randazzo, Jill Stewart, Sanjib Sur, Sriram Venkataraman, Jing Wen, Rachel Williams, Mark Yancey, and Md. Ariful Islam Sanim (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Sourav Banerjee (excused), Ashley Gess, Edie Goldsmith (excused), Andrew Graciano (excused), and Mark Yancey.

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

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

Guests: Harlan Smith (ISSS) and Arunav Das (GSA)

**NOTE: These minutes will become final on April 28, 2025, if not challenged.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:02p.m., and the Agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of the Minutes from February 24, 2025.** 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 February were unanimously approved.***

**3. Report of the Chair** (Terrance McAdoo)

No report.

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

Dean Vail will be sending an email to the deans of the colleges of the members whose Graduate Council membership terms expire at the end of this semester. The departments are as follows: Music, Pharmacy, Education, Medicine, Arnold School of Public Health, and Arts and Sciences. We will calculate enrollment in your colleges to determine how many representatives each college will have according to the formula. If your department has more than 400 students, an additional representative on Graduate Council is allowed.

To date, we have received over 11,000 applications with 67% of them from international students. We have received decisions on about 5700 applications with about 5400 applicants still waiting for decisions. Please encourage your units in your colleges to speed up this process. We know from the past few years that 80% of the students select the first school that admitted them. We want the University of South Carolina to be that first school. Our next challenge is to convert them into enrolled students. One way the Graduate School is working to increase yield is by holding an “Admitted Graduate Students Week”. Throughout this week, we are presenting a total of 8 webinars starting this evening. The webinars are titled:

- Count Down Columbia
- Managing Your Time
- USC Career Services
- Question and Answer with International Student and Scholar Support
- The USC Graduate Student Experience
- Planning for Success at USC
- Thriving as an Online Student
- Grad Chat

We are still committed to offering Grad Launch, led by Dr. Matt Klopfenstein, as an onboarding orientation course this Fall as a pilot. We haven’t made final decisions about this course yet, but we are anticipating an accelerated 1 to 2 credit course each semester for first semester students only to get them onboarded and connected while trying to reduce social isolation among incoming students. Please encourage your students to participate. We are partnering with International Student and Scholar Support. Please give her or Dr. Klopfenstein your thoughts. Class size will not exceed 20. The goal is to pilot 1 to 2 sections in the Fall.

The Office of Student Advocacy helps students resolve university-related problems and concerns in an informal way. Students should seek help from this office when they:

- Need help certifying an excused absence
- Don’t know where to go or whom to ask about an issue
- Feel they have been treated unfairly by faculty or staff members
- Are unsure about how to navigate university policy or procedure

You are encouraged to refer your students to the online referral to the Office of Student Advocacy. In January and February there were a total of 67 referrals with the most being academic issues. This number is higher than it was in the entire Fall semester.

The Doctoral Hooding schedule is different this semester. Doctoral Hooding will be held May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 am—not 10 am.

As a reminder, the Provost has moved the minimum PhD stipend to \$21,000 for academic year 2025-26. Please make sure that your financial staff is aware of this increase before GA hires are submitted for approval for the Fall semester.

Applications are now open for the in-person Dissertation Writing Academy to be held May 13-30 and the Online Dissertation Writing Academy to be held June 9-27. The online academy will be limited to online students only. We currently have 13 applications for the in-person academy and 6 applications for the online academy.

Harlan Smith, Director of International Student and Scholar Support (ISSS) shared that no clarification of Executive Orders has been received regarding international students and international travel. The number of countries with travel bans has increased from 41 to 43. He and his staff are happy to speak with your students in the office of ISSS or anywhere on campus. They will discuss travel bans, visa aspects, and immigration aspects only.

**5. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Md. Ariful Islam Sanim)**

Ariful reported the following for GSA:

**GSA Election:**

On March 8, the Graduate Student Association (GSA) election had a record turnout cast. The election included candidates from the Department of Education, Department of English, Computer Science, Business School, Department of Statistics, and the Law School. This is a great sign that students from different fields are getting involved in leadership roles within the GSA. The upcoming executive members are as follows:

- Naina Oberoi (Department of Education)
- Anthonia Awhinawhi (Department of Education)
- Aishneet Juneja (Computer Science)
- Arunav Das (Department of English)

**DC Advocacy Trip:**

Members of GSA along with Dr. Angelina Sylvain, Dr. Ambra Hiott, and three other cabinet secretaries are going to Washington, DC on April 3 - 5. They will be meeting with federal legislators to discuss top priorities such as funding/stipends, research funding, and access to education.

**New Initiative:**

A new task force for international students has been created to help strategically coordinate across campus partners about issues international graduate students face. They met on March 20th to talk about housing issues, the visa processes, and the health care system.

**Grad Student Orgs:**

Funding to Grad Student Orgs (GSOs) has been using up steadily and they currently allocated their full budget and are unable to fund anymore. The internal funding on GSA events/initiatives have been spent conservatively, but they will be sure to use it all with the many upcoming events.

- Initial meeting with University Housing; a needs assessment survey of price point and whether students are single/family.
- Affiliate Luncheons\* for each group- Black/African/American (Cookout), Womyn (Yoga/ProDev), International (Career Development/Speaker session), 2SLGBTQIA+ (Movie night screening of Everything Everywhere All at Once (EEAAO) at the Indie theater)

**Parking and Transportation Townhall:**

Parking and Transportation Townhall (w/ Director of USC P&T Services, and the Exec Director of The COMET-city transport authority). We are now getting email notifications from the USC Parking Department during the game days letting us know where alternate parking is available-- this was not done previously. Additionally, the director of The COMET announced that services on demand will be provided regularly.

**Awards Days:**

The Division of Student Life Awards day will be held on Friday, April 10th, and the Graduate School Awards Day will be held on Friday, April 25th

Graduate/Professional Appreciation Week is slated for April 7-11. They are seeking spotlights/testimonials from graduate and professional students and soliciting meal swipes for the Swipe Out Hunger pool which will be allocated to students in need for Fall 2025. Please expect to hear GSA on how your departments and colleges can get involved.

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

Dr. Hauk hopes to be prepared to share this Committee's suggestions with the Graduate Council regarding possible revisions to the Faculty Manual in May.

**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 March 2025 Grad Council**

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal). Total: 1

**ANTH 578 (3) Anthropology of Migration: Displacement, Borders, and Health, (NCP: Summer 2025)**

**8. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations. Total: 9 (Ann Vail)**

Name: **Robert David Dawson (PhD)**

Program: Department of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science

Term: Summer 2025 – Summer 2031

Name: **Taryn Richardson, PhD**

Program: Department of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science

Term: Summer 2025 – Spring 2031

Name: **Christine Sacco-Bene, PhD**

Program: Department of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science

Term: Summer 2025 – Spring 2031

Name: **Victoria Sepulveda, PhD**

Program: Department of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science

Term: Summer 2025 – Spring 2031

Name: **Farren Stackhouse, PhD**

Program: Department of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science

Term: Summer 2025 – Spring 2031

Name: **Michael J. Walsh, PhD**

Program: Department of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science

Term: Summer 2025 – Spring 2031

Name: **Cassandra Bosier, PhD**

Program: Department of Teacher Education

Term: Fall 2024 – Spring 2030

Name: **Kourtney Chapman, PhD**  
Program: Department of Teacher Education  
Term: Fall 2024 – Spring 2030

Name: **Waleed Ashraf Raja, PhD**  
Program: Department of Teacher Education  
Term: Fall 2024 – Spring 2030

**These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.**

**9. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee** (Matt Klopfenstein for Edie Goldsmith)

Dr. Goldsmith was not able to attend the meeting, and Matt Klopfenstein gave an update from the committee on her behalf. The committee is currently reviewing the second round of Presidential Fellowship nominees and will make additional offers soon. 23 nominees were submitted for the second round, for a total of 40 submitted (one withdrawn) for the year. This represents a slight decrease from last year (45 nominations). The committee is also reviewing nominations for the Graduate Student Awards and Trustee Fellowships. A significantly higher number of nominations were submitted for both this year (80 Graduate Student Award nominations compared to 26 last year and 31 Trustee Fellowship Nominations compared to 12 last year). Recipients will be announced at the Graduate School Recognition of Excellence on April 25 as part of Discover USC.

**10. Report of the Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee**

(Angelina Sylvain for Sourav Banerjee)

None.

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

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 16

- **ARTE 701** (3) Seminar in Art Education, (CCP: Summer 2025)
- **ARTE 702** (3) Problems in the Teaching of Art, (CCP: Summer 2025)
- **ARTE 703** (3) Issues and Trends in Art Education, (CCP: Summer 2025)
- **ARTE 705** (3) Program Development in Art, (CCP: Summer 2025)
- **ARTH 747** (3) Afrofuturist and Afrosurrealist Art, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **MART 781B** (3) Research and Practice in New Media Art (3) Mobile Platforms, (CCP: Summer 2025)
- **MGMT 770** (3) Organizational Behavior, (CCP: Fall 2026)
- **MKTG 744** (3) Managing Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **MUSC 749** (3) Introduction to Ethnomusicology (3) History, Theory, Methods, and Education, (NCP: Summer 2025)
- **Coaching Education, M.S.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)
- **Drug and Addiction Studies**, Certificate, (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)
- **Operations and Supply Chain Management**, Certificate, (New Program Proposal: Fall 2025)
- **Public Administration / Social Work, M.P.A. / M.S.W.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Social Work / Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, M.S.W. / M.P.H.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Social Work / Health Service Policy and Management, M.S.W. / M.P.H.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Social Work / Law, M.S.W. / J.D.**, (Program Change Request: 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:

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|--------------|---|
| April 25:    | Discover USC will be held on Friday, April 25 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Please click for more information:<br><a href="https://www.sc.edu/about/signature_events/discover_uofsc/about/news/2025/20250115_DUSC_2025_Registration_Announcement.php">https://www.sc.edu/about/signature_events/discover_uofsc/about/news/2025/20250115_DUSC_2025_Registration_Announcement.php</a> |
| April 25:    | The Graduate School Recognition of Excellence ceremony is Friday, April 25th at 3 PM in the Richland Room of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.   |
| May 8:       | Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, Thursday, May 8 at 9 am, Koger Center  |
| May 12:      | The last Graduate Council meeting for Spring 2025 will be via Microsoft Teams on Monday, May 12 at 2:00 pm.   |
| May 13 – 30: | Dissertation Writing Academy in-person  |
| June 9 – 27: | Dissertation Writing Academy online   |

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.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 3/12/2025

Proposals detailed below are currently in the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee queue and up for review and approval this academic term. If you have any questions regarding the information shared or a particular proposal, please reach out to Dr. Angelina Sylvain at [asylvain@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:asylvain@mailbox.sc.edu).

### Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs

#### Courses

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ACCT 724 (3) Essentials of Accounting for MBA Students, (NCP: Summer 2025)	Overview of essential financial and managerial accounting topics relevant to MBA students seeking to increase their understanding of the production, interpretation, and communication of accounting information to internal and external users.
MART 571C (3) Moving Image Advanced (3) 3D Animation, (CCP: Fall 2026)	Animation production.
MART 581B (3) New Media Advanced (3) Mobile Platforms, (CCP: Summer 2025)	Art and practice of mobile platforms.
MGMT 748 (3) Strategic Management, (CCP: Fall 2026)	A course designed to integrate the student's knowledge of accounting, economics, finance, marketing, production, and international environment for the analysis of management problems. Oral and written communications are emphasized using the case method. For final year M.B.A. students.

#### Programs

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Linguistics, Ph.D., (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)
Psychology, Ph.D., (Program Change Request: Fall 2026)

### Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs

#### Courses

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PHPH 743 (1) Scientific Communication, (NCP: Summer 2025)	This course is focused on the principles of effective scientific communication. The major focus of instruction is on developing and giving high-quality scientific presentations to scientists and non-scientists.
PHPH 746 (1) Manuscript Writing, (NCP: Summer 2025)	This course covers the fundamentals of scientific manuscript writing with a focus on neuroscience topics. Students will develop skills for writing effective publication-quality manuscripts and will focus on improving clarity, concision, and accuracy of scientific reporting. Lectures will cover ethical issues and navigating the submission, revision, and resubmission process.

#### Programs

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Nurse Anesthesia, D.N.A.P., (Program Change Request: Summer 2026)
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