



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 11th, 2023

The Graduate Council met virtually on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 2:00P.M.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Terrance McAdoo, Vice Chair; Drs. Sourav Banerjee, Jing Fang, Edie Goldsmith, Dianna Inman, Kathy Kim, William Matchin, Wendy Regoeczi, David Reisman, Kim Thompson, Sriram Venkataraman, and Gaurav Harshe (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Mr. Hassan Anderson (excused), Drs. Subra Bulusu (excused), Ann Lehman (excused), Nicholas Watanabe (excused), Neal Woods (excused), and Christina Yao (excused).

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Ann Vail, Dr. Murray Mitchell (Secretary), Dr. Andrea Fleming, Dr. Jean Ellis, Dr. Angelina Sylvain, Dale Moore, Wright Culpepper, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representatives: Trena Houp

Guests: Dr. Beth Barnes (COMD), Dr. Danny Jenkins (School of Music), Dr. Sheryl Wiskur (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Dr. Latrice Ratcliff-Small (OIRAA), Dr. Carla Flink (Political Science), Catherine Birmingham (Joseph F. Rice School of Law), Lori Chapiesky (Theatre and Dance), Sam Beals (School of Journalism), and Lisa Jerald (Student Advocacy Center).

NOTE: These minutes will become final on January 22, 2024, if not challenged.

- 1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Terrance McAdoo, Vice Chair)
The meeting was called to order at 2:01p.m., and the Agenda was approved.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes from November 27, 2023.** 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 November were unanimously approved.
- 3. Report of the Vice Chair** (Terrance McAdoo)
No report.
- 4. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School** (Ann Vail)
Dean Vail reminded everyone to please mark your calendar for the Inaugural Graduate Education Summit for January 26, 2024. The conference will be keynoted by Leonardo Cassuto and Robert Weisbuch, authors of *The New PhD: Building a Better Graduate Education*. In addition, she has confirmed Dr. Wes Fondren from Coastal Carolina University. He has become quite an expert in AI assisted graduate education. We will be talking about AI assisted graduate education, what that might look like, and what we might need to consider as we move forward with that. Registration is now open, and we have

distributed many invitations. She has asked deans to forward them to faculty and staff as well as graduate directors. If you haven't received one yet, please reach out to her and she will see that you get one. Graduate Council members will also receive an invitation. This meeting will be held at the Joseph Rice School of Law, beginning at 8:30am.

Application numbers continue to grow. We currently have 6,741 graduate applications for Fall 2024 with 3,100 of them complete and ready for review in the departments. Upon the last check, there were about 400 that a decision had been made on; so, you can tell that we have quite a few waiting for a decision. She hopes that you all will work with your colleagues to begin to move those through the process.

Two weeks ago, she shared that we had several applications for Spring 2024 awaiting decisions. Some have been addressed so thank you for any of your advocacy related to those. Currently, we have 56 applications remaining that have not received a decision for Spring.

Dean Vail reminded the group about Doctoral Hooding on December 18th at the Koger Center at 9:30 am. She hopes that you will consider being there to support our doctoral students. She thinks that it is such a nice thing that we do for our doctoral students here since not every university does a separate hooding ceremony--that makes it even more special.

We have finished our first reading group related to the New PhD, and we received great feedback from the reading groups. Since we have been emphasizing our admissions process in the Graduate School and we have been going through a review of the admissions process by the Organizational Excellence Group here on campus, she has identified an admission related reading for Spring of 2024. The title is *Inside Graduate Admissions: Merit, Diversity, and Faculty Gatekeeping* by Julie R. Posselt. It is her study of 10 highly ranked PhD programs and how they go through the admission process and recommendations for strengthening that. Our study in the Graduate School has focused primarily on the Graduate School part of the process with this reading and in the Spring, we will shift to look at program area responsibilities related to the admission process. She is hoping that this book can provide us with insight and guidance with that. Dean Vail will specifically ask Graduate Directors to participate in this reading group, but it will be open to everyone.

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

Dr. Mitchell requested members to prompt their colleagues to submit grades for Fall 2023 before leaving for the break. Courses that appear to routinely escape attention are thesis, dissertation, and independent study courses. This is an excellent time to review progress to degree completion for students in the program, too.

Dr. Mitchell also spoke in support of Dean Vail's request that all Spring 2024 applicants receive a response. Some colleagues may benefit from a reminder that a 'non-response' is not the same as a formal response to indicate that the applicant could not be accommodated at this time.

6. Report on Professional Development (Wright Culpepper)

No report.

7. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Gaurav Harshe)

Gaurav informed the Graduate Council that GSA is working with the Graduate School and Student Life to update the Needs Assessment survey for the Spring 2024 semester.

8. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Terrance McAdoo)

No report.

9. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses (Murray Mitchell)

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

500/600 Courses for December 2023 Grad Council

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

SCHC 501 (3) HNRS: Interdisciplinary Proseminars (NCP: Spring 2024)

10. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)

None at this time.

11. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Edie Goldsmith)

Dr. Goldsmith reported that the Presidential Fellowship nomination deadlines for the Spring 2024 semester will be on January 26th for Round 1 and March 1st for Round 2.

12. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Jing Fang)

None at this time.

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

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

- **Business Administration, PMBA** (Program Change: Fall 2024)
- **EDTE 899** (1-12) Dissertation Preparation (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **FINA 774** (3) Financial Innovation (NCP: Summer 2024)
- **HIST 777** (3) Theory and Methodology of Religious History (NCP: Spring 2024)
- **HTMT 781** (3) Seminar on the Olympic Games (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **MGSC 774** (3) Sustainable Operations and Supply Chain (NCP: Summer 2024)
- **SOWK 722** (3) Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Small Groups (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **SOWK 793** (3) Evaluation of Social Work Programs (CCP: Spring 2024)
- **Social Work, MSW** (Program Change: Fall 2024)

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

14. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (David Reisman)

No report.

15. Other Committee Reports

None at this time.

16. Old Business

- Update on Incomplete Grade Policy (Murray Mitchell)
- Update on progress regarding “quorum” definition (Murray Mitchell)
- Update on progress regarding a Graduate Attendance Policy (Murray Mitchell)

Dr. Mitchell indicated that several items would require the attention of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee. These three items fall under their area of responsibility and will be handled in January. Background information materials are still being gathered for these items.

17. New Business

None at this time.

18. Good of the Order

Dr. Mitchell reminded the members that our next meeting will be in person on January 22, 2024, in the Close-Hipp Building, Room #583, at 2:00pm.

There was a request that Spring 2024 Graduate Council meetings be submitted via Outlook Calendar for better individual planning purposes.

Happy Holidays to all!

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21p.m.

Murray Mitchell, Secretary

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