



Graduate Directors Meeting  
February 27, 2025  
3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Close-Hipp, Room 584

The Graduate Director's Meeting was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 3:00 pm in Close-Hipp, Room 584.

Present: Anne Bezuidenhout, Ken Campbell, Sarah Gassman, Shana Harrington, Danny Jenkins, Matt Klopfenstein, Fang Meng, Stephen Shapiro, Brett Sherman, Susan Steck, Jill Stewart, Angelina Sylvain, Ann Vail, Hong Wang, Sheryl Wiskur, Mark Yancey

Teams: Brandon Applegate, Khalid Ballouli, Angela Baum, Anne Bezuidenhout, Christine Blake, Alexandre Bonafos, Heather Bonilha, Ali Brian, Bob Brookshire, Ken Campbell, Hanif Chaudhry, Brian Chen, Libby Cross, Elizabeth Crouch, Robin Dawson, Rhonda DiNovo, Kristin Dow, Carla Flink, Andrew Graciano, Michelle Hardee, Shana Harrington, Linda Hazlett, Andrea Henderson, Andreas Heyden, Satish Jayachandran, Danny Jenkins, Bret Kloos, Kevin LeBlanc, Kathryn Luchok, Lyda McCartin, Fang Meng, Jim Mensch, Stephanie Milling, Robert Moran, Nabil Natafagi, Jennifer O'Neill, Joohyung Park, Doug Pittman, Dimitris Rizos, David Rocheleau, Matthias Schindler, Cory Schnell, Kristen Seay, Stephen Shapiro, Brett Sherman, Lauren Sklaroff, Angelina Sylvain, Scott Taylor, Marco Valtorta, Guoan Wang, Matthew Wilson

Harlan Smith, Director, Division of International Student and Scholar Support

Dean Ann Vail presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order.

Dean Vail announced that Dr. Lingyu "Lucy" Yu has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Engagement in The Graduate School. In her new role, Dr. Yu will provide oversight and supervision for graduate student recruitment, admissions, retention, records, progression, and degree certification. She will advocate for graduate students' diverse needs related to mental health, financial aid and fellowships, professional development, career development and placement. Dr. Yu will continue her active research agenda and the mentoring of her graduate students at Molinaroli College.

**Harlan Smith, Director, Division of International Student and Scholar Support**

**USC International Graduate Students: An Update - Harlan Smith (Presentation attached)**

- Issues for December Graduates
- Proactive Immigration Strategy: Spring Semester
- Academic Program Completion
- Early Clearance and “Z” Status
- International Graduate Student Employment
- Carolina Internship Program
- Executive Orders: International Graduate Students
- International Travel & Re-entry to the U.S.



USC International  
Graduate Students I

**Data-Driven Decision Making**

Dr. Angelina Sylvain reviewed the new dash boards and discussed the 2024 – 2025 Admitted Applicants Survey. When using these dashboards your VPN must be on, and it is recommended that you use Google Chrome to connect so you are able to access these dash boards. Please reach out to Dr. Sylvain if you are unable to access these reports.

**Status Update: Strengthening Graduate Admissions Initiative**

The Provost has given The Graduate School permission to proceed with the bid process for the graduate admissions system. Once we have direction from Purchasing, we will have a better understanding of the next steps. We will not be able to implement the new system in Fall 2025.

**Minimum PhD Stipends**

With support from the deans, the Provost has moved the minimum PhD stipend to \$21,000 for academic year 2025-26.

**ProQuest**

Please remind major professors and graduating students that submitting their thesis or dissertation to ProQuest is a requirement. Details about submission and approved templates are available on the graduate school website. Students will not be cleared for graduation until these steps are completed.

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**Updated Embargo Policy**

The Embargo Policy for theses and dissertations has been updated and expanded. New information is available on The Graduate School website. The main changes address the need to expand what type of information is eligible for embargo and how Controlled Unclassified Information will be handled.

**Graduate Curriculum and Course Proposals**

Just a reminder that all curriculum and course proposals are due by March 31 if you want them reviewed and voted on before the end of the semester.

**Graduate Student Success: The First Semester**

The Graduate School is developing an introductory course for incoming graduate students that focuses on Graduate Student Success. We are seeking volunteers who will advise their incoming students to enroll in the pilot course during Fall 2025.

Next meeting: March 27, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00, Close-Hipp, Room 584

Minutes by Cherrie Markey