



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 9th, 2024

The Graduate Council met in person on Monday, December 9th, 2024, at 2:00 pm in Room #584, Close-Hipp Building.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Bill Hauk, Vice Chair; Drs. Sourav Banerjee, John Doering-White, Ashley Gess, Edie Goldsmith, Andrew Graciano, Carolyn Harmon, Sheri Silfies, Sanjib Sur, Sriram Venkataraman, Rachel Williams, Mark Yancey, and Hannah Malcom (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Mr. Hassan Anderson; Drs. Lorie Donelle (excused), Jing Fang, Daniel Kilpatrick, Terrance McAdoo (excused), Nick Watanabe, Jing Wen, and Neal Woods.

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Ann Vail, Dr. Angelina Sylvain (excused), Dale Moore, and Wanda Barr

Provost Office Representatives: Trena Houp (excused), Dr. LaTrice Ratcliff-Small (excused), and Jenell Peoples

Guests: Harlan Smith (ISSS) and Gaurav Harshe (GSA)

NOTE: These minutes will become final on January 27, 2025, if not challenged.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda (Bill Hauk, Vice Chair)

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

2. Approval of the Minutes from November 25, 2024. 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 (Bill Hauk)

No report.

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

Dean Vail reminded the members of the Graduate Council that the Graduate School is in the process of updating the Presidential Fellowship guidelines. Part of the update will include eliminating the ability of departments to offer an assistantship stipend below the required minimum. For the upcoming year, Presidential Fellowship Awards have been increased to the following amounts:

- \$48,000 or \$12,000/year for Doctoral Fellows

- \$30,000 or \$6,000/semester for MFA Fellows

A new fellowship has been added. It is the Elinor G. Keels Fellowship for a graduate student from any discipline with research focusing on women’s issues, LGBTQ issues, or other similar topics. The recipient must have an approved dissertation proposal for research. The award is \$5,000. The other fellowships that will be awarded are as follows:

- Rhude M. Patterson - \$5,000
- C.C. Royal Fellowship - \$2,500
- Dera D. Parkinson - \$1,500
- George M. Reeves - \$750
- Charles Coker - \$3,500

To ensure that this information is distributed as widely as possible, we are including again the newly revised Curriculum Review Timeline schedule below:

Spring 2025 Graduate Council Curriculum Review Timeline

In response to the growing volume of curriculum proposals and the need to allocate adequate time for thorough review and approval, the timeline for graduate curriculum review is being adjusted. These changes aim to ensure that all proposals can be reviewed and finalized within the necessary timeframes to meet Bulletin publication and implementation deadlines. The updated procedure outlined below provides clear deadlines for proposal submission, reflecting a shift in due dates to accommodate both academic unit planning and Graduate Council review cycles.

This adjusted timeline will streamline the review process and support the timely implementation of curriculum updates.

	January	February	March	April	May
Meeting Date	January 27	February 24	March 24	April 28	May 12
Agenda Distributed	January 10	February 14	March 14	April 18	May 2
Course and Program Proposals Due By	November 30 2024	December 31 2024	January 31 2025	February 28 2025	March 31 2025

For course and program proposals to be reviewed in time for Fall 2025, **they must be submitted no later than March 31, 2025.**

For academic units planning to submit substantive changes to a program and affiliated coursework, where the submission will result in **four or more** submitted proposals from an academic unit – **the set of proposals must be submitted by February 28, 2025.**

New deadlines reflect up to the **end of the month**, relative to prior efforts where proposals were due by the first of the month. This new Spring 2025 Graduate Council Curriculum Review Timeline will also be shared on the Graduate Council page for easier reference. You are encouraged to communicate these new deadlines to your academic units. There are many people who have been here for a long time and are used to the previous deadlines. We are trying to give ample time to note the deadline change, and we are sensitive to the fact that it is not going to translate uniformly.

The Graduate School is proud to announce that Dr. Matt Klopfenstein has accepted the offer to serve as the Director of Professional Development. Many of you know and have worked with Matt in his current role of Assistant Director of National Fellowships in the Honors College. Matt has served as the informal leader of the Graduate Hub and has already spent significant time and effort serving graduate students. In his new role, he will continue to coordinate the Graduate Hub as its formal leader and lead our professional development efforts. He has a vision for the graduate student experience that will enable The Graduate School to move forward in providing a coordinated, research-based graduate student experience. Matt will join us on January 16th.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Engagement position is now open for applications and will remain open until filled. Many applications have been received from outside the University, but we can only fill this position internally. Nominations can be submitted to Dean Ann Vail.

5. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Hannah Malcom)

Hannah shared the following from GSA:

- Town Hall for the Fall semester was held on Thursday, 12/5
 - About 25 attendees
 - Hope to advertise the Spring Town Hall better and secure a larger location so more people can attend
- Meetings with Parking/Transportation and ISSS are planned for early January
- Secretaries in subcommittees are working to plan more GSA events in Spring to include a BBQ
- Hannah has resigned from her position on 12/4 and will be phasing out during December
 - Special elections will be held in early January to fill her position as the Graduate Council Representative
 - GSA questions can be directed to the GSA President, Gaurav Harshe, in meantime

Dean Vail and Dr. Hauk thanked Hannah for her service to the Graduate Council as many changes with the Presidential Fellowships and assistantships have come about due to her advocacy efforts for graduate students.

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

Dr. Hauk reported that Hassan Anderson from the School of Music has been added to this committee. The School of Music has an important contribution to make in the discussion of revising the different classifications of Graduate Faculty. They will be meeting this week.

7. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses (Ann Vail for Angelina Sylvain)

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

500/600 Courses for December 2024 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal). Total: 20

ACCT 550 (3) Sustainability Reporting & Analysis, (NCP: Spring 2025)

BIOL 635 (3) Neurophysiology, (CCP: Fall 2025)

BIOL 635L (1) Neurophysiology Laboratory, (NCP: Fall 2025)

BIOL 636 (3) Sensory Biology, (NCP: Spring 2025)

BIOL 654 (3) Speciation and the Origin of Biodiversity, (CCP: Fall 2025)

COMM 562 (3) Online Communication and Personal Relationships, (NCP: Spring 2025)

COMM 572 (3) Communication and Interethnic Behavior, (NCP: Spring 2025)

CSCE 517 (3) Computer Crime and Forensics, (CCP: Fall 2025)
EMCH 574 (3) Vibration and Waves, (NCP: Spring 2025)
EXSC 660 (3) Exercise Oncology, (NCP: Spring 2025)
FAMS 598 (3) Special Topics in Global Film and Media, (CCP: Fall 2025)
HTMT 581 (3) Data Visualization in Hospitality and Tourism Management, (NCP: Spring 2025)
JOUR 506 (3) Mass Media Criticism, (CCP: Fall 2025)
JOUR 507 (3) Health Communication: The Science and Practice, (CCP: Fall 2025)
JOUR 509 (3) Environmental Communication: The Science and Practice, (CCP: Fall 2025)
JOUR 536 (3) Crisis Communications, (CCP: Fall 2025)
JOUR 560 (3) Capstone Portfolio Development, (CCP: Fall 2025)
JOUR 594 (3) International Public Relations, (NCP: Spring 2025)
JOUR 596 (3) Study Abroad in Journalism and Mass Communications, (CCP: Fall 2025)
PSYC 571 (3) Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, (CCP: Fall 2025)

8. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations. Total: 4 (Ann Vail)

Name: **Ryan Rucker (PhD)**
 Program: School of Information Science
 Term: Fall 2024 – Spring 2030

Name: **Clayton Copeland (PhD)**
 Program: School of Information Science
 Term: Fall 2024 – Spring 2030

Name: **Valerie Byrd-Fort (MLIS)**
 Program: School of Information Science
 Term: Spring 2025 – Spring 2030

Name: **Kathryn Luchok (PhD)**
 Program: Women’s and Gender Studies
 Term: Spring 2025 – Spring 2028

These nominations were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

9. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Edie Goldsmith)

Dr. Goldsmith reminded the members of the Council of the following deadlines for the various fellowship programs for the Spring semester:

- Presidential Fellows: Round 1 - January 31, 2025; Round 2 – March 7, 2025
- Trustee Fellows: March 17, 2025
- Trustee Recruiting Fellows: March 7, 2025

She reached out to the previous review panel members, and five of them have agreed to return for the Spring semester. They are still in need of a few more panel members. There will be two meetings and one independent review and assessment of applications. Please direct all recommendations of good representatives from your colleges and departments willing to serve on this review panel to her. If necessary, she will start emailing possible panel members in January.

She and Dean Vail have been reviewing the eligibility criteria of the Presidential Fellows. They would like everyone to meet the \$20,000 stipend award uniform across the board. Dean Vail has already begun to meet with departments that the new guidelines criteria will affect, and these meetings are still

underway.

10. Report of the Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Sourav Banerjee)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 36

- **Computer Engineering, M.S.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Computer Engineering, Ph.D.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Artificial Intelligence, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Computer Science, M.S.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Computer Science, Ph.D.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Biomedical Engineering, M.E.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Biomedical Engineering, Ph.D.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Family Nurse Practitioner, D.N.P.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Executive Healthcare Leadership, D.N.P.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Adult Gerontology – Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Speech-Language Pathology, M.S.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Maternal and Child Health, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Health Services Policy and Management, Ph.D.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Environmental Health Sciences, M.S.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Environmental Health Sciences, Ph.D.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Health Communication, Certificate**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Health Services Policy and Management / Public Administration, M.P.H. / M.P.A.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **CHEM 724** (3) Advanced Analytical Chemistry and Instrumentation, (NCP: Spring 2025)
- **CHEM 731** (3) Introduction to Polymer Chemistry, (NCP: Spring 2025)
- **CHEM 733** (3) Physical Chemistry of Polymers, (NCP: Spring 2025)
- **COMD 713** (3) Neurophysiology and Motor Speech Disorders, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **ECIV 708** (3) Risk Analysis for Engineering and Applications, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **ENHS 859** (3) Advanced Research Approaches and Applications in Environmental Health Sciences, (NCP: Spring 2025)
- **ENHS 864** (3) Survey in Multi-Disciplinary Research of Environmental Health Sciences, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HPEB 771** (3) Social Determinants of Health, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HPEB 802** (3) Implementation Science of Health Promotion Interventions, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HSPM 710** (3) Introduction to the US Health Care System, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HSPM 711** (3) Health Policy, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HSPM 712** (3) Health Economics, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HSPM 715** (3) Introduction to Health Services Research, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HSPM 800** (1) Doctoral Seminar, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HSPM 805** (3) Health Services Research Design, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **HSPM 815** (3) Qualitative and Mixed Methods in Health Services Research, (NCP: Spring 2025)

- **HSPM 830** (3) Secondary Data Sources for Health Services Research, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **ITEC 754** (3) Analysis and Design of Information Systems and Technology, (Course Change Request: Spring 2025)
- **ITEC 772** (3) Database Systems, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)

These proposals were approved by Graduate Council.

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

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 22

- **Comparative Literature, Ph.D.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Accountancy, MAAC**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Educational Psychology and Research, Ph.D.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Information Security and Cyber Leadership, M.S.**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Health Systems Law, M.S.L.**, (Program Change Request: Spring 2025)
- **Social Work, M.S.W.**, (Program Change Request: Summer 2025)
- **EDEX 726** (3) Seminar in Special Education for Student Teachers, (Course Change Request: Spring 2025)
- **Sacred Music Minor**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Community Engagement Minor**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Contemporary Music Performance Minor**, (Program Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **Music Education Minor**, (New Program Proposal: Spring 2025)
- **Piano Pedagogy Minor**, (New Program Proposal: Spring 2025)
- **Music Theory Minor**, (New Program Proposal: Spring 2025)
- **Conducting Minor**, (New Program Proposal: Spring 2025)
- **Jazz Studies Minor**, (New Program Proposal: Spring 2025)
- **Opera Theater Minor**, (New Program Proposal: Spring 2025)
- **LAWH 701** (3) Legal Foundations of Health Care Systems, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **LAWH 703** (3) Risk Management, Patient Safety and Quality, (NCP: Spring 2025)
- **LAWH 710** (3) Public Health and Delivery Systems, (Course Inactivation Proposal: Fall 2025)
- **LAWH 712** (3) Ethics in Health Care Systems, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **LAWH 722** (3) Employment Law, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)
- **LAWH 738** (3) Healthcare Privacy and Security, (Course Change Request: Fall 2025)

These proposals were approved by Graduate Council.

12. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Sriram Venkataraman)

No report.

13. Other Committee Reports

None.

14. Old Business

None.

15. New Business

- Mr. Harlan Smith, the Director of International Student and Scholar Support (ISSS), shared that the office of ISSS has a psychologist embedded in their office available for appointment services.
- Dean Vail thanked Dr. Sheri Silfies from Exercise Science for her service to the Graduate Council. We wish her well. She will be leaving for the University of Delaware.

16. Good of the Order

Reminder Dates:

December 16, 2024: Doctoral Hooding, Monday, December 16th, 10 am to 12 pm in the Koger Center.

January 27, 2025: The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Council will be in person on Monday, January 27th, 2025, at 2:00 pm in Room 584 in Close-Hipp.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27p.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

Office of the Provost – Program Pre-Authorization Requests

Programs listed below have been approved by the Office of the Provost to begin development. In some cases, due to timing, these have already been approved by the Graduate Council.

This information is shared as an addendum to the Graduate Council agenda in an effort to increase cross-disciplinary transparency of upcoming programs.

November

Program Modification: Request to add online delivery to two Postbaccalaureate Certificates: Behavioral Health in Athletic Training and Critical Incident Management and Primary Care in Athletic Training.

Program Modification: Offer the DNAP at an off-campus instruction site in Florence, SC

September

New Program: Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Artificial Intelligence in Business

New Program: DNP, Nurse Educator

August

New Dual Degree: MIB with Audencia Business School with their Master of Science in Financial Markets & Sustainable Investments, Responsible Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Data Science for Marketing, Business Strategy & Consulting, Food & Agribusiness, Sustainable Luxury, Cultural & Arts Management, and the Master in Management

New Program: Master of Science in Quantitative Economics

New Dual Degree: MA/MMC Journalism and Mass Communications with the School of Journalism and Information Communication at Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST)