



**GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**August 27, 2012**

The Graduate Council met on Monday August 27, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. in room 311 of the Byrnes Building.

**Graduate Council members:** Drs., Subra Bulusu, Wayne Carver, Erik Drasgow, Minuette Floyd, Lacy Ford, Stacy Fritz, Edward Gatzke, Michael Hodgson, J. Daniel Jenkins, Kartik Kalaignanam, De Anne Messias, Murray Mitchell, Lauren Sklaroff, Paul Solomon, acting chair, Tracey Weldon-Stewart, Ercan Turk, Adela Vraciu, Lee Walker, Terrance Weik

**Graduate Council member excused:** Drs. Joseph Quattro, chair, and Kartik Kalaignanam

**Graduate School Representatives:** Dr. Jessica Elfenbein, Dale Moore and Soo-Jee Yi

**Graduate Student Representative:** John Knox

**Provost Office Representative:** Dr. Kristia Finnigan

**Guests:** Drs. Mohammad Ali, Michael Byrd, Richard Creswick, Jonathan Goodall, Miriam Johnson

**NOTE: These minutes will become final on September 30, 2012, if not challenged.**

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Paul Solomon)

Dr. Solomon called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

- 1. Approval of minutes** Minutes of the last meeting of the academic year, [May 21, 2012](#) meeting are approved administratively by the dean of the Graduate School. As per policy, approved actions by Graduate Council become effective 30 days after posting unless challenged. [Copy on file at The Graduate School; also posted on The Graduate School website at <http://app.gradschool.sc.edu/gradcouncil/minutes.asp>]

**2. Report of the Chair-elect** (Paul Solomon)

- Dr. Solomon prompted all Council members to introduce themselves.
- Dr. Solomon advised he was reporting on behalf of the Graduate Council Chair, Dr. Joseph Quattro, who had an excused absence. Dr. Solomon briefly summarized the operational roles of the various Graduate Council sub committees.

### 3. Report of the Dean of The Graduate School (Lacy Ford)

- Dr. Ford began by thanking the Council for their willingness to serve on Graduate Council.
- Dr. Ford presented a [Status Report of The Graduate School](#). He outlined the presentation covers what we, The Graduate School, have been doing and what we hope to be doing this year.
  - Dr. Ford noted a goal of creating an ACAF policy supporting due process for student grievances, in particular issues surrounding graduate assistantships.
  - Dr. Ford explained pursuits in expanding communication by building a new Graduate School website. He advised that we will be adding content to the website, often and in clear form. Also included in the website is a new [Presidential Fellows Directory](#), showcasing the talents of the Fellows.
  - Also Dr. Ford noted a form for “Open Access Authorization for Thesis or Dissertation” is available in the forms library and a related form is being established with USC’s legal department to reach students from spring 2009 to ensure those students have been adequately informed of their rights.
- Dr. Ford noted that funding for the Presidential Fellows program moving into the future is uncertain. An active search for more certain support for this outstanding program is under way.
- Lastly, Dr. Ford clarified his deferment of the implementation of the regulation Graduate Council passed, last May, regarding the definition of candidacy and the elimination of qualifying exams was due to the sharp dichotomy on campus between the STEM field and the Humanities, Social Sciences, and different discipline models. He believed that one policy could not be imposed on the whole campus without further discussion. He advised that the leadership (Drs. Elfenbein, Mitchell, and Ford) of the Graduate School in some configuration will visit the department chairs and see how we might amend the resolution that was passed, to make it more palatable, and still leaves programs with something consistent with their peers across the nation in those areas. He stated we will do that as rapidly as we can and report back to this committee.

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

Dr. Mitchell guided Council through the Graduate School hosted [Graduate Council webpages](#) and explained the duties of the subcommittee chairs.

### 5. Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative (John Knox)

No report

### 6. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Paul Solomon)

Dr. Solomon noted Dr. Ford addressed, in his report, the old business for the Academic Policy and Practices Committee on the topic of due process for students, in particular issues surrounding graduate assistantships.

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

**500/600 Level course approvals:**

MSCI 590 [GEOG 590] – new and cross-listing  
 GEOG 590 [MSCI 590] – new and cross-listing  
 SOCY 599 - new  
 SOWK 668 – new

**8. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee** (Wayne Carver)

No report

**9. Report of the Science, Math, and Related Professional Program Committee** (Edward Gatzke)

No report

**10. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (Lauren Sklaroff)

Dr. Mitchell noted that due to a miscommunication across the summer, Dr. Sklaroff had been named as chair of this committee without her knowledge or endorsement. Noting that Dr. Sklaroff had informed him that she would be unable to assume those duties, Dr. Mitchell stated that he would be pursuing a chair for the committee and confirming the initiation of business for the committee.

**11. Report of the Petitions and Appeals Committee** (Erik Drasgow)

No report

**12. Other Committee Reports**

No report

**13. Old Business**

No report

**14. New Business**

No report

**15. Good of the Order**

**16. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**Murray Mitchell, Secretary**

cc:

President Harris Pastides  
Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies Lacy Ford  
Provost Michael Amiridis  
Deans  
Department Chairs  
Graduate Directors  
Aaron Marter, University Registrar  
Jodie Morris, Office of the Registrar  
Gail Stephens, Office of the Registrar  
Andrew Graves, Office of the Registrar  
Nancy Floyd, Office of Institutional Assessment and Compliance