The Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA

February 27, 2017

To: Graduate Council

Dr. Matt Brown, Chair; Drs. Swann Adams, Drucilla Barker, Bobby Brame, Jr., Cathy Brant, Matthew Childs, Dirk den Ouden, Maryah Fram, Blaine Griffen, Jason Hattrick-Simpers, Sali Li, Caryn Outten, Douglas Pittman, David Stodden, David Tedeschi, Kellee White, Scott White, Susan Yeargin; Mark VanDriel, GSA Representative; Murray Mitchell, Dale Moore (Graduate School: ex officio members).

CC: President Harris Pastides, Provost Joan Gabel, Dr. Kristia Finnigan, Dr. Tena Crews, Deans, Department Chairs, Graduate Directors and Graduate Program Administrators

From: Dr. Cheryl Addy, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

The Graduate Council will meet on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 2:00 P.M. in the Byrnes Building, Room 311, with the following items on the agenda:

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Matt Brown, Chair)

2. **Approval of the Minutes from January 23, 2017.**   Approved actions by Graduate Council become effective 30 days after posting. A copy is available on The Graduate School website at: http://app.gradschool.sc.edu/gradcouncil/minutes.asp

3. **Report of the Chair** (Matt Brown)

4. **Report of the Dean of Graduate School** (Cheryl Addy)

5. **Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council / Senior Associate Dean** (Murray Mitchell)

6. **Report of the Graduate Student Association Representative** (Mark VanDriel)

7. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Dirk den Ouden)
   Discussion document attached.

8. **Report of the 500/600 Level Courses, Distance Education and Special Topics Courses** (Murray Mitchell)

A listing of 500/600 Level Courses is presented to Council for informational purposes only.

EDEX 646 (3) Advanced Procedures for Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education. (New Course Proposal; Fall 2017).

Distance Delivery Proposals

RHAB 701 (3) Rehabilitation Counseling Practice I (Designator change to RCON, number change to 601; addition of distributed learning) (Fall 2018).

RHAB 705 (3) Culture and Disability (Designator change to RCON, number change to 605; addition of distributed learning) (Fall 2018)

RETL 551 (3) Advanced Retail Business Planning (Fall 2018)

Special Topics Course Proposals

BIOS 894 (3) Introduction to Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (Fall 2017).

CHEM 739 (3) Nanoscale Behavior and Characterization of Block Copolymers (Spring 2017)

COMD 710 (3) Counseling in Speech-Language Pathology (Fall 2017)

COMD 710 (3) Literacy in Children with Hearing Loss (Fall 2017)

COMD 710 (3) Neurodevelopmental Disorders (Fall 2017)

CRJU 591 (3) Violence and Crime in the Lives of Girls and Women (Summer 2017)

ECIV 790 (3) Advanced Technologies for Emerging Contaminants in Water Treatment (Fall 2017).

ENGL 820 (3) Enlightenment and Its Discontents (Spring 2017).

ENGL 843 (3) Rhapsody in Schmaltz: 20th Century American Jewish Literature and Film (Spring 2017)

ENHS 793 (3) Atmospheric Environmental Nanoscience (Fall 2017)

HRTM 590 (3) Theme Park Management (May 2017).

HRTM 590 (3) Wine, Beverage and Culture (May 2017)

HSPM 791 (3) Quality Improvement and Evaluation (Summer 2017)

MUSC 544 (3) Introduction to Sound Studies (Fall 2017)

MUSC 544 (3) Music and the Arts, 1774-1951 (Spring 2017)

MUSC 726 (3) (Post) Minimalism (Fall 2017)

MUSC 744 (3) Introduction to Ethnomusicology (Fall 2017)

MUSC 744 (3) Takemitsu and Contemporaries (Fall 2017)

SMED 729 (3) Science for Teachers (Spring 2017)

SMED 769 (3) Data Analysis & Statistics (Spring 2017)

9. **Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations** (Murray Mitchell)

Name:	**Nathaniel Bryan**, PhD
Program:	Early Childhood Education
Term:	Spring 2017 – Spring 2023

Name:	**Meir Muller**, PhD
Program:	Early Childhood Education
Term:	Spring 2017 – Spring 2023

Name:	**Karen Worthy**, PhD, MPH, RN, CNE
Program:	Nursing
Term:	Spring 2017 – Spring 2023

10. **Fellowships and Scholarships Committee** (Scott White)

11. **Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (David Tedeschi)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Each curricular action can be viewed at this Public Agenda review site: https://sc.edu/programproposal/gradagenda/?id=20

At this Public Agenda link, the individual proposals are not live-linked, but agenda items are listed in alphabetical order. To view the full proposals, GC members and Committee Chairs still need to go to the Committee Review site, and filter for "Committees", then for the "Committee" called "Added to Grad Council agenda."

EPID 767 GIS and Public Health Applications (NCP) Fall 2017
ITEC 764 Project Management for Health Information, (NCP) Fall 2017
MGMT 750 Finance for Human Resource Professionals (NCP) Fall 2017
MGMT 780 Entrepreneurial Finance and the Dynamics of Emerging Ventures (NCP) Spring 2017
Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) (CCP) Fall 2018
Masters of Public Administration (CCP) Fall 2018
NURS 740 Facilitative Processes in Nursing Administration (CCP) Fall 2018
NURS 741 Coordinating Processes in Nursing Administration (CCP) Fall 2018
NURS 742 Integrative Processes in Nursing Administration (CCP) Fall 2018
RCON 725 Career Counseling Theories and the World of Work (NCP) Fall 2017
RCON 733 Medical Aspects of Rehabilitation (NCP) Fall 2017
RCON 734 Professional Issues in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (NCP) Fall 2017
RHAB 700 Rehabilitation Counseling (CCP) Fall 2018
RHAB 702 Introduction to Rehabilitation (CCP) Fall 2018
RHAB 704 Ethics in Rehabilitation Counseling (CCP) Fall 2018
RHAB 711 Rehabilitation Counseling Practice II (CCP) Fall 2018

RHAB 714 Rehabilitation Assessment (CCP) Fall 2018
RHAB 720 Group Counseling in Rehabilitation Settings (CCP) Fall 2018
RHAB 880 Counseling Practicum I (CCP) Fall 2018
RHAB 883 Counseling Internship (CCP) Fall 2018

12. **Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee** (Drucilla Barker)

> **Ed.S. in Teaching**, Terminate Program, Fall 2017
> **PhD in Early Childhood Education**, Terminate Program, Fall 2019
> **Foreign Language**, MAT (P-12 Certification) (CCP), Fall 2017

13. **Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee** (Maryah Fram)

14. **Other Committee Reports**

15. **Old Business**

16**. New Business**

17. **Good of the Order**

18. **Adjournment**

Academic Policy and Practices Attachment

PROPOSAL ON MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Academic practices and policies committee   **February 24ᵗʰ, 2017**

In October 2017, the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate School, Dr. Sheryl Addy, charged the APP Committee to "*Review, revise and develop policies relevant to the growth of academic partnerships with international institutions of higher education*" and to *"Develop template language to recommend for inclusion is MOUs with international institutions of higher education".* With the growth of our international graduate exchange and dual degree programs, it is important to maintain faculty oversight over program development, particularly with an eye on maintaining admissions criteria and standards. The committee has reviewed existing policies, evaluated existing MOUs with international partners, specifically those involving dual-degree programs, and has gained an initial impression of current procedures and practices pertaining to international graduate program approval.

Below, we list the sections in existing policies that are relevant to faculty oversight, Graduate School oversight, and admission criteria, with respect to international programs. We then discuss current practices and identify areas where new policy may need to be formulated, or where existing policy may need to be reinforced.

Existing policy on faculty oversight
The policies that are directly relevant to international program development and approval are ACAF 2.00 (Creation and Revision of Academic Programs) and ACAF 2.06 (International Academic Agreements). In addition, ACAF 2.05 (Consortial Academic Contracts and Agreements) is currently awaiting approval (as of 2/23), and available in draft version.

- Language on unit faculty involvement in program development and evaluation:
    - ACAF 2.00, section I.A.2 (Campus and unit oversight):
        - *"Within units, program leadership is responsible for ensuring that programs meet the academic expectations of the University and are assessed annually, including monitoring program offerings using specific delivery methods and/or locations."*
    - Throughout ACAF 2.00 it is implied that program development and changes are subject to approval by the 'academic unit', but it is not fully specified whether this means the unit head, or the unit faculty (by way of a faculty-meeting decision).
    - ACAF 2.00, section I.D.4 (Dual, Joint and Other Collaborative Degree Programs):
        - *"The proposal requires the approval of the faculty and leadership in both or all collaborating programs, and letters of concurrence from all University units in closely related disciplines."*
    - ACAF 2.05 (draft), section I.B.1:
        - *"College: All proposed or renewed agreements must be approved by the academic unit head(s), and the college or school dean(s)."*
- Language on involvement of Graduate Council:
    - ACAF 2.00, section I.B.2.ii
        - *"Program actions related to graduate programs including postbaccalaureate certificates must be reviewed and approved by the Graduate Council."*
        - 'Program actions' are defined as follows: "*This policy applies to program actions on all campuses including the creation and revision of degrees, majors, minors, undergraduate research tracks, academic certificates and concentrations. Following initial program approval, subsequent curriculum changes and revisions such as*

> > *changes in program delivery method or delivery location, or changes to the program name or program designator require additional review and approval."*
- o ACAF 2.05 (draft), section I.B.3.c:
  - ▪ *"Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School must approve consortial agreements pertaining to graduate degrees."*
- o The **absence of Graduate Council approval** is noted in ACAF 2.06, section I.C.4:
  - ▪ *"All new proposed or renewal agreements must be approved by the academic unit head(s), the dean(s), Global Carolina, the Provost's Office, and the Office of General Counsel."*
- Signatures required on International Agreement Request form (dated 6/26/2015: http://www.ip.sc.edu/images/docs/International_Agreement_Request_Form_6_26_15.pdf)
  - o Dept. Head ('if applicable')
  - o Dean
  - o International Programs
  - o Office of the Provost

To summarize, the role of 'unit program leadership' or 'unit heads' in program approval is specified in ACAF 2.00 and 2.05, as well as reflected in the Dept. head signature on program development forms, but it is not fully or consistently specified to what extent the unit faculty has a formal role in program approval. All 'program actions' (including the development of new programs or dual degrees) need to be approved by the Graduate Council, and all consortial agreements pertaining to graduate degrees are subject to approval by the Dean of the Graduate School. However, in the policy that deals directly with international programs (ACAF 2.06), the Graduate School/Council is not listed as one of the approving bodies.

Existing policy on admissions standards
Specific academic and language criteria for admissions are not listed in USC policy documents, and may naturally vary per unit. However, there is no 'exception policy' in place, so international students are required to meet the same academic admissions criteria as domestic students. The Graduate School does list general language requirements on their website, which may be raised (but not lowered) by individual programs.

- Language and academic criteria for international graduate programs
  - o ACAF 2.06, section I.D.2 (Additional criteria used to review programs involving students include):
    - ▪ *"the quality of the language instruction at the partnering institution;"*
    - ▪ *"the ability of students from partnering institutions to meet admissions requirements."*
  - o A template for graduate exchange programs (dated 3/1/2012: http://www.ip.sc.edu/international-agreements45/sample-agreements), lists the following educational requirements:
    - ▪ *"Each institution shall decide the criteria of admission and appropriate admission procedures."*
    - ▪ *"Partner students must meet the standard English Language requirements for overseas non-native speakers at the time of admission. A TOEFL score of 80 IBT (570 PBT) or a score of 6.5 on the IELTS is required by the Graduate School for South*

> *Carolina admission, individual programs may have higher requirements [Adjust South Carolina requirements as necessary to meet stated program requirements.] [Insert requirements for South Carolina students, e.g. foreign language proficiency]."*

- Graduate School website information on language criteria for international students (http://gradschool.sc.edu/prospective/int-student.asp):
  - *"An applicant whose native language is not English is required to submit a satisfactory score on TOEFL, IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam, or the PTE Academic. The minimum TOEFL is 80 Internet-based, or 570 paper-based. The minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5. The minimum acceptable score on PTE Academic is 53. Some programs may require higher scores."*

Current practice
We have met with Dr. Allen Miller, Vice Provost and Director of International Programs, and we have also first looked at the MOUs for the 12 existing Dual Degree programs that involve graduate students (out of the total of 34 active programs that involve grad students), to assess current practices for MOU development, as well as to assess the language used that refers to admissions criteria for international students. We put the following issues/findings before the GC, for initial discussion:

- Faculty oversight/approval
  - It is common practice for the VP and Director of International Programs to check with representatives from the Graduate School before grad student MOU approval, but this has not been formalized. It is noted that it would be counterproductive, and not efficient, to establish a post-negotiation check by the GS or GC, which would limit the ability of negotiators to do their work, and lead to a lot of extra bureaucracy and inefficiency. That means that Graduate School requirements need to be very clear beforehand, i.e., in the earliest stages of program development. It may be desirable to create a decision tree to show the steps and requirements for setting up new MOUs, with standard practices, as well as procedures for obtaining dispensation for specific requirements. We note that ACAF 2.06 does include the chronological steps for international program development and approval.
- Admissions criteria
  - In some cases, GRE score requirements have been waived. There may indeed appear to be valid reasons for waiving GRE score requirements for international students; they can be expensive or practically difficult to obtain in some countries.
  - TOEFL or IELTS score requirements currently differ slightly between programs (based on the MOUs we have reviewed), ranging from 80 to 100 and from 6.0 to 7.0, respectively. The currently existing template for graduate student exchanges mentions the regular admissions criteria for USC, and *"a TOEFL score of 80 IBT (570 PBT) or a score of 6.5 on the IELTS is required by the Graduate School for South Carolina admission"*. Standards can be higher for individual programs. It is noted that TOEFL and IELTS scores can be expensive to obtain, whereas for some countries, there are generally no problems with language levels.

PROPOSALS

1. Add language to ACAF 2.06, to include a unit-faculty-level approval of new and renewed international programs. This may be limited to 2.06, as it is specifically relevant to international programs, where faculty may be confronted with varying academic and language levels among students. This also implies that changes are made to less formal documents and websites that outline the procedures for international (graduate) program approval. On the relevant documents, unit heads will sign twice: once for their own approval, and once as a representative of the unit faculty, indicating faculty approval.
    *   ACAF 2.06, section I.C.4:
        "All new proposed or renewal agreements must be approved by the <u>academic unit faculty</u>, academic unit head(s), the dean(s), Global Carolina, the Provost's Office, and the Office of General Counsel."
    *   ACAF 2.06, section II.B.2.iii (new, so current iii becomes iv, etc.):
        "The draft or renewal agreement must be approved by the faculty of the unit, by majority vote."
    *   International Agreement Request Form
        Add signature:
        For unit faculty (Dept. Head or Dean): _____
2. Add language to ACAF 2.06, to include approval of new and renewed international programs that involve graduate students by the Dean of the Graduate School. This language is already in place in ACAF 2.00, and 2.05, but notably absent in 2.06, and also not current practice. The reason for not changing this to require approval by the Graduate Council is that such a procedure might be unnecessarily inefficient, as the GC only meets once a month and the check is likely to be a simple one, focused on compliance with Graduate School admissions standards.
    *   ACAF 2.06, section I.C.5 (new, so current 5 becomes 6):
        "<u>All new proposed or renewal agreements that include postbaccalaureate certificates must be reviewed and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.</u>"
3. Add language to ACAF 2.06, to clarify that programs involving international graduate students must maintain the existing program academic admissions criteria and adhere to Graduate School language criteria, unless a compelling argument can be given for waiving such criteria.
    *   ACAF 2.06, section I.D.1.f (new):
        "<u>Academic and language admissions criteria. For admission to programs that include postbaccalaureate certificates, international students must meet the language requirements set by the Graduate School, as well as meet the same academic criteria as domestic students. Deviations from these criteria may be argued for and approved in specific circumstances.</u>"

The committee feels that these changes to ACAF policy will help to safeguard admissions criteria for students that are part of international programs, while minimizing the added bureaucracy involved. Formalized faculty oversight and approval of international program development will ensure that practical concerns over academic and language criteria are heeded, and a formalized approval by the Graduate School will ensure that minimal academic and language criteria are met, or that reasonable arguments are provided for deviating from such standards in individual cases. At this point, we do NOT advocate the enforcement of strict criteria across the board, but rather the option for program developers to deviate from existing academic and language criteria, with arguments, and only if they have faculty approval for such changes.