



GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 26th, 2026

The Graduate Council met via Microsoft Teams on Monday, January 26th, 2026, at 2:00pm.

Graduate Council members present: Dr. Bill Hauk, Chair; Drs. Rachel Bush, John Doering-White, Ashley Gess, Daniel Kilpatrick, Kevin Lu, David Mott, Scott Parrott, Kirk Randazzo, Jill Stewart, Ari Streisfeld, Sanjib Sur, Sriram Venkataraman, Mike Wirth, Mark Yancey, and Arunav Das (GSA).

Graduate Council members absent: Drs. Lorie Donelle, Andrew Graciano, Carolyn Harmon, Terrance McAdoo (excused), Nick Watanabe, and Rachel Williams.

Graduate School Representatives: Dr. Lara L. Anderson, Dr. Lingyu (Lucy) Yu, Dr. Aaron Marterer, Dr. Matt Klopfenstein, Dale Moore, Kamirah Williams, and Wanda Barr.

Provost Office Representatives: Trena Houp and Dr. LaTrice Ratcliff-Small.

Guests: Dr. Beth Barnes (COMD), Harlan Smith (ISSS), Ed Short (Registrar's Office), and Renee Jenkins (Mechanical Engineering).

NOTE: These minutes will become final on February 23, 2026, if not challenged.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm, and the Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes from December 8, 2025. 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 December were unanimously approved.

3. Report of the Chair (Bill Hauk)

No report.

4. Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School (Lara Lomicka Anderson)

The Graduate School is offering several thesis and dissertation workshops starting the first week of February. Please encourage students who are working on a thesis or dissertation to attend. There will be discussions on formatting, submission policies, and accessibility. For more information, please see the attached flyer.

The application for graduation deadline for Spring is quickly approaching on March 13th. Please make sure that your eligible students get their applications submitted on time.

The Dean's Awards for Doctoral and Masters Achievement deadline is also quickly approaching by February 25th. One award of \$1,000 is given annually to a doctoral student who demonstrates overall excellence in research, teaching, and service. The service contributions can extend beyond campus. Dr. Matt Klopfenstein has been helpful in coordinating this. This year, we are partnering with Student Affairs to have the Dean's Awards for Doctoral Achievement and for the Masters' Achievement at the University. For more information, please see the attached.

Our Awards Day Ceremony is scheduled for April 14th; so, please keep in mind that the first-round nomination deadline for the Presidential Fellows is on Friday, January 30th. The second-round nomination deadline is Friday, March 6th.

A First-Generation Symposium will be held on Friday, March 27th, from 9am to 1:15pm at the University Conference Center, 8th Floor, Close-Hipp. You are encouraged to attend. For more information, please see the attached flyer.

5. Report of the Graduate Student Association (Arunav Das)

Mr. Das shared that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has been actively advancing their advocacy plan. One key initiative they have initiated is the healthy vending machine program for those students who have various food restrictions. This initiative is currently operating successfully in the Thomas Cooper Library, Strom, and the science building to support graduate student wellness.

GSA also recently completed a Cost-of-Living Survey, which was a significant success with participation from over 1,800 graduate students. The data collected will be used to strengthen their advocacy efforts, particularly in support of graduate increases and improved financial support.

The Graduate Student Association plans to host various events during this spring semester. They had their first cabinet and executive meetings on January 16, 2026, 5-6 PM at the Leadership and Service Center. The following events are scheduled:

- Elections: Last week of March
- Spring Events (Tentative List)
- Spring Social (Tentative date: Feb 13, Time: 4.00 PM – 6.00 PM)
- Center for Student Engagement Collaboration Event: February 17th, 5-7 PM
- Black Graduate Student Luncheon (Tentative date: Feb. 27)
- DC Advocacy Trip (1st week of March, Preparing topics, Funding, International student issues)
- Women's Luncheon (Tentative date: March 13)
- Leadership Summit Proposal (March 28)
- Graduate Appreciation Week (March 30-April 3: Suggestions welcomed)
- Headshot Event (Tentative date: April 10, Time: 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM)
- Spring Town Hall (Tentative date: April 16, Time: 4.00 PM – 5.30 PM)
- GSA Awards (during EOY celebration, for 3 students, sec awards for 3 students)

- End of semester celebration (April 24)

6. Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee (Kirk Randazzo)

No report.

7. Report of the 500/600 Level Courses (Trena Houp)

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

500/600 Courses for January 2026 Grad Council

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal). Total: 2

ENVR 501 (3) Topics in the Environment (CCP: Fall 2026)

GEOL 599 (1-3) Topics in Geology (CCP: Fall 2026)

Note: Both of these courses were inadvertently left off of the December agenda so approved as an exception to be included in the Fall 2026 Bulletin changes.

8. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Lingyu Yu)

None at this time.

9. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Daniel Kilpatrick)

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked Interim Dean Anderson for referencing the various awards for the Spring semester. Dr. Matt Klopfenstein added that they will continue to send out information about the different stages for the awards. They are still finalizing some details in terms of the scheduling of the award ceremony. The awards, recognitions, and criteria have not changed this year. The timing of some of these things might be a little different.

Dr. Klopfenstein followed up on the announcement about the Presidential Fellowship deadline for the first round of January 31st, he reminded everyone that if they had plans to nominate students for this award and you plan to nominate two students, both students must be nominated in the same round. The same applies to nominations for the second round which has a March 6th deadline.

10. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee (Beth Barnes for Andrew Graciano)

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 13

- **BIOS 772** (3) Artificial intelligence for Biomedical Data (NCP: Summer 2026)
- **COMD 713** (2) Neurophysiology and Motor Speech Disorders (CCP: Fall 2026) *
- **EDEX 730** (3) Direct Instruction in Reading for At-Risk Learners (CCP: Fall 2027)
- **EDEX 731** (3) Nature of Students with Multi-categorical Disabilities (CCP: Fall 2027)
- **EDEX 732** (3) Teaching Mathematics to Students at Risk (CCP: Fall 2027)
- **EDEX 733** (3) Instruction of Students with Multi-categorical Disabilities (CCP: Fall 2027)
- **EDEX 734** (3) School-Wide and Classroom-Based Behavioral Supports CCP: Fall 2027)
- **ENVR/MSCI 706** (3) Coastal Nature-Based Solutions (cross-listed as listed as MSCI 706) (NCP: Summer 2026)
- **ISCI 724** (3) Special Libraries (Course Inactivation: Fall 2026) *
- **ISCI 738** (3) Seminar in Technical Services (Course Inactivation: Fall 2026) *
- **ISCI 741** (3) Educational Services in Library and Information Organizations (Course Inactivation: Fall 2026) *

- **ISCI 743** (3) Health Information Retrieval in Electronic Environments (Course Inactivation: Fall 2026) *
- **SPTE 765** (3) Advanced Sales in Sport and Entertainment Management (CCP: Summer 2026 - Online Delivery Only)

***Requesting exemption to the bulletin freeze date because the courses were reviewed by the committee but inadvertently omitted from the December Agenda.**

These proposals were unanimously approved by Graduate Council.

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

Grade Change Grievance Petition Case review.

- Dr. Venkataraman moved for the Graduate Council to go into closed session.
- Upon returning to open session, the motion from the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee to support this student’s petition was unanimously approved.

The GAP Committee is still working on developing procedural framework for committee operation on handling submitted cases. There are currently no bylaws. They want to ensure that when the present committee members step down the next committee will have a clear direction of what they are tasked with. They hope to have a prepared document within the next few months for Graduate Council review.

12. Other Committee Reports

None.

13. Old Business

None.

14. New Business

- Dr. Beth Barnes was named as the new Chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee as Dr. Andrew Graciano had to step down due to other responsibilities.
- Mr. Harlan Smith, Director, Division of International Student and Scholar Support (ISSS), shared their International Student intake comparison from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026. numbers for the Spring semester.

Spring 2025 – TGS International Intake

Doctoral Admits w/Form I-120: 47

Doctoral Check-in: 32

Graduate Admits w/Form I-20: 42

Graduate Check-in: 17

Spring 2026 – TGS International

Doctoral Admits w/Form I-20: 43

Doctoral Check-in: 26

Graduate Admits w/Form I-20: 30

Graduate Check-in: 16

These numbers = Degree-seeking students w/o secondary program affiliation.

15. Good of the Order

Reminder Dates:

- January 30: Presidential Fellowship nomination process now open. [Presidential Fellowship website](#). The following nomination deadlines are as follows:
- Round 1: January 30
 - Round 2: March 6
- February 23: Next Graduate Council meeting on Monday, February 23rd at 2:00pm, Close Hipp, Room #583.
- March 31: Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Program (SREB) application deadline. [Doctoral Scholars Program](#) .

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29p.m.

Lara L. Anderson, Interim Dean

CC: Michael Amiridis, President
Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Provost
Lara L. Anderson, Interim Dean of the Graduate School
Deans
Department Chairs
Graduate Directors
Aaron Marterer, Interim Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education
Elaine Belesky, Office of the Registrar
Malia Kiehl, Office of the Registrar
Ed Short, Office of the Registrar

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Proposals in Queue

As of 1/20/2026

Proposals detailed below are currently in the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee queue and up for review and approval this academic term. If you have any questions regarding the information shared or a particular proposal, please reach out to Trena Houpp at thoupp@sc.edu.

1 new course

2 programs

Course

Course Title	Course Description
BMSC 704 Experimental Design, Data Management, and Analysis for Biomedical Research (new)	This course provides graduate students in biomedical sciences with applied training in experimental design, data management, and analysis within mentored research environments. Emphasizing rigor, reproducibility, and interpretability, it teaches students to design structured experiments, manage data transparently, and analyze results through realistic, literature-based, and practice-aligned research scenarios.

Programs

- **Journalism and Mass Communications, M.A.** dual degree with master's in Global Communication and Innovation Technology at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan (new dual degree)
- **Journalism and Mass Communications, M.M.C.** dual degree with master's in Global Communication and Innovation Technology at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan (new dual degree)

SPRING 2026 THESIS & DISSERTATION WORKSHOPS

Overview

This spring **it is crucial to attend a workshop** if you are working on a thesis or dissertation. To ensure full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the university is committed to making all digital content accessible by **April 2026**. This includes your thesis or dissertation.

Attend a workshop this semester to learn how you can ensure your thesis or dissertation meets **requirements** for digital accessibility while also adhering to the Graduate School's formatting requirements.

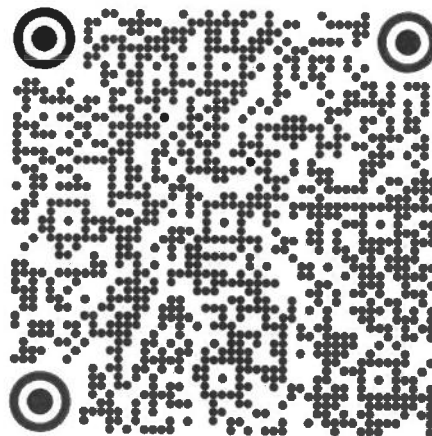
Dates, Times, and Locations

- **Monday, Feb. 2, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Close-Hipp 584**
- Thursday, Feb. 5, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., ONLINE (Zoom)
- Wednesday, Feb. 11, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., ONLINE (Zoom)
- **Thursday, Feb. 12, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., Close-Hipp 584**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 17, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Close-Hipp 584**
- Friday, Feb. 20, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., ONLINE (Zoom)
- Tuesday, Feb. 24, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., ONLINE (Zoom)
- **Friday, Feb. 27, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Close-Hipp 584**

Where to Register

To sign up for a workshop of your choice, visit the Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation Calendar. You can also **scan this QR code** to access the site.

Visit the university's own Digital Accessibility website to learn more.



Dean's Award for Doctoral Achievement

The Award

One award of \$1000 is given annually to one doctoral student who demonstrates overall excellence in research, teaching, and service. The service contributions can extend beyond campus.

Eligibility

Nominees must be enrolled in Spring 2026 and can be from any academic program. The committee will consider relevant activities conducted from May 2025 through the time of the application's submission.

Nominations

Graduate Directors must submit nomination packets as one PDF document to Matt Klopfenstein, klopfenm@mailbox.sc.edu. **Only one nomination per program is allowed.**

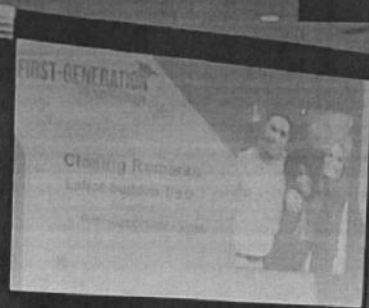
The package must include:

- One-page support letter from Graduate Director, advisor, or mentor
- One-page student statement
- Student CV or resume (2 pages maximum)

The committee will consider the following:

- Student's impact and accomplishments within research, teaching, and service
- The ability for the student to describe their significant accomplishments (one page)
- One-page support letter from the Graduate Director, advisor, or mentor
- CV or resume from the student (not to exceed two pages)

FIRST-GENERATION SYMPOSIUM 2026



Sonja Ardoin, PhD
Keynote Speaker

SCAN TO REGISTER



March 27, 2026

9:00 AM - 1:15 PM

**University Conference
Center (8th floor, Close-Hipp)**

Dr. Ardoin is an Associate Professor in the Higher Education and Student Affairs programs at Clemson University, with over 65 academic publications.

See more event details:

bit.ly/2026firstgensymposium

