







Associate/Assistant Graduate Deans Council Meeting  
December 09, 2025  
2:00-3:00 pm  
via Microsoft Teams  
Chair: Dean Lara Lomicka Anderson

Present on Teams: Lara Lomicka Anderson, Bill Hauk, Danny Jenkins, Matt Klopftenstein, Aaron Marterer, Dale Moore, Peter Moyi, Toriello Paul, Doug Pitman, Susan Rathbun-Grubb, Ben Roth, Stephen Shapiro, Jill Stewart, Tracey Weldon, Jack Turner, Lucy Yu, Kenneth Campbell, Michael Matthews, Robin Dawson

## Welcome and Opening Remarks – Dean Lara Lomicka Anderson

### Grad Launch (Grad 700) – Matt Klopftenstein

 Grad Launch Report (Fall 2025).ppt  
 Grad 700 Syllabus -SP 2026.docx  
 Grad Launch Faculty Flyer v2.pdf  
 Grad Launch Spring 2026 Flyer.pdf

- A pilot initiative meant to support a successful transition to graduate school – provide structured programming for new graduate students to address key needs identified by the Graduate Student needs Survey and campus partners
- **Goals:**
  - Orient new graduate students to the University of South Carolina and its resources.
  - Equip students with key cocurricular skills for success in graduate study and their future endeavors.
  - Improve student persistence by revealing the hidden curriculum of graduate education.
  - Help graduate students develop a sense of belonging within the larger university.
  - Identify outcomes by following cohorts longitudinally.
- **Format:**
  - A 7-week, 1 credit hour, part-of-term course
  - Co-instructor
  - Includes campus visits and guest presentations
  - Activities and assignments focus on reflection and planning.
- **Fall 2025 Inaugural Cohort Report:**
  - Pre- and post-course assessment data showed notable improvements in self-reported levels of confidence in key academic and professional skills, and campus connections and belonging.
- **Spring 2026**
  - Offering 2 sections: In-person and virtual
  - Target audience: new Spring cohorts, new students who deferred admission from Fall to Spring, and any first-year graduate student

## **International Credential Evaluation Clarification Document – Aaron Marterer**

- International academic credentials must be submitted with a course-by-course credential evaluation by a third-party credential evaluation service recognized by NACES.
- **Exemptions:**
  - Previously matriculated USC graduate students with international credentials on file.
  - International MOUs and Contracts (e.g., Shorelight, HBKU, ESSEC, etc.)
  - International Coursework Transferred to Domestic Institutions (including study abroad)
  - Qualifying Degree(s)
- **Spring/Summer 2026 Flexibility**
  - All applicants have been notified of the mandate – limited case-by-case flexibility for Spring and Summer 2026 applicants.
  - Beginning Fall 2026, no international student will be officially admitted without a completed international credential evaluation

## **Ad Hoc Data Warehouse Reports – Aaron Marterer**

### **Open Discussion - Aaron Marterer**

- **Federal Student Loans and Professional Programs - Jill Stewart**
  - Students have been sent admissions notices for Fall 2026 – accept or decline is due by 15 January 2026

**Next meeting of the AAGDC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026**