Summary of Important Actions by Graduate Council
2016

March 2016
- The grading scale for 970 research was changed from S and U to Honors/Pass/Fail.

April 2016
- A small First Year Curriculum Task Force was formed in February to revise the curriculum. The new design for the fall will involve three sequential core courses (4 days/week) as well as a course in experimental design and techniques (1 day/week). The spring semester courses are still being developed.
- The summer review course will no longer be offered. Instead, the college will provide a book for each student with a list of what must be reviewed during the summer to prepare for the curriculum.
- There will be 3 nine-week lab rotations.

May 2016
- The spring semester consist of three sequential 5-week courses during which students will have a choice of 2 courses, providing more chance for students to customize their coursework.
- There are new training grant requirements that require faculty to participate in how to be a mentor.
- Students and postdocs are permitted 6 weeks paid time off for mothers-to-be, 2 weeks for fathers and 3 weeks for either for an adoption. The NRSA now states all postdocs are to be treated the same.

July 2016
- Upon arrival to MUSC, students who transfer to MUSC with new faculty members, need to determine how many and which hours are accepted for credit to ensure they have enough credit hours when they are ready to graduate. One-third of the total hours at graduation are required to be from MUSC. This determination should be made with the assistance of their graduate coordinator. Dr. Traktman will ask Ms. Weise to write a guideline for determining how many and which hours are to be transferred.
- The comprehensive qualifying exam will be submitted in F31 format by April 15 and defend by June of the 2nd year. Failure to do so will result in an unsatisfactory grade for research 970.

August 2016
- A new grading scale was approved for the college. The scale will not be used for the MSMS program or for biostatistics and epidemiology courses.
- Faculty exposure program has been revised to include 3 sessions prior to each lab rotation. A lunch with the students and the coordinators will be held during orientation. There will be 4 poster sessions with 13 faculty participating in each in August and September. Lunches with 3-4 faculty members will be scheduled in
October and the first part of November, in preparation of the second rotation and in January and beginning of February for the third rotation. Poster sessions will be assigned in alphabetical order.

- A First Year Mentoring Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Wright, was formed to help shepherd students through the first year to advise, listen to problems and help them identify a lab/mentor.
- Students must submit 1 copy of dissertation/thesis and submit to Index Medica as the digital version is phased out after 10 years, but the paper copy is kept forever. Dr. Traktman agreed that the College will have the paper available in the college’s office and the students may utilize one of the College’s printers in order to print in a timely manner.

**November 2016**

- End of rotation presentation format has been revised. Students will be randomly assigned to participate in one of three formats of post-rotation wrap up.
- The spring semester curriculum has been revised. The “committed” first year neuroscience students will start taking neuroscience courses. The rest of the first year students will take the spring curriculum. Students will enroll in CGS 772 (Learning from the Literature) and CGS 770 (Principles, Practices and Professionalism) and also enroll in three consecutive mini-courses. The mini-courses are also 2 credit-hours.
- Turn It In plagiarism software will be available in January.

**December 2016**

- Council approved the following minimum program requirements for all programs, exceptions noted.
  - Qualifying exam timing: it was agreed the deadline will be the last month for June of year 2, with the exception of Neurosciences and Public Health Sciences.
  - Qualifying written exam format: agreed to be different and at the department/program’s discretion.
  - Dissertation proposal timing: agreed to be submitted by April 15 and defended by June.
  - Dissertation proposal format: agreed in past to F31 format and introductory literature review. After discussion, it was agreed that in this table, “dissertation proposal” would be replace by “admissions to candidacy exam.”
  - Requirement for publication varies between programs. It was agreed that the minimum expectation should be at least 1 first author peer-reviewed research article accepted for publication by dissertation defense.