

UNCORRECTED

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
The University of Alabama
April 26, 2016

The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 in 110 AIME Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jason Bara, Dr. Andrew Billings, Dr. Joy Burnham, Dr. Ibrahim Cemen, Dr. Julia A. Cherry, Dr. Linda P. Cummins, Dr. Lisa Davis, Dr. Andrew Graettinger, Dr. Ann Graves, Dr. Maria Hernandez-Reif, Dr. Laura M. Hopson, Dr. Burcu Keskin, Dr. Seongsin Kim, Dr. Linda Knol, Dr. Alice March, Prof. Sarah Marshall, Dr. Jeff Martin, Dr. Douglas McKnight, Dr. Mary Meares, Dr. Sharif Melouk, Dr. John Petrovic, Dr. Daniel L. Riches, Dr. Karen Salekin, Dr. John Vincent.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Daniel Avery, Dr. Alexandra Cook, Dr. Thomas Fitzgibbon, Dr. Ion Stancu, Dr. Sara Tomek.

EX-OFFICIOMEMBERS: Dr. Martin Evans
Dr. Donald Gilstrap

GRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Dr. David Francko, Dean
Dr. Andrew Goodliffe, Assistant Dean
Dr. Cathy Pagani, Associate Dean
Mrs. Beth Yarbrough, Registrar
Mr. Eric Harris, Assistant Registrar

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S): Ms. Jean Swindle

I. Approval of Minutes of the February 23, 2016 meeting

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

A. Fellowships and Scholarships (Dr. Julia Cherry, Chair)

Dr. Andy Goodliffe spoke on behalf of Chair Julia Cherry. Summarized where GCF are - Round #1 45 nominations/31 offers/20 accepted - better than last year, Round #2 (current students) 50 nominations/20 offers/20 accepted, Round #3 50 nominations /31 offers/15 accepted. Increasing acceptance rates are a positive trend. A trend of decreasing numbers of nominations from departments is disturbing. Round #4 numbers are not in yet. However, there were 47 nominations, 29 offers, and 14 acceptances so far. It is projected that there will be 20 acceptances. The deadline is May 2nd. Dean Francko thanked those for their hard work and reiterated that more and more students are accepting Graduate Council Fellowships.

B. Program and Degree Requirements Committee with Research and New Programs Committee (Dr. Daniel Riches, Chair)

Dr. Cathy Pagani expressed what an excellent job has been done on a record number of new proposals, thanked everyone. Dr. Riches introduced each proposal and thank all involved for their time. Below are descriptions of each proposal and vote. (See attachments for specific information)

- i. First Proposal – MA in Religion in Culture; Yea 24, Nay 0, Abstain 0
- ii. Second Proposal – PhD in Geography; Yea 23, Nay 1, Abstain 0
- iii. Third Proposal – Juris Master’s in Taxation; Yea 24, Nay 0, Abstain 0
- iv. Fourth Proposal – Certificate in Museum Studies; Yea 24, Nay 0, Abstain 0
- v. Fifth Proposal – Post Graduate Certificate Nurse Practitioner in Mental Health for Rural Populations; Yea 24, Nay 0, Abstain 0

- vi. Sixth Proposal - Post Graduate Certificate Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care for Rural Populations; Yea 24, Nay 0, Abstain 0
- vii. Seventh Proposal – Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Primary Care for Rural Populations; Yea 24, Nay 0, Abstain 0

Dr. Alice March expressed her gratitude to the committee for all of their help in the program proposal process.

III. Reports from the Dean’s Office and Academic Affairs

- A. Dr. Andy Goodliffe summarized where the Graduate School currently stands on fellowships. McNair Graduate Fellowship has seen 28 nominations, 8 offers made, and 5 acceptances. The Graduate School is well positioned on scholarship monies, including available funds should any well-qualified students warrant the need, come late summer. Dr. Goodliffe then solicited questions about the fellowship process. No questions were asked. Dr. Julia Cherry joined Dr. Goodliffe in encouraging all departments to nominate students for fellowships.
- B. Dr. Goodliffe announced the creation of the David A. Francko Graduate Council Fellowship - \$25K/year – for one top ranked nominee selected from round one of the GCF competition – typically the most competitive round - each academic year. This award can be supplemented through a Fellowships Enhancement Partnership, potentially adding another \$8000 for years one and two for a Doctoral student. The award is good for five years of graduate study. To make it official, the Graduate Council passed the motion – offered by Dr. Daniel Riches - by unanimous vote. Dean David Francko thanked everyone for the gracious “parting gift”.

- C. Dr. Cathy Pagani reminded the council to anticipate more forthcoming proposals. We have a number of concentrations that are on websites, that are not ACHE-approved, and some concentrations that are listed in various places but not actually offered any longer. The goal is to a “global send all” to ACHE so that records are more in-line with college and departmental realities.
- D. Dr. Pagani announced the development of a “Syllabus Construction task force” as of last year. The online syllabus management system is not matching the wording of what some faculty handbooks contain. The Distance Education syllabi needs more work done. If attention is not given to this issue, it can lead to larger question regarding policies, etc. This summer will see the first efforts at reconciling these sorts of discrepancies. Dr. Pagani asked the council for questions and can take them via email. Dr. John Petrovic asked if this solves an older problem of other syllabi incongruences and if forthcoming syllabi templates will be “college-specific”. Professor Sarah Marshall asked whether this will involve multiple LSMs. Dr. Pagani gave the example of a plethora of “severe weather” statements that currently exist in syllabi campus wide. This issue has resulted from the lack of ongoing clean up.
- E. Dr. David Francko announced that the maximum number of awards have been given with the available funds on hand. He thanked those involved for the work done on the Research and Travel Grant Program. As of April, a record for number of students that were funded (for the tenth year in a row). Estimate that by the end of the year, more than \$700K in funding has supported 1,100 plus students. Dr. Francko gave a brief update on the ongoing Graduate School Dean search – four candidates are still in the

running with a final decision imminent.

IV. Old Business

There was no old business.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

There being no further business, Dean Francko adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.