

Graduate Council Minutes

The University of Alabama

April 24, 2018

The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held in Room 3700 (Ferguson Forum) of the Ferguson Student Center on Tuesday, the 24th day of April at 3:00pm

Members Present:

Dr. Janie Hubbard
Dr. Daniel Riches
Dr. Brenda Smith
Dr. Lisa Davis
Dr. Linda Knol
Dr. Alexandra Cook
Dr. Debra Whisenant
Dr. Daniel Avery
Dr. Vivian Wright by proxy
Dr. Albert Pionke
Dr. Jeffrey Lozier
Dr. Bill Evans

Dr. Dawn Williams
Dr. Mesut Yavuz
Dr. Sharif Melouk
Dr. Andrew Graettinger
Dr. Mary Meares
Dr. Joy Burnham
Dr. Tom Baker
Dr. Ajay Agrawal
Dr. John Blitz
Dr. Angelia Paschal
Dr. Karri Holley
Dr. Amy Lang

Members Absent:

Dr. Karen Salekin
Dr. Sara Tomek

Graduate School Representatives Present:

Dr. Cathy Pagani
Dr. Andrew Goodliffe
Mrs. Beth Yarbrough

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Dr. Kevin Whitaker, Executive Vice President and Provost
Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost

I. Welcome and Introduction

- a. The Graduate Council was welcomed to the meeting, and the previous meeting's minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

a. Admissions and Recruitment: Dr. Andrew Graettinger, Chair

i. Advertising and Public Relations

1. Admission test score waiver for AMP
 - a. Would waive the test score requirement if student has a GPA of 3.75 in major classes
 - b. Proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.
2. Revised AMP proposal
 - a. Albert Pionke raised a question regarding a potential FERPA violation to list student names, CWID, GPA on a public document
 - b. Andrew Goodliffe stated that, yes, it would be a FERPA violation, so the students' information would be redacted on the published document.
 - c. Proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.

ii. Physics and Astronomy

1. Proposal to waive the GRE requirement for participants in the Physics and Astronomy AMP.
 - a. Students in the AMP are already required to have a GPA of 3.75, which is a better indicator of graduate success, so the department would like to waive the requirement.
 - b. Proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.
2. Proposal for a Revised Physics and Astronomy AMP
 - a. In the revised program, there will be twelve double counted hours, which is below the max allowable fifteen double counted hours.
 - b. It was asked if the change would be immediately published. Andrew Goodlife stated that as soon as the revision is approved, the change will be made in the graduate catalogue. These changes will be made available to the public.
 - c. Proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.

iii. Consumer Science

1. Renewal of the GRE requirement waiver for the AMP in Consumer Science

- a. Waivers are on a four-year cycle so that departments can demonstrate that the waiver is not affecting department performance.
- b. Albert Pionke brought to attention another possible FERPA violation. It was determined that, like the other situation, the students' names would be redacted.
- c. Proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.

iv. Proposal to Modify Admissions Requirements

- 1. Modification would allow for AMP and pathway (3+2) programs
- 2. It will allow students to take graduate courses as undergraduate students
- 3. It was stated that this proposal will have to go to the Board of Trustees for final approval
- 4. Proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.

b. Fellowships and Scholarships: Dr. Albert Pionke, Chair

- i. Acceptance rate of GCF and McNair fellowships in round 4 decreased dramatically compared to previous years.
 - 1. Overall acceptance rate of the fellowships has decreased over the past five years.
 - a. One thought is to increase the stipend amount, making the fellowships more competitive.
 - b. Brenda Smith inquired whether it would also be in discussion to increase the time for the scholarship enhancement program. Andrew Goodliffe stated that it would be in discussion, and that the Graduate School would be seeking input from the departments.
 - c. Susan Carvalho state that the Graduate School will be looking at the GPAs and performance of students that accept to see if the quality of students that are accepting the fellowships is dropping.
 - d. Pionke stated the every student that was offered a fellowship to was an exceptional student.

c. Teaching, Research, and Service Awards: Vivian Wright, Chair

- i. Cathy Pagani stated that the committee has been discussing that the awards are not highlighting the fascinating research happening in non-dissertation programs. It is difficult for a student in a program that does not require a dissertation to compete in the same way.
 - 1. The committee would like to add two new awards for this reason.
 - a. Outstanding applied research
 - b. Outstanding creative research

- c. Albert Pionke raised the concern that having a more focused award is essentially creating a small pool for an equivalent award. He believed that it would not be as rigorous as the broader awards. He stated that the proposal would be more convincing to him if it had numbers with it.
- d. It was stated that there would be situations in which STEM students could qualify for some of these awards, and the wording of the award should seek to make that clear.
- e. There was a motion to send the proposal back to committee for rewording. Cathy Pagani asked the council members to get in touch with her if they have any ideas regarding the proposed award. Motion carried unanimously

d. Program and Degree Requirements, Research and New Programs: Dr.

Daniel Riches, Chair

- i. NISP Sports leadership MS HES
- ii. NISP hospitality managements MS HES
 - 1. There was a vote, and both proposals were approved unanimously.
- iii. Initial proposal, Business analytics MS CB
 - 1. It was stated that this would require modest new resources, but it would be a much-needed program.
 - 2. There was a vote, and the proposal was approved unanimously.
- iv. Concentrations
 - 1. Concentrations in Theatre MFA
 - a. Acting
 - b. Arts Management
 - c. Directing
 - d. Stage Management
 - e. Costume Design and Production
 - f. Design and Technical Production
 - g. It was reaffirmed that these are not free-standing programs, just concentrations.
 - h. Albert Pionke asked if a concentration in one degree program precludes another program from having a very similarly named concentration?
 - i. Kevin Whitaker stated that concentrations will never stand alone because they will always be an extension of a degree program.
 - i. Proposed list was voted on and approved unanimously

2. Concentrations in Advertising and Public Relations (MA)
 - a. Media Strategy
 - b. Advertising Creative
 - i. There was some discussion about the name of the concentration, but the council was assured that “Advertising Creative” was an industry term.
 - c. Proposed concentrations were put to a vote and were approved unanimously.
3. Concentrations in Communication and Information Sciences PhD
 - a. Social Justice and Inclusion Advocacy
 - b. Applied Communication
 - c. Book and Publishing Studies
 - d. Interpersonal Communication
 - e. Media Processes and Effects
 - f. Rhetoric and Political Discourse
 - g. Proposed concentrations were put to a vote and were approved unanimously.
- v. Changing CIP code for Communication and Information Sciences PhD
 1. Change from 09.0102 to 09.0199
 2. These are national classification for graduate programs.
 3. This change would make the CIP code more accurately reflect the program.
 4. There was a vote, and the change was approved unanimously.
- vi. Revision to Art history MA (joint with UAB)
 1. There was a vote, and the revision was approved unanimously.

III. Reports from the Dean’s Office

- a. Admissions and Enrollments Report, Dr. Andrew Goodliffe
 - i. The biggest change the Graduate School needs to see right now is more completed applications—a lot of applications are being left incomplete. Having more complete would help with selectivity.
 - ii. Recruitment strategy is incredibly important.
- b. Publisher in Residence Program, Dr. Cathy Pagani
 - i. Cathy Pagani did a recap of the program, stating that it has been well-received by students, faculty, and Mr. George Thompson.
 - ii. She stated that the Dean’s Office is going to be more hands-on in getting the word out about Publisher in Residence—many students still had no idea what it was.
- c. Elections and Appointments, Dr. Susan Carvalho

- i. Elections and appointments for new Graduate Councilmembers are going on now.
- ii. Increasing size of Graduate Council and Creating New Committee
 1. Daniel Riches stated that his department has always been frustrated that are not able to give +/- grades, and asked if that could be something that the new committee will look into. Susan Carvalho said that it could.
 2. Andrew Graettinger asked who will be on the new committee. Susan Carvalho stated that there will be a survey going around for members to list their committee preferences.
 3. Proposing batch renewals of graduate faculty.

IV. **Adjournment**

- a. There was a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:31pm.
- b. Susan Carvalho thanked the members for coming, and said she looked forward to next year's meetings.