

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

The University of Alabama

April 24, 2017

The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017 in 110

AIME Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Thomas Baker	Dr. Amy Lang
Dr. Joy Burnham	Dr. Linda Knol
Dr. Ibrahim Çemen	Dr. Amy Lang
Dr. Julia Cherry	Dr. Douglas McKnight
Dr. Alexandra Cook	Dr. Mary Meares
Dr. Mary Alice "Lisa" Davis	Dr. Sharif Melouk
Dr. William Evans	Dr. Angelia Paschal
Dr. Andrew Graettinger	Dr. John Petrovic
Dr. Ann Graves	Dr. Albert Pionke
-Proxy for Dr. Alice March	Dr. Daniel Riches
Dr. Laura Hopson	Dr. Sara Tomek
Dr. Burcu Keskin	Dr. Vivian Wright
Dr. Linda Knol	Dr. Karen Salekin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Daniel Avery
Dr. Seongsin Kim
Professor Sarah Marshall
Dr. Jeffrey Martin
Dr. Debra Whisenant
Dr. Dawn Williams

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Dr. Janie Hubbard
Dr. Donald Gilstrap

GRADUATE SCHOOL	Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean Dr. Cathy Pagani, Associate Dean
REPRESENTATIVES	Dr. Andrew Goodliffe, Assistant Dean
PRESENT:	Mr. Eric Harris, Assistant Registrar
STUDENT	
REPRESENTATIVE(S):	Ms. Shelby Brooks Ms. Caroline Ballentrae
GUEST(S):	None present

I. Approval of Minutes of the February 28, 2017 meeting

Dean Carvalho motioned that the February 28, 2017 minutes be approved—The motion carried.

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

A. Admission and Recruitment Committee (Dr. Andrew Graettinger, Chair)

- i. Proposal to change the number of allowable dual credit hours from 6 to 12 hours for AMP Aerospace Engineering students. (Maximum allowable dual credit hours under AMP parameters is 15)—Motion to approve carried unanimously.

B. Fellowship & Scholarship Committee (Dr. Julia Cherry, Chair)

Dr. Cherry reviewed nominations data

- i. An update on current numbers of nominations, offers, and acceptances for Rounds 3 and 4 of the Graduate Council Fellowship nominating process. Committee is recommending moving the deadline for Round 4 up (due by end of fall semester). Late offers from departments are a concern.

C. Teaching, Research and Service Award Committee –(Dr. Burcu Keskin, Chair)

- i. In Fall 2017, Dr. Burcu Keskin will present on awards including plans to incorporate graduate students not currently represented. Other categories may be introduced that would bring in students from Nursing, Social Work, among others.

D. Program and Degree Committee or Research and New Programs (Dr. Daniel Riches, Chair)

Dr. Daniel Riches presented four NISPs

- i. First proposal – NISP for MFA in Dance
- ii. Second proposal - professional Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) – practice oriented degree not currently offered and not competing with current Ph. D. in Social Work. There would be no competition from other in-state institutions. The proposal responds to a growing trend for increased practice-based doctoral level degrees for practitioners of Social Work working in the fields of substance abuse and mental health. One clarification was asked for: to distinguish how the DSW would differ in practical terms, from the PhD in Social Work (already offered). Students in the DSW would be licensed and eventually employed in clinical health settings, as opposed to research-based positions. Motion to approve carried unanimously.
- iii. Third proposal - MS in Population Health Sciences proposal—high public need to provide continuing training, especially for rural areas. UAB is supporting. The closest Universities offering similar programs are Johns Hopkins University and the University of Texas. Degree title being confused with MPH has been looked at

but deemed not to be an issue. The degree name is consistent with what other national programs are labeling it. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

- iv. Fourth proposal - PhD in Human Nutrition. Due to recent changes in accreditation rules, the Department of Human Nutrition sees this as an opportune time to launch a doctoral program. Future graduates will be able to teach the ever growing number of MA students in Human Nutrition. Would require some shifting of resources, in particular some graduate assistant lines. Some GA lines from the MHS would be reallocated to the PhD program. This is made possible due to more online students in the master's program and on-campus students. PhD students will be on campus only. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

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

A. Associate Dean Dr. Cathy Pagani

- i. A task force has been formed to review Graduate Catalog/policy on doctoral residency rules. One question was raised concerning the number of rejected candidacies due to the complexities and sometimes misunderstood Alternate Residency guidelines. The nature of doctoral residency is evolving and needs to be rearticulated. Dean Carvalho explained that we need to know what the objectives are and then propose new configurations to address those objectives. In some cases students work on campus, but enroll in fewer than nine coursework hours. The task force will look at national benchmarks as they are a part of the conversation. More discussion forthcoming.

- ii. A Publisher in Residence (George Thompson) will be on board with the Graduate School in mid-September to provide professional development opportunities and assist graduate students with publishing manuscripts. Open to groups in all fields.

B. Assistant Dean Dr. Andrew Goodliffe

Dr. Goodliffe presented admissions applications and enrollment data

- i. Currently the Graduate School is down on International Applications—in line with national trends. Over a five year span, both HES and CIS are doing well while other colleges are facing decreases in applications and enrollment.

C. Dean Susan Carvalho

Dean Susan Carvalho discussed International Recruiting Fairs

- i. Dean Carvalho discussed the recent recruiting trip to India with Mrs. Jan Jones (CB&A) and Dr. Marco Bonizzoni (Chemistry). Seven cities were visited in ten days. UA was the only school on the trip with an engineering college. Trips to India and China are forthcoming in September and October of 2017, respectively.
- ii. Funding for student travel to conferences is insufficient and does not allow for travel to locations outside of the southeastern region (\$500 domestic and \$800 international). A review and reform of funds allocation is necessary (leveraging with departments), along with tracking of the success – return on

investment - of such funds. One student concern is that department-based funding can lead to instances of favoritism. Favoritism is a significantly smaller issue if funds allocation is handled by the Graduate School. More information will be forthcoming.

IV. Reports from Standing University Committees

There were no standing committee reports.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

GSA President Ms. Shelby Brooks and Ms. Caroline Ballantrae discussed their pledge to help implement parts of the overall Strategic Plan. Three major surveys were conducted that identified five areas of opportunity. 1) Advocacy and Representation, 2) Recruitment and Retention, 3) Research Support, 4) Academic Development Workshops, 5) Community and Wellness. Need to determine how best to broaden the scope of these areas. A show of hands was requested from the council on the value/importance of each area presented. GSA is requesting \$25K above the already existing \$30K allotment in order to fund all of the five initiatives, with full accountability of funds rather than going through the Student Government Association (SGA).

There being no further business, Dean Carvalho adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.