

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
The University of Alabama
November 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held in Ferguson Forum #3700 of the Ferguson Student Center on Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 at 3:00 pm.

Members Present:

Dr. Kristi Acker	Dr. Steven MacCall
Dr. Ajay Agrawal	Dr. Carmen Mayer
Dr. Arthur Allaway	Dr. Sharif Melouk
Dr. Susan Appel	Dr. Raheem Paxton
Dr. Marco Bonizzoni	Dr. John Petrovic (Alternate)
Dr. Joy Burnham	Dr. Joshua Pierce
Dr. Heather Carmack	Dr. Daniel Riches
Dr. Katherine Chiou	Dr. Cecil Robinson
Dr. Lucy Curzon	Dr. Jenny Shaw
Dr. Bill Evans	Dr. Steve Shepard
Dr. Peter Harms	Dr. Merinda Simmons
Dr. Janie Hubbard	Dr. Brenda Smith
Dr. Paul Hubner	Dr. Wei Song
Dr. Sebrena Jackson	Dr. Amanda Thompson
Dr. Linda Knol	Dr. Jeff Weddle (Alternate)
Dr. Aaron Kuntz	Dr. Mesut Yavuz
Dr. Deidre Leaver-Dunn	
Dr. Jeffrey Lozier	

Members Absent:

Dr. Kenon Brown	Dr. Tom Fitzgibbon
Dr. Jeffery Carver	Dr. Karri Holley
Dr. Mary Alice Davis	Dr. Kagendo Mutua

Ex-officio Members Present:

Dr. Robert Gaines
Dr. Donald Gilstrap

Ex-officio Members Absent:

Dr. Robert Hayes
Dr. Kevin Whitaker

Graduate School Representatives:

Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean
Dr. Andrew Goodliffe, Associate Dean
Dr. Cathy Pagani, Associate Dean
Ms. Lesley Campbell, Director of Recruitment
Ms. Deborah Wakefield, Office Associate
Ms. Beth Yarbrough, Registrar

Guests:

Dr. Virginia Bishop
Dr. Don Chaney
Dr. Carmen Jones
Ms. Laura Hendley
Dr. Elizabeth Hibberd
Dr. Christopher Lynn
Dr. Lisa Matherson
Dr. Angelia Paschal
Dr. Bill Wallace

I. Welcome and Introduction

Approval of Minutes from 9/10/19 Meeting. Minutes approved.

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

A. Admissions & Recruitment: Dr. Steve Shepard, Chair

1. AMP proposal for admission test score waiver for Chemistry MS
The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry proposes to waive the admission test score requirement for AMP students. Motion for approval carried.
2. Lanzhou University student proposal for waiver of admission test score for students participating in Lanzhou/UA 3+2 program Chemistry MS program
UA has a 3+2 agreement with Lanzhou University. This allows students to receive a Bachelor's degree from Lanzhou (which includes the first year of the Master's degree at UA) and a Master's degree from UA. The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry proposes to waive the GRE requirement for these students. Motion for approval carried.
3. Advertising and Public Relations proposal for admission test score waiver MA program
The Department of Advertising and Public Relations proposes that they waive the admission test score requirement and replace it with a three minute video that applicants submit which explains how a graduate degree in Advertising and Public Relations would help address a key issue in the contemporary practice of Advertising and Public Relations. Motion for approval carried.
4. Proposal for admission test score waiver for the Anthropology MA program
The Department of Anthropology proposes that the admission test score requirement be waived for MA students. Motion for approval carried.
5. Proposal for admission test score waiver for the French AMP
The Department of Modern Languages and Classics proposes a waiver of the admission test score requirement for AMP applicants. Applicants will need to demonstrate intellectual and scholastic maturity or submit a 10 page writing sample in French. Dean Carvalho emphasized that we require clear guidelines that ensure equal and fair treatment of all applicants. Motion for approval carried.
6. Proposal for a Spanish AMP
The Department of Modern Languages and Classics proposes an AMP which combines the BA in Spanish with the MA in Romance Languages – Spanish. This will bring Spanish in line with the the French and German MA programs which already an AMP. Motion for approval carried.
7. Proposal for admission test score waiver for the Spanish AMP

The Department of Modern Languages and Classics proposes to waive the admission test score requirement for AMP students participating in the Spanish AMP. Motion for approval carried.

8. Proposal for admission test score waiver for the Population Health Science MS program
The College of Community Health Sciences proposes an admission test score waiver for applicants to the Population Health Sciences MA with a GPA of 3.0 or greater. Motion for approval carried.
9. Proposal for admission test score waiver for the master's program in Library and Information Science
The School of Library and Information Studies proposes an admission test score waiver for all applicants to the Master of Library and Information Studies program. Motion for approval carried.
10. "Pathway to UA" proposal
Graduate School, the English Language Institute (ELI), Capstone International, and International Student and Scholar Services are proposing the "Graduate Pathway to UA" program. This program would allow international students who do not meet our English language test requirements for regular admission to take classes in their degree program and English Language Institute courses at the same time. The students do not have to take an admission test score (e.g. GRE, MAT, GMAT) to be considered for admission. Once admitted, students who do not earn an overall GPA of 3.0 in their graduate classes on completion of ELI classes will not be permitted to continue at UA.

Special guest Dr. Bill Wallace, Director of the English Language Institute, offered commentary and answered questions about this proposal. Dean Carvalho and Dr. Goodliffe explained the concept of the program further. Academic programs would choose whether or not to opt in. This is a type of conditional admission that would expand opportunities for the international market. These programs are very prevalent at the undergraduate level and are becoming increasingly more so at the graduate level. Dean Carvalho emphasized that this is not open admission and we can still select students based on potential for success.

Motion for approval carried.

B. Graduate Academic Policy: Dr. Aaron Kuntz, Chair

1. Policy on Virtual Participation

Guidelines for virtual participation in Master's and Doctoral oral exams.

All members of a student's graduate committee are expected to attend and participate, usually in person, in any oral examination as part of the student's graduate (Master's or Doctoral) degree program. Traditionally, oral examinations involve in-person meetings between the student and the committee, while gathered in one physical location on campus. However, the need occasionally arises for virtual participation in the oral examination. Graduate programs must ensure adherence to the following policies if any graduate-level oral examination involving the student's entire thesis/dissertation committee includes virtual participation.

- The student's consent must be sought and obtained in advance of conducting the oral examination with virtual participants.
- Virtual participation by committee members *must* include both audio and visual capability so that:

- o each committee member can hear the student and view the student, any presentation slides, and any demonstrations;
- o the student can hear and view each committee member.
- All committee members must participate interactively and in real-time for the *entire* examination, including any preparatory discussion leading up to it, the presentation itself, its discussion and evaluation.

The guidelines also specify at what point Graduate School permission is required, for virtual participation in these exams.

Motion for approval carried.

2. Upcoming issues the committee will be discussing:

- 48-hour coursework requirement for doctoral degrees
- +/- grades for graduate level courses
- Credit expiration including grade forgiveness
- Who can chair final projects of practice doctorates?
- Can research scientists obtain Full Graduate Faculty status?

Input from Senate representative Dr. Gaines - There needs to be closer conversation between the Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council on these matters.

C. Teaching, Research & Service Awards: Dr. Amanda Thompson, Chair

There is a November 15th deadline for the Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation awards, which are reviewed by emeritus faculty. The other awards are Outstanding Research for Master's and Doctoral students, Outstanding Teaching for Master's and Doctoral Students, and Outstanding Service by a Graduate Student. Please nominate students. The deadline is January 10th, and there is a cash prize of over \$1000 for each award. There will be an April reception for all nominees.

D. Graduate Curriculum Committee: Dr. Daniel Riches, Chair

1. Dual degree programs MA/MPH and PhD/MPH in Biocultural Health Promotion (Anthropology and Public Health)

All degree requirements and admission requirements from both sides are the same. No new resources are needed. Overlap between the two degrees mean that students can earn both in a timely fashion. Motion for approval carried.

2. MS in Athletic Training

A Master's degree is now considered entry-level degree nationally for Athletic Training. This is a resource-neutral proposal that involves no new hiring. Motion for approval carried.

3. Concentrations in the MA in Secondary Education

English Language Arts
 General Science
 General Social Sciences
 Mathematics

These concentrations are resource neutral, and all courses are already offered. Motion for approval carried.

4. CHES for Article-Style Dissertations for PhD in Human Nutrition

This is an information item to update the council that CHES is now allowing Article-Style Dissertations for the PhD in Human Nutrition.

E. Fellowships and Scholarships: Report by Dr. Jeff Lozier, Chair

The committee met to discuss Graduate Council Fellowships (GCF), the National Alumni Association (NAA) fellowships, and the McNair Graduate Fellowships (MGF). The deadline for current students (December 12) is fast approaching. There will be announcements for subsequent deadlines that follow. The Graduate Council has now raised the stipends from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year for all fellowships. Although the budget for GCF awards was increased to allow the same number of awards as in prior years, this is not the case for the MGF and NAA budget. The number of fellowships that will be awarded for the MGF and NAA fellowship will therefore decrease. The council was reminded that there is a Fellowship Enhancement Partnership (FEP) match for the GCF. The FEP has been reduced from \$4000 to \$2000, but is now paid over four years rather than two.

Dr. Lozier presented the new Capstone GCFs which have a \$20,000 stipend for three years if matched by two years of matching assistantships from departments (GCF in years 1, 3, and 5, departmental assistantships in years 2 and 4). These new fellowships are eligible for additional FEP support from departments. Master's students can receive these fellowships as well but for only two years. There is still one annual Francko fellowship that includes a yearly \$25,000 stipend for five years.

Dr. Goodliffe emphasized that this now makes UA more competitive with other schools, and we should continue to see an increase in students accepting these fellowships. More information about the fellowships can be found in the flyer in the packet for this meeting.

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

A. Dr. Andrew Goodliffe:

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) finals were held on November 11th in the Rast room in Bryant Conference Center. Over 200 people attended, and the event was a great success. The event was filmed by the Digital Multi Media Center and will be shown on Alabama Public Television. The winners were Nathaniel Sturm (Biological Sciences), Meredith Mock (Chemical and Biological Engineering), Mackenzie Pike (Communication Studies), and Jennifer Fortunato (Biological Sciences). Khadeidra Billingsley (English) won the People's Choice award. Nathaniel will represent UA in the next round at the Council of Southern Graduate Schools meeting in March 2020.

UA holds a McNair Scholars Visitation Day in November of each year. Led by Lesley Campbell, McNair Undergraduate Scholars from across the country are invited to the UA campus for tours, panels, and faculty meetings. The event this year, held on November 11, was a huge success.

B. Dr. Catherine Pagani:

Publisher in Residence –

There were 18 individual sessions which filled up in less than 24 hours. There were two group sessions this time, but we will offer just one group session for the next round to make more room for individual sessions. Program mentor George Thompson will again visit UA from February 26th to the 28th.

GTA Support series –Lead by Rick Dowling from the Center for Instructional Technology, Melissa Green from the Center for Instructional Technology, and Beth Howard from Title IX.

There will be new sessions in the spring - teaching in today's political climate, partnership with Crossroads; creating classroom engagement with diversity

Night at the Museum – February 8th (Graduate Parent Support program)

Imposter Syndrome Series will be offered to graduate students throughout the spring.

C. Dean Susan Carvalho:

Domestic Recruitment –

Carnegie-Dartlet is working on segmented marketing for the Graduate School. They will have three sessions with graduate students on November 13th. The data analytics are done, and now they are trying to see what the personality of the Graduate School is, who our students are and why they come here.

International Recruitment is going well with an assortment of fairs, agents, etc.

Too early for trends really for Fall 2020 but we have information. See slides. In-state application trends are a matter of concern.

IV. Reports from Standing University Committees

Dr. Robert Gaines from the UA Faculty Senate will ask the Senate for a better description of his role. He would like to have potential points of friction addressed in advance.

Without better communication, items of interest to the Graduate Council could fail in committee in the Faculty Senate, and the Graduate Council would never know.

V. New Business

None

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dean Carvalho adjourned the meeting at 4:28 pm.
