The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held in Room 3700 (Ferguson Forum) of the Ferguson Student Center on Tuesday, the 14th day of November at 3:00pm.

**Members Present:**
- Dr. Ajay Agrawal
- Dr. Thomas Baker
- Dr. John Blitz
- Dr. Joy Burnham
- Dr. Lucy Curzon
- Dr. William Evans
- Dr. Andrew Graettinger
- Dr. Karri Holley
- Dr. Linda Knol
- Dr. Amy Lang
- Dr. Jeffrey Lozier
- Dr. Mary Meares
- Dr. Sharif Melouk
- Dr. Angela Paschal
- Dr. Daniel Riches
- Dr. Steve Shepard
- Dr. Brenda Smith
- Dr. Debra Whisenant
- Dr. Dawn Williams
- Dr. Vivian Wright

**Members Absent:**
- Dr. Daniel Avery
- Dr. Alexander Cook
- Dr. Lisa Davis
- Dr. Bill Evans
- Dr. Ann Graves
- Dr. Douglas McKnight
- Dr. Albert Pionke
- Dr. Karen Salekin
- Dr. Sarah Tomek
- Dr. Mesut Yavuz

**Ex-Officio Members:**
- Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean of the Graduate School

**Graduate School Representatives Present:**
- Dr. Cathy Pagani, Associate Dean
- Dr. Andrew Goodliffe, Associate Dean
- Mrs. Beth Yarbrough, Registrar
- Mr. Stanley Pickering, Office Associate

**Student Representatives Present:**
- Ms. Raven Eldridge

**Guests Present:**
- Professor Sarah Barry
- Professor Cornelius Carter
- Dr. Ginger Bishop
- Dr. James Cochran
- Ms. Jan Jones
- Ms. Carmen Jones
I. Welcome and Introduction

Minutes Approved

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

A. Admissions and Recruitment: Dr. Andrew Graettinger, Chair
   i. No items to report

B. Fellowships and Scholarships: Dr. Albert Pionke, Chair; Dr. Andrew Goodliffe presenting
   i. Fellowship Nomination Deadlines.
      a. December 11 is the Graduate Council fellowship nomination submission deadline, along with the National Alumni Association fellowship.
         1. It was asked if students in the Accelerated Master’s Program who have completed their undergraduate degree are eligible to receive these fellowships. Dr. Goodliffe stated that such students are eligible.

C. Teaching, Research, and Service Awards: Dr. Vivian Wright, Chair
   i. The committee felt that a group of outstanding students were being left out.
      a. Currently discussing the possibility of creating new awards.
   ii. Mentorship
      a. Council of Graduate Schools gives out awards for outstanding mentors
      b. Other schools nominate faculty for outstanding mentor award, but UA doesn’t have a formal mentor program.
      c. The committee would like to look into the requirements for the award, and implement a nomination process, if possible.

D. Program and Degree Requirements, Research, and New Programs: Dr. Daniel Riches, Chair
   i. NISP for a Master’s of science in business analytics.
      a. Degree would have a strong hiring demand.
      b. Program would differ from other similar programs offered in the state.
         1. Dean Carvalho asked if there were any questions from the floor—there were none.
         2. Dr. Catherine Pagani stated that the proposal has been vetted by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.
      c. Proposal approved unanimously.
   ii. Proposal for Master’s of Fine Arts in dance.
      a. This program would build on the highly rated undergraduate dance program.
      b. This Would allow for graduates of the program to seek employment as both performers and teachers.
      c. Dr. Andrew Graettinger asked the representatives from the dance program about the possibility of developing an AMP in dance.
         1. Representatives from dance program said they would look into it.
      d. Proposal approved unanimously.

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

   i. Residency.
      a. New requirement would still require rigor and departmental involvement.
      b. There were previously a number of alternatives proposed.
1. It is possible to sustain a variety of residency requirements.
2. The new proposal leaves room for departments to tailor their requirements to their students.
3. Each department may develop their own, stricter residency requirements. Department’s residency requirements may not be less strict than Graduate School requirements.
4. Proposal received a second—passed unanimously.

ii. Dean Susan Carvalho Reporting
      1. Compared to last year, a higher percentage of graduate applicants were accepted, despite the number of applications dropping—this is not sustainable.
      2. New international enrollment has dropped by ten percent.
      3. Completed applications dropped by thirteen percent, but enrollment went up. This is indicative of reduced selectivity.
      4. Recently, the Graduate School sent representatives to India for recruiting trips. There have been several changes implemented to follow up on leads attained in India
         • Partnering with Strategic Communications to develop an India-focused landing page for UA.edu
         • Emailing potential students, with a progressive system that adjusts the emails they receive as they progress through the application process.
      5. Dr. Goodliffe went on a recruiting trip to Thailand and China. He found that Thailand was a similar market to India.
      6. The University of Alabama was recently included in a list of top four hundred global universities.
      7. The “Trump-slump”—a decrease in international admission that has been seen across the United States—means that personal relationships between recruits and individuals in the University of Alabama community are more important than they have been.
         • The media surrounding Trump in the international market is overwhelmingly negative.
         • The United Kingdom has seen a similar trend in response to Brexit.
      8. The recent issue of the tax bill in congress makes it uncertain whether or not graduate students will see their stipends being taxed in the near future.
   b. Graduate School Conference and Research Support Funding
      1. Graduate Student Association funding has been moved into this category.
         • There were issues where departments would sign off on GSA funding, but not be fully invest in the process.
      2. The College of Arts and Sciences has also invested central money into conference and research support funding, resulting in there being three avenues of funding for students in departments within the College.
      3. Students will now pay the costs up-front, and then be reimbursed for their expenses.
      4. Several benefits of the changes would include increased accountability, permission for departments to put student expenses on their P-Cards, and lowering of tax burdens on students.
Allowing departments to use their P-Cards for student expenses means that the department can cover the cost up front, if the student is unable to do so.

5. This plan is currently over budget, but it is projected to resolve itself in the coming year.

iii. The idea of adding a Committee on Policies was discussed.
   a. It was stated that no one felt that they could take on the added responsibilities of joining a second committee, and that no committee thought that they could sacrifice members to the proposed committee.
   b. Given the above, the plan is to wait until next year, increase the size of the council to forty individuals, and form the proposed committee from the additional council members.

iv. Raven Eldridge, presenting on behalf of the Graduate Student Association.
   a. This was the first year that the GSA has had a budget. It was stated that having a budget helped with event planning.
   b. The GSA increased the number of their Town Hall meetings from two to four, which has helped hold committees more accountable.
   c. Each committee now has a Committee Chair position.
   d. GSA is increasing focus on helping students become acclimated to both the University and Tuscaloosa.
   e. GSA now has a monthly newsletter.

IV. **Reports from Standing University Committees**
   A. None to report.

V. **New Business**
   A. **Publisher in Residence**
      i. First semester of the program has finished.
         a. Mr. Thompson will be returning in the spring to continue the program.
         b. Students are watching the online video multiple times and reaching out to Mr. Thompson with follow-up questions.
         c. Graduate School is working on ways to better include students in the distance learning program.

VI. **Adjournment**
    Meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

*Minutes taken by: Stanley Pickering*