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**Graduate Council Minutes** (Uncorrected)

The University of Alabama

November 14, 2017

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The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held in Room 3700 (Ferguson Forum) of the Ferguson Student Center on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Angelia 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

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## I. Welcome and Introduction

Minutes Approved

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## 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

a. Report on ongoing international recruitment.

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 issue 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.

