

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
The University of Alabama
February 4th, 2020

The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held in Ferguson Forum #3700 of the Ferguson Student Center on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

Members Present:

Dr. Kristi Acker	Dr. Steven MacCall
Dr. Marco Bonizzoni	Dr. Carmen Mayer
Dr. Joy Burnham	Dr. Sharif Melouk
Dr. Heather Carmack	Dr. Kagendo Mutua
Dr. Sherwood Clements	Dr. Daniel Riches
Dr. Lucy Curzon	Dr. Cecil Robinson
Dr. Bill Evans	Dr. Jenny Shaw
Dr. Tom Fitzgibbon	Dr. Steve Shepard
Dr. Peter Harms	Dr. Merinda Simmons
Dr. Sebrena Jackson	Dr. Brenda Smith
Dr. Linda Knol	Dr. Wei Song
Dr. Aaron Kuntz	Dr. Amanda Thompson
Dr. Deidre Leaver-Dunn	Dr. Stephen Tomlinson (Alternate)
Dr. Jeffrey Lozier	Dr. Mesut Yavuz

Members Absent:

Dr. Ajay Agrawal	Dr. Katherine Chiou
Dr. Arthur Allaway	Dr. Mary Alice Davis
Dr. Susan Appel	Dr. Karri Holley
Dr. Kenon Brown	Dr. Janie Hubbard
Dr. Jeffery Carver	

Ex-officio Members Present:

Dr. Robert Gaines

Ex-officio Members Absent:

Dr. Donald Gilstrap
Dr. Robert Hayes
Dr. Kevin Whitaker

Graduate School Representatives:

Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean
Dr. Andrew Goodliffe, Associate Dean
Dr. Cathy Pagani, Associate Dean
Ms. Kelly Burns, International Graduate Admissions Officer
Ms. Lesley Campbell, Director of Recruitment
Ms. Deborah Mamuti, Office Associate
Mr. Landon Waid, Director of Admissions
Ms. Beth Yarbrough, Registrar

Student Representatives:

Ms. Krystal Flantroy

Guests:

Dr. Virginia Bishop

Dr. Carmen Jones

Ms. Jan Jones

Dr. Nicholas Magliocca

Dr. Lisa Matherson

Mr. Jonathan Noffsinger

Dr. Gary Spurrier

I. Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Carvalho thanked everyone for their attendance. Dr. Carvalho introduced Landon Waid, the new Director of Admissions for the Graduate School. The minutes from November 11, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

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

1. Graduate School proposal for AMP test score waiver

The Graduate School proposed a blanket test score waiver for all AMP programs. Under the new policy, AMPs can opt out and require a test score. Motion for approval carried.

2. Graduate School proposal for a change to the language test score program

The Graduate School proposed a new policy for admission of students whose first language is not English. Under the new policy, non-native speakers will be required to submit TOEFL, IELTS or PTE scores if they do not meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) at the time of initial enrollment, they will hold a degree from a U.S. institution or an institution in one of the English-speaking countries or regions in the table below; 2) at the time of initial enrollment, they will have been enrolled in coursework for at least two years at a U.S. institution or an institution in one of the English-speaking countries or regions in the table below; 3) they are a citizen or resident of one of the English-speaking countries listed.

Dr. Jenny Shaw proposed an amendment to add Ireland, which had been inadvertently omitted. With that amendment, the motion for approval is carried.

3. Proposal for a Geography BS AMP

The Department of Geography proposed an AMP which combines the BS in Geography with the MS in Geography. Motion for approval carried.

4. Proposal for an Environmental Science-Geography AMP

The Department of Geography proposed an AMP which combines the BS in Environmental Science with the MS in Geography. Motion for approval carried.

5. Proposal for a Hospitality Management AMP

The Department of Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management proposed an AMP which combines the BS in Hospitality Management with the MS in Hospitality Management. Motion for approval is carried.

6. Proposal for a Management Information Systems AMP

The Department of Information Systems, Statistics, and Management Science proposed an AMP which combines the BS in Management Information Systems with the MS in Management Information Systems. Motion for approval is carried.

7. Proposal for admission test score waiver for the Criminal Justice MS program

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice had proposed that the admission test score requirement be waived for applicants to the Criminal Justice MS program. This item was tabled by the committee until the next meeting of the Graduate Council due to the absence of college approval for the proposal.

8. Proposal for admission test score waiver for the Hospitality Management MS program

The Department of Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management proposed that the admission test score requirement be removed for applicants to the Hospitality Management program. In lieu of test scores, a statement of industry experience will be scored by four faculty members. Motion for approval is carried.

9. Proposal for admission test score waiver renewal for the German MA program –

The Department of Modern Language and Classics proposed that the admission tests score requirement continue to be waived for applicants to the German MA program. In lieu of test scores, applicants will submit a work of scholarly writing in German. Motion for approval is carried.

10. Proposal for admission test score waiver renewal for the Social Work MSW program –

The School of Social Work proposed that the admission test score requirement continue to be waived for applicants to the Social Work MSW program that have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. In lieu of test scores, applicants are required to submit a statement of purpose that addresses specific questions about the applicant. Motion for approval is carried.

11. Proposal for admission test score waiver renewal for the Nursing MSN and DNP programs -

The Capstone College of Nursing proposed that the admission test score requirement continue to be waived for applicants to the Nursing MSN and DNP programs. In lieu of test scores, applicants are required to have a valid nursing license, among other criteria. Motion for approval is carried.

12. Proposal for admission test score waiver renewal for the Music MM and DMA programs -

The School of Music proposed that the admission test score requirement continue to be waived for applicants to the Music MM and DMA programs. In lieu of test scores, applicants are required to have an audition, a portfolio, and complete a departmental diagnostic exam. Motion for approval is carried.

13. Proposal for admission test score waiver renewal for the Studio Art MA and MFA programs -

The Department of Art and Art History proposed that the admission test score requirement continue to be waived for applicants to the Studio Art MA and MFA programs. In lieu of test scores, applicants are required to submit a digital portfolio and artist statement of purpose. Motion for approval is carried.

B. Graduate Academic Policy: Dr. Aaron Kuntz provided a review of the various policies currently under consideration by the committee.

1) Continuous enrollment once the dissertation stage begins

2) Continuous enrollment as it relates to course 699

3) Members of the policy committee met with representatives from Nursing and Social Work regarding graduate faculty status particularly in relation to serving as chairs for final projects

4) Time to completion for PhDs including a "fresh start" policy for students who leave one program and later apply to a different program, so that students are not tied to forever to a low GPA from a former program

Dr. Shepard wanted to know if we can drop below the 48 hour course requirement for a PhD. Dr. Kuntz said we are considering this, but after looking at benchmarking data, it appears we may be on par with peer institutions.

Dr. Riches wanted to know if +/- grading is still a possibility. He presented the idea that it could be done perhaps on a department by department level. The Policy Committee will examine the issue.

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

All of the Outstanding Graduate Student awards have been decided. The winners are as follows:

- Outstanding Dissertation – Mirjam Holleman (Anthropology)
- Outstanding Thesis – Cayla Closhure (Anthropology)
- Outstanding Teaching by Master's Student – Peter Berge (English)
- Outstanding Teaching by a Doctoral Student – Christine Ferguson (Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management)
- Outstanding Research by a Master's Student – Jacob Reed (Geography)
- Outstanding Research by a Doctoral Student – Louis Reisman (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Outstanding Service by a Graduate Student – Sarah Cheshire (English)

The committee asked that the colleges submit more nominations in future years. Dr. Pagan shared that the Dissertation and Thesis awards are selected by emeritus faculty. The nominees and awardees will be celebrated on April 14, 2020 at the University Club.

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

1. Curriculum and Instruction Ed.D. – This combines two existing programs (Elementary Education, Ed.D and Secondary Education, Ed.D) into one program. This is a resource-neutral proposal that reflects statewide trends. Motion for approval is carried.

2. Curriculum and Instruction Ph.D. – This combines two existing programs (Elementary Education, Ph.D and Secondary Education Ph.D) into one program. This is a resource-neutral proposal that reflects statewide trends. Motion for approval is carried.

3. Information item - Change to the policy on transfer credit for the EdS degree in the College of Education. It is currently 9 transfer credits; the College would now like to allow 12 transfer credits in line with general Graduate School policy.

4. Information item - Request to allow for article-style dissertation for the Interdisciplinary PhD program.

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

Round one of the fellowships is complete. All 27 fellowship offers were accepted for the first round (current students). Round Two has also been completed. Fellowship offers will be sent out by February 10, 2020.

This year there are Capstone Fellowships with three years of Graduate School funding. Some of these will be reserved for McNair-eligible students. For the second, third, and fourth round, all offers are for new students. Students have until April 15, 2020 to decide whether to accept the offer.

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

A. Dr. Andrew Goodliffe:

Most colleges show increases in application numbers. Engineering is doing particularly well. Admissions are significantly up for Engineering, Communications and Information Sciences, Business, and Arts & Sciences are also significantly up. This reflects that we are issuing offers to incoming students at an earlier point than in past years. Many departments are working to send out offers more quickly.

Dr. Carvalho reminded the Council that UA needs to grow the application pool so that admission remains competitive.

Dr. Goodliffe stated that we are up in international applications (which goes against the trend at many universities). Domestic application numbers are flat. Out-of-state is doing better than in-state. There are increases in both masters and doctoral degree applications, which is exciting to see. The application growth in international applications is especially strong for engineering and business. Engineering is offering admission to a significantly larger number of international students than in previous years. There is particularly strong growth in application numbers from Nigeria, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Iran.

B. Dr. Cathy Pagani:

GTA Training Survey -

Only 38 of 60 organizations (defined as any unit that uses Graduate Teaching Assistants) responded. Dr. Carvalho reminded us that we are about to do our five year review with SACSOC, and we need to demonstrate strong assessment protocols. Dr. Pagani said that UA has one of the oldest GTA workshops in the country. This survey was answered by department chairs or graduate program directors. The survey covers university-level, college-level and department-level training. Overall results show that most people were either "Satisfied" or "Highly satisfied" with the GTA Workshop. Most people who took this survey did not know if they offered college-level training for their GTAs. At the department level respondents had a better idea of what is offered, but could still use more information. Regular in service training for GTAs is important but what constitutes "regular" and "in service" still needs to be defined.

Dr. Carvalho reminded the Council that we have an obligation to the undergraduates to provide good training to the GTAs.

Dr. Fitzgibbon stated that surveying is probably not the best way to get this information and it may not be accurate. He asked if there are other ways to get this information. Dr. Carvalho said we will be talking to the Associate Deans next for a bird's-eye view.

Program Updates –

Preparing Future Faculty and Scholars Program – Director of Graduate Programming Tierney Jenkins is planning this program with the following goals:

- Enhance students' learning through seminars, mentoring, and practical activities to better prepare graduate students for academic and non-academic careers.
- Develop a repertoire of diverse strategies that will enable students to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their portfolio and develop an appropriate response to address any shortcomings.
- Provide students with the foundational information needed to find, sustain, and enhance their future in academic and/or non-academic careers.
- Present various outlooks on academic and non-academic careers, through readings and guest speakers

Spring 2020 events –

Night at the Museum in conjunction with the University of Alabama Museums and Graduate Parent Support will be held on February 8, 2020. This is a family event featuring educational activities from academic departments across campus.

Surviving Your Dissertation panel will be on February 20, 2020. This is an opportunity for students to ask current PhD students about the dissertation process.

Publisher in Residence with industry expert Mr. George Thompson will be held from February 26-28, 2020. Students have the opportunity to get advice and expertise on academic publishing. The 21 individual session spots filled in less than 12 hours. The group session will be held 1:00-2:45 pm on February 26, 2020 in Rose G55.

For the Fall 2020 Semester, Ms. Jenkins in conjunction with the Career Center is creating a Graduate Career Action Plan to be available to graduate students.

C. Dean Susan Carvalho:

International recruitment is increasingly important because domestic isn't growing nationally.

We need to think about how to hit our target goal of 7500 students. We are signing a lot of contracts with recruitment agents. China and coronavirus will affect us but we are working on combating this issue. GRE and TOEFL exams are cancelled in China until at least the end of March. We may do some emergency measures - like an online English test. Each department can make these decisions.

IV. Reports from Standing University Committees

Dr. Gaines stated that there is a proposal for a universal policy on attendance in the Faculty Senate. They are working on the definition of “excused absence” so that students can make up work. The onus would then be on university and not on individual faculty.

Dr. Carvalho shared that the University is talking about standards regarding office hours for online courses.

V. **New Business**

None

VI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dean Carvalho adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.
