
Graduate Council Minutes

The University of Alabama

February 5, 2019

The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held in Room 3700 (Ferguson Forum) of the Ferguson Student Center on Tuesday, the 5th day of February, 2019 at 3:00pm.

Members Present:

Dr. Ajay Agrawal
Dr. Arthur Allaway
Dr. Marco Bonizzoni
Dr. Joy Burnham
Dr. Lucy Curzon
Dr. William Evans
Dr. Andrew Graettinger
Dr. Ann Graves
Dr. Peter Harms
Dr. Karri Holley
Dr. Sebrene Jackson
Dr. Linda Knol
Dr. Amy Lang
Dr. Deidre Leaver-Dunn
Dr. Jeffrey Lozier

Dr. Steven MacCall
Dr. Carmen Mayer
Dr. Mary Meares
Dr. Sharif Melouk
Dr. Angelia Paschal
Dr. Raheem Paxton
Dr. Daniel Riches
Dr. Cecil Robinson
Dr. Steve Shepard
Dr. Brenda Smith
Dr. Amanda Thompson
Dr. Debra Whisenant
Dr. Vivian Wright
Dr. Mesut Yavuz

Members Absent:

Dr. Lisa Davis
Dr. Tom Fitzgibbon
Dr. Aaron Kuntz
Dr. Alice March
Dr. Joshua Pierce

Dr. Albert Pionke
Dr. Ranier Robinson
Dr. Jenny Shaw
Dr. Dawn Williams

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost
Dr. Janie Hubbard, Faculty Senate Representative
Dr. Kevin Whitaker, Provost

Graduate School Representatives Present:

Dr. Andrew Goodliffe, Associate Dean
Ms. Tierney Jenkins, Director of Programming
Dr. Cathy Pagani, Associate Dean
Mr. Stanley Pickering, Office Associate
Ms. Beth Yarbrough, Registrar

Student Representatives Present:

Ms. Keisha Cook

Guests Present:

Dr. Carmen Jones
Dr. Virginia Bishop

I. Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Cathy Pagani opened the meeting with a welcome to the first meeting of the 2019 calendar year. Dr. Pagani introduced Ms. Tierney Jenkins, the new Director of Programming for the Graduate School.

Minutes from the previous meeting were amended to show that Dr. Dan Riches was not present and to include the title for Dr. Virginia Bishop. The minutes were approved as amended.

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

A. Admissions and Recruitment: Dr. Andrew Graettinger, Chair

- i. Proposal for various changes to admission test requirements
 - a. The proposed changes include accepting the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), permitting applicants to submit unofficial scores during the application process, updating TOEFL score requirements to reflect the new score range, removing reference to the Test of Spoken English, and exempting College of Education applicants at four off-campus sites from taking English proficiency exams.
 1. It was stated that the decision of whether or not to accept the MCAT as an admission requirement would be left up to the departments.
 - b. Proposal approved unanimously.
- ii. Proposal to increase MAT requirement for the Nursing Science PhD program
 - a. This proposal would raise the score requirement to the 70th percentile in order to match the requirements at UAH for the joint program.
 - b. Proposal approved unanimously.
- iii. Admission test score waiver renewal for the Creative Writing MFA program
 - a. Renewal approved unanimously
- iv. Admission test score waiver proposal for the Dance MFA program
 - a. Proposal approved unanimously
- v. AMP proposal for an Economics BS with a Finance MS
 - a. Proposal approved unanimously
- vi. AMP proposal for a Finance BS with and Economics MS
 - a. Proposal approved unanimously

B. Fellowships and Scholarships: Dr. Mary Meares, Chair

- i. Dr. Meares stated that the first round of fellowships had been awarded and thanked the rest of the Committee on Fellowships and Scholarships for their work.

C. Teaching, Research, and Service Awards: Dr. Vivian Wright, Chair

- i. The winners of the Graduate School awards were decided. They are listed below.
 - a. Outstanding Dissertation: Dr. Briana Whiteside
 - b. Outstanding Thesis: Kevin Willson
 - c. Outstanding Research by a Doctoral Student: Adam Coffey
 - d. Outstanding Teaching by a Doctoral Student: Mary Foster
 - e. Outstanding Research by a Master's Student: Jillian Sico
 - f. Outstanding Teaching by a Master's Student: Sarah Price
 - g. Outstanding Service by a Graduate Student: Dr. Adora Hicks

D. Graduate Curriculum: Dr. Daniel Riches, Chair

- i. Concentration in Professional Sales, MS in Marketing
 - a. Proposal approved unanimously
- ii. Information item: College of Education credit transfer policy for doctoral programs

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

- i. Proposed Bylaws for the Graduate Council
 - a. Dr. Daniel Riches suggested that a reminder about the adoption of the bylaws to any council members who may have missed a meeting of the Graduate Council.
 - b. It was made clear that the bylaws governing length of terms and consecutive terms would not be retroactively enforced, so that current members would not be suddenly removed from the council.
 - c. An amendment was made to add an Ex-Officio position for a council member from the College of Continuing Studies.
 - d. An amendment was made to correct the listing of the Graduate Curriculum Committee.
 - e. The bylaws were approved unanimously, as amended.
- ii. Guidelines for Virtual Participation in Graduate Dissertation Committees
 - a. Concern was raised about where responsibility for the organization of virtual participation would lie.
 - b. The committee decided to add more specific language to the proposal before officially submitting it to the Council.

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

- i. Dr. Pagani reported to the Council that the Graduate School had hosted new sessions for the Publisher in Residence Program that had groups of about 20-30 students each.
 - a. The sessions went well, and students found them quite helpful.
- ii. Dr. Goodliffe reported that admissions are up, largely due to the faster application processing rates at the department level.

IV. Reports from Standing University Committees

A. None to report.

V. New Business

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:22pm.

Minutes taken by: Stanley Pickering