

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
The University of Alabama
September 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Graduate Council was held virtually via Zoom
on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at 3:30 pm.

Members Present:

Dr. Kristi Acker	Dr. Steven MacCall
Dr. Arthur Allaway	Dr. Carmen Mayer
Dr. Monica Anderson	Dr. Kristina McDonald
Dr. Angela Benson	Dr. Sharif Melouk
Dr. Heather Carmack	Dr. Dana Patton
Dr. Pat Carter	Dr. Joshua Pierce
Dr. Jeffery Carver	Dr. Troy Pollard
Dr. Katherine Chiou	Dr. Cecil Robinson
Dr. Mary Alice Davis	Dr. Nicole Ruggiano
Dr. Bill Evans	Dr. Jenny Shaw
Dr. Martin Evans	Dr. Steve Shepard
Dr. Allison Grant	Dr. Merinda Simmons
Dr. Peter Harms	Dr. Brenda Smith
Dr. Janie Hubbard	Dr. Wei Song
Dr. Paul Hubner	Dr. Firat Soylyu
Dr. Sebrena Jackson	Dr. Amanda Thompson
Dr. Linda Knol	Dr. Mesut Yavuz
Dr. Deidre Leaver-Dunn	

Members Absent:

Dr. Kenon Brown	Dr. Nicole Swoszowski
Dr. Raheem Paxton	

Ex-officio Members Present:

Dr. James Dalton, Provost

Graduate School Representatives:

Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean
Dr. Andrew Goodliffe, Associate Dean
Dr. Cathy Pagani, Associate Dean
Ms. Catherine Doughty-Walker, Executive Secretary
Ms. Amanda Maltbie, International Admissions Officer
Ms. Deborah Mamuti, Office Associate
Ms. Beth Yarbrough, Registrar

Student Representatives:

Ms. Karena Gill
Mr. Quin Kelly
Mr. Dudley Moore

Guests:

Dr. Jaber Abu-Qahouq
Dr. Ginger Bishop
Dr. Alison Hooper
Dr. Carmen Jones
Dr. Lisa Matherson
Dr. Holly Swain

The meeting was held via videoconference. Dr. Jim Dalton, who assumed the role of Executive Vice President and Provost in August 2020, addressed the Council. Due to scheduling issues, he spoke at the midpoint of the meeting, but his remarks have been summarized in the “Welcome” section of the minutes for the sake of clarity.

I. Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Carvalho thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed new and continuing members. She offered gratitude for the hard work of the committees. The minutes from the March 31, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Provost Dalton reflected on his first few weeks in his new position, including seeing great potential for growth at the graduate level. He expressed the importance of graduate students for research as well as teaching. He would like to strengthen our support for our graduate students, particularly in providing funding that would drive scholarly activity. Our stipends are lower than our peers, and the support offered to first year students needs to grow. He plans on graduate education being one of his top priorities during his tenure as Provost.

During subsequent discussion, Provost Dalton addressed questions relating to attendance requirements during the pandemic (faculty flexibility is requested for students who must be in isolation), face-to-face instruction for the spring semester (it is hoped that more face-to-face or hybrid opportunities will be available to students in the spring), data points that would trigger a campus closure (quarantine capacity is one of multiple data points that will be used), data transparency (we work closely with the system office on this issue), and the future potential of online instruction (has not been formally discussed yet but has significant growth potential).

II. Reports from Graduate Council Committees

A. Graduate Curriculum: Dr. Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Chair

1. Change of name and CIP Code for MA in Journalism (CIP: 09.041) to Journalism & Media Studies (CIP: 09.0499)

The proposal from the College of Communication and Information Sciences changes the name of the Journalism program to Journalism & Media Studies to better reflect the faculty areas of study as well as the course offerings. The CIP code will be changed as well. Motion for approval is carried.

2. Change of name and CIP Code for MS and PhD in Economics (CIP: 52061) to Quantitative Economics (CIP: 45.0603)

The proposal from the Culverhouse College of Business changes the name of the MS in Economics to MS in Quantitative Economics to better reflect the math and analytics intense nature of the degree program. The CIP code will be changed as well. It will be more aligned with STEM fields which will especially benefit our international students, who would get two additional years to do Optional Practical Training after graduation. Motion for approval is carried. The same name and CIP code change will be made for the PhD Economics program. Dr. Josh Pierce offered insight into the reasoning behind the name and CIP code changes, related to the specific areas of faculty expertise and national evolution in the field; his view was that the name change will make the program more appealing to potential students and will represent its content more accurately. Motion for approval is carried.

3. Change of name for MS and PhD in Banking and Finance to Finance

The proposal from the Culverhouse College of Business changes the name of the Banking and Finance MS to Finance MS to better reflect faculty expertise and course offerings. Motion for approval is carried. The same name change was proposed for the PhD Banking and Finance program. Motion for approval is carried.

4. Concentrations in the MA in Management

This proposal is from the Culverhouse College of Business. These three concentrations recognize the informal focus areas that students have previously been divided into for the Management MA program. The coursework is already offered for all three concentrations. The students will now have these concentrations on their formal academic record.

- i. Human Resources Analytics – 9 hours of coursework. Motion for approval is carried.
- ii. Global Business Management – 9 hours of coursework. Motion for approval is carried.
- iii. Strategic Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Growth – 12 hours of coursework. Motion for approval is carried.

5. Proposal for MA in Early Childhood Education

This proposal formalizes an MA in Early Childhood Education in the department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education. This degree program has existed before in the College, but has been dormant for a number of years. There has been an increase in demand for this degree, especially with a growth in the number of public pre-kindergarten programs nationally. The degree comprises 30-36 hours of coursework. The variability in course hours is related to pre-degree classes that may be required depending on the student's previous coursework. This degree program will directly better the lives of many Alabamians with improved quality of education. Motion for approval is carried.

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

The UA Graduate School will be participating in two regional award competitions sponsored by the Council of Southern Graduate Schools. One involves establishment of a new campus-level

award (Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award). The other involves reviewing our Outstanding Thesis Award winners to see which packets are appropriate for the CSGS Master's Thesis Award competition.

- Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award – Nominations due September 30th. No limitation on number of nominations from a department or a college. Nominees should have a track record of working with graduate students, especially those who have completed their degrees and successfully moved into their careers. List of criteria is in the packet. The awardee will be recognized on campus, and receive a framed certificate and a \$1000 honorarium. In addition, the dossier will be forwarded to CSGS for the regional competition.
- Master's Thesis Award – The field of study eligible for the award are rotated each year. This year the areas are Humanities and Fine Arts. On the UA campus level, the Outstanding Thesis Award is adjudicated by emeritus faculty. The Awards Committee will review those winners to select the Humanities/Fine Arts thesis that will be submitted to CSGS for the regional competition.

C. **Graduate Academic Policy** : Dr. William Evans, Chair

There are no updates at this time.

D. **Admissions & Recruitment**: Dr. Steve Shepard, Chair

There are no updates at this time.

E. **Fellowships and Scholarships**: Dr. Jenny Shaw

There are no updates at this time.

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

A. **Dean Susan Carvalho:**

Please see the packet for this year's enrollment report. Graduate enrollment growth, as well as growth in applications, has been significant this year, as often happens when the job market shrinks. This year's growth was maximized by departments' participation in quick-admit programs for UA seniors, GRE waivers in most programs, implementation of the Slate communications/marketing system, and other recruitment initiatives.

B. **Associate Dean Andrew Goodliffe:**

Dean Carvalho sent out a PDF today about fellowships and other scholarships available for graduate students. The document included deadlines for nominations and dates when offers will be released.

Dr. Goodliffe presented information on how fellowships turned out last year, including the number of nominations and acceptance rates. Round One (current students) as usual had a 100% acceptance rate. There was an overall acceptance rate of 66.3% for the Graduate Council Fellowships, 88.3% for the McNair Fellowships, 91.67% for the National Alumni Association Fellowships, and 45.5% for the Capstone Fellowships. This last fellowship is competing for the absolute best students; hence the lower acceptance rate.

Overall the McNair and NAA Fellowships' acceptance rates grew, while the GC Fellowships' acceptance rate fell slightly. We really encourage all colleges to nominate students because without a nomination, students cannot be considered for this valuable opportunity. We did have a few fellowships that needed to be filled over the summer due to students deferring because of the COVID-19 situation. The PowerPoint presentation summarizing this data will be sent to everyone and included in the minutes.

IV. **Reports from Standing University Committees**

None

V. **New Business**

None

VI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dean Carvalho adjourned the meeting at 4:36 pm.
