Members present:
Arthur Allaway
Monica Anderson
Mary Lindsey Bailey
Yuping Bao
Blake Berryhill
Jeffrey Carver
Susan Dewey
Martin Evans
Patrick Frantom
Allison Grant
Ann Graves
David Hardy (alternate for Nicole Swoszowski, Angela Benson, and Firat Soylu)
Peter Harms
Seung Eun Jung
Deidre Leaver-Dunn
Steven MacCall
Kristina McDonald
Mary Meares (alternate for Miriam Sweeney)
Dana Patton
Sonya Pritzker
Steven Ramey
Daniel Riches
Cecil Robinson
Jonathan Shemwell
Steven Shepard
Brenda Smith
Amanda Thompson
Mesut Yavuz
Lea Yerby

Members absent with Alternate:
Angela Benson
Nicole Swoszowski
Members absent without Alternate:
Steven Holiday
Sebrena Jackson
Troy Pollard
Nicole Ruggiano
Peggy Swails-Trooper
Owen Tidwell
Teresa Welch

Student Representatives:
Royce Dickerson

Ex Officio Members present:
Susan Carvalho

Graduate School Representatives present:
Karin Bryson
Deanna Clements
Andre’ Denham
Catherine Doughty-Walker
Andrew Goodliffe
Eric Harris

UA Guest Members present:
Virginia Bishop
Ken Foshee
Jacqueline Hodges
Carmen Jones

Dean Susan Carvalho opened the meeting and informed the Council that the February meeting will take place in a location other than Lucy Hall; location information will be forthcoming.

Minutes from September 7, 2022, Graduate Council meeting were unanimously approved. Yuping Bao asked that the minutes reflect her attendance at the meeting; the correction will be made.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee Report was presented by committee chair, Dr. Cecil Robinson.

- Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) request was submitted by Sports
Management (M.S. degree). This work-based experiential program will be delivered either 100% online or 60% in-person/40% online. Program accreditation is projected to be achieved within a year. The degree will align with the Sports Management B.S. program which will begin in Fall 2023. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was approved by Graduate Council with one opposing vote.

- Biological Sciences requested to reduce their Ph.D. coursework requirement from 48 hours to 36 hours through a reduction in required research method courses. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was approved by Graduate Council with one opposing vote.

- Chemical and Biological Engineering requested to reduce their Ph.D. coursework requirement from 48 hours to 42 hours through a reduction in required elective courses. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Electrical and Computer Engineering requested to reduce their Ph.D. coursework requirement from 48 hours to 36 hours, with 9 hours coming from the major area program of study and 3 coming from the minor area program of study. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Geological Sciences requested to reduce their Ph.D. coursework requirement from 48 hours to 36 hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Materials Science requested to reduce their Ph.D. coursework requirement from 48 hours to 36 hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Political Science requested to reduce their Ph.D. coursework hours from 51 hours to 39 hours. The program currently has a major field, a minor field, and a second required minor field; the deletion of the second minor field will account for most of the reduction in hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Romance Languages requested to reduce their Ph.D. coursework hours from 60 hours to 54 hours. The core is being maintained across each of the various languages; the number of electives beyond the core is being reduced from 51 hours to 45 hours. This change was
previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Civil Engineering requested to have their minimum required 699 hours reduced from 24 hours to 18 hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Higher Education Administration requested to have their minimum required 699 hours reduced from 24 hours to 18 hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Joint Nursing Science program between UA and UAH requested to have their minimum required 699 hours reduced from 24 hours to 18 hours. The change has already been approved by UAH and by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Kinesiology requested to have their minimum required 699 hours reduced from 24 hours to 18 hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Psychology requested to have their minimum required 699 hours reduced from 24 hours to 18 hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Special Education and Multiple Abilities requested to have their minimum required 699 hours reduced from 24 hours to 18 hours. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Master of Science in Geography requested to change their CIP Code from Geography (45.0701) to Geography and Environmental Studies (30.4401). The new code reflects a change from general geography studies to geography and environmental studies. Dean Carvalho explained that this STEM CIP code designation will allow international students to remain in the United States longer for post-degree training. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Ph.D. in Geography requested to change their CIP Code from 45.0701 to 30.4401.
Dean Carvalho explained that the new CIP code is also a STEM-designated one. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Certificate in Geographic Information Systems requested to change their CIP Code from 45.0701 to 45.0702. This change was previously approved by the Curriculum Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Information item: The Department of Geography and Planning is changing its name to the Department of Geography and the Environment, reflecting the change in direction from teaching and research to the environment.

The Graduate Academic Policy Committee Report was presented by committee chair, Dr. Dana Patton.

- A proposal was presented for a reduction in the minimum coursework hours for a Doctor of Education degree from 60 hours to 48 hours. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.

- Discussion took place regarding a proposed policy establishing guidelines for the timing of comprehensive exams and scheduling of thesis and dissertation defenses. Clarity is needed regarding the definition of when the university is open and how this applies to nine-month-contract faculty members; another potential issue centers around notifying students of a failure during a holiday break, therefore affecting the courses they take the next semester. Council members offered input from their areas of study. Dean Carvalho suggests the motion be tabled until the February Graduate Council meeting, giving time for the wording to be re-examined. In addition, a future proposal should clarify at what point it involves written versus oral examinations, and the timing of the notification of results. Dr. Patton asks that Council members email her about when their area gives comprehensive exams and schedules thesis and dissertation defenses if it seems to be outside the campus norm.

- Previously Earned UA Graduate Credit and Transfers of Graduate Credit amendment - An amendment to the policy regarding previously earned UA graduate credit and transfers of graduate credit was proposed, allowing departments to decide which master’s classes will count toward a doctoral degree. The motion was unanimously approved by Graduate Council with no opposing votes.
• No Clear Path Forward (discussion Item): Background: if a student is unable to form a committee, either because the faculty member in their area of specialty left the university (scenario 1), or because the student has a difficult relationship with faculty (scenario 2), is a policy needed to address this, and if so, what kind of policy is fair to the student as well as to faculty?

Associate Dean Andre’ Denham said the University of Georgia puts the student in a particular status and if they can’t form a committee after a semester they are dismissed. Discussion from Council members regarding scenario 1 – a student has a right to a committee even if it means having an external chair; if this occurs, their dissertation form should reflect this. Discussion from Council members regarding scenario 2 - professionalism issues are at play that might negate any departmental obligation; this is part of a student’s professionalization process.

The underlying question is whether a faculty member can be made to serve on a committee; the consensus is this scenario should be avoided if possible. Documentation in the form of a committee review (similar to a performance evaluation) is recommended whenever a student appears to be under-performing. Thus, the student will not be caught unaware if they encounter difficulty in forming a committee; this will also be beneficial to the student’s professional development.

A Council member pointed out that in programs where research is expensive, and/or where the student is paying for the research, this could be a problematic situation, especially in lab-based settings where the student has access to other students’ samples, shared equipment, etc.

The Admissions and Recruitment Committee Report was presented by Associate Dean Andrew Goodliffe, who spoke about the revised AMP proposal process. The review committee developed some requirements that will have to be satisfied, therefore the form will be more involved than previously. Dean Goodliffe encourages Council members to look at the form; it’s available in Slate or Qualtrics and can easily be submitted. The timeline for the new form will be effective August 16 for students admitted after that date.

Report from Committee on Teaching, Research and Service Awards
• None

Report from Committee on Fellowships and Scholarships
• None
Reports from the Dean’s Office and Academic Affairs:

- Associate Dean Denham reminded the Council of the February 1 deadline for Graduate School Catalog changes. He emphasized that the header titled “Scholastic Requirements” will need to be changed to “Grades and Academic Standing”, which better represents the contents of the section. The URL will also need to be changed.

- A section about graduate student funding will also be added, for those who choose to have it on their pages. Dean Carvalho said this is an important recruiting tool that also provides necessary funding documentation.

- Dean Carvalho discussed the data provided by Provost Dalton in the September Council meeting regarding the history of stipend increases and noted that over the past 4-5 years, the total investment of new recurring dollars in graduate stipends has increased by 13 percent. The UA administration has pledged to increase this every year to remain competitive in this area.

Reports from Standing University Committees & New Business

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.