GRADUATE COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2019

In 2019, Graduate Council worked on the following issues:

- Reviewed and approved/disapproved graduate course/program changes and proposals. This is a regular task throughout the year.
- Reviewed and made changes to the graduate handbook, particularly on issues related to the inclusion of tuition scholarships/fellowship matrix, transfer hours from completed master degrees, dates for thesis, and designation of NASA employees.
- Discussed and approved the Dates and rates for GTA/GRA. There was no change on insurance premium and tuition rate. College fees increased and colleges pay the stipend.
- Discussed the Alabama Asset program as a concept. This is an ongoing and evolving topic at the AGDC.
- Planed and started the implementation of graduate student workshops by grad council members. Two workshops were offered in Fall 2019, Collaborative Learning by Dr. Michelle Greene and Financial Planning by Dr. Tingting Que.
- Reviewed the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking where UAH was ranked 418th worldwide in 2019, rise from 474th in 2018. UAB is higher based on medical school 274. Others include Auburn (297) and Alabama (427).
- Discussed the possible issues in the grad school application system CASS.
- Discussed the opportunities in Bulgaria. It is an ongoing exploration related to the strategic agreement between Lockheed Martin and Bulgaria.
- Discussed and implemented the partnership with Prodigy Finance. The organization provides education loans to postgraduate international students in STEM fields attending UAH.
- Discussed opportunities in India and other international markets. UAH has established collaborative programs with several universities in India (e.g., Reva, Christ). It is expected that these collaborative programs will bring more students from India to UAH in the near future.
- Discussed graduate recruitment strategies.
- Discussed the SACSCOC Accreditation and the rule of minimum home school hours to issue a degree 50% down to 33%).
- Discussed a particular case of overlapping courses between CS and EE.
- Discussed the fact that some universities are dropping GRE and GMAT as admission criteria.