

The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Graduate Council Minutes

August 21, 2020
2:00 PM Via Zoom

x	Ellise Adams, NUR	x	Wafa Hakim Orman, BUS Assoc Dean*
	Michael Anderson, ENG Assoc Dean	x	Phillip Ligrani, MAE
x	Yeqing Bao, Int'l Srvs Assoc Dean*	x	Matthew Niemiller, BIO
x	Dylan Baun, HIS	x	David Moore, Library*
x	David Berkowitz, Grad Dean*		Jason O'Brien, EDU
x	Joseph Conway, EH	x	Tingting Que, FIN
x	Eric Fong, MGT	x	Lenora Smith, NUR
x	Karen Frith, NUR	x	Janet Waller, Registrar*
x	Junpeng Guo, ECE	x	DongSheng Wu, MAT
x	Robert Griffin, SCI Assoc Dean		

x Present

* Non-voting member

Proxy:

No proxies

Visitors Present:

Sara Graves, ITSC

Committee Rotation/New Members:

Junpeng Guo replaces Paul Collopy

Matthew Niemiller replaces Ramazan Aygun

General Updates:

- Headcount is currently down nine graduate students over this time last year with no new international students admitted since they were unable to travel to the US.
- The Graduate School has moved to online recruiting by hosting webinars.

- Announcements regarding on-campus classes and student Covid-19 testing were provided.
- Thesis/Dissertation hours can be remote but a specific remote or online section needs to be created for the student. An email was sent to staff assistants with this information.
- A new process for submitting paperwork for signatures to the Graduate School was explained.

OLD BUSINESS

May's Minutes

- A motion was made by Joseph Conway to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Junpeng Guo and the vote was unanimous to accept.

Alabama Assets Update

- Dr. Bao provided a refresher of the program.
- ACHE is very supportive of the program, including financially. UAH will likely need to participate and a NISP will be needed.
- Dr. Frith offered to collaborate with other departments that would highlight technology and healthcare. Dr. Orman was interested in collaborating with Nursing.
- A question was asked if new courses needed to be created or can current programs be used across disciplines to create a new certificate. The answer is there are no restrictions.
- Dr. Berkowitz asked the council to determine where these programs will be housed? Should it be In the Graduate School, Professional and Continuing Education, or in the college that has the majority of the courses? No answer was expected at this time, but going forward departments should be thinking about this when developing their interdisciplinary programs.

NEW BUSINESS

Entrance Exam Waivers

- Testing centers overseas are still limited for the GRE, GMAT, and MAT which can impact enrollment for Fall 2021.
- The Graduate School currently has a waiver allowing students to apply without an entrance exam test score for Fall 2020 - Summer 2021.
- Dr. Berkowitz opened the floor to discuss if the waiver should be extended into Fall 2021.

- A side question was asked if students could get Visas. It was explained it depended on the consulates in the country and if they are open. It was also explained international students are eligible to take online classes in their home country.
- It was mentioned the waiver would have a larger impact on science and engineering since education, nursing, AHSS, and business do not need the test or they already have alternative waivers available.
- Dr. Guo explained the GRE is a metric they used specifically for international students because transcripts are not uniform across countries.
- Dr. Berkowitz mentioned other departments are using a holistic approach when reviewing an applicant who does not have a test score. Specifically, faculty are looking at special topics courses on a student's undergraduate transcript to measure future success.
- Interviews were also suggested as a possible way to measure a student's eligibility for admission.
- An entrance exam test can still be required for an assistantship or the fellowship matrix.
- No negative concerns were provided.
- Dr. Guo made a motion to waive the entrance exams Fall 2021 and Philip Ligrani seconded the motion.
- A vote was held and the motion to extend the waiver into Fall 2021 was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:57.