

The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Graduate Council Minutes

April 23, 2021
1:00 PM Via Zoom

x	Ellise Adams, NUR	x	Wafa Hakim Orman, BUS Assoc Dean*
	Michael Anderson, ENG Assoc Dean	x	Sean Lane, Acting Dean of GC *
x	Jennifer Bail, NUR	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	Joseph Conway, EH	x	Jason O'Brien, EDU
x	Eric Fong, MGT	x	Tingting Que, FIN
	Karen Frith, NUR	x	Janet Waller, Registrar*
	Junpeng Guo, ECE	x	DongSheng Wu, MAT
	Robert Griffin, SCI Assoc Dean		

x Present

* Non-voting member

Proxy:

Ellise Adams is proxy for Karen Frith

Visitors Present: DJ Hovermale, IS

Minutes

- A motion was made by Eric Fong to approve the March minutes and was seconded by Joseph Conway. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes written.

Graduate School Updates:

- Susan Knight has joined the Graduate School as the Senior Administrative Assistant and is in attendance today. An offer letter for the academic services coordinator position has been given and an oral acceptance has been received. The candidate pool was very strong and an additional academic services coordinator position will be posted and previous candidates will be invited to apply for the second position. The search for an Acting Associate Provost of International Services and Academic Integrity, and Dean of the Graduate School has continued. The hope is to invite the

final candidates to campus when the campus returns to full capacity on May 10th but approval has not yet been given.

- The offices for Graduate Admissions and the Graduate School and International Services in SSB have been defined as two distinct locations. What was previously the Graduate School office is now only Graduate Admissions and the Graduate School now shares a location with International Services across the hall.
- The move to Banner Recruit for Graduate admissions is still on target for late June or early July.
- Conditional admissions will be approved by the college deans instead of the Graduate Dean beginning the next admissions cycle.

Bylaws Update:

- The Graduate Council will receive a draft of the new bylaws next week and members were asked to provide feedback. The bylaws will also need to be routed through various groups and offices on campus for review. In the draft bylaws, there is a Chair and Chair-Elect position. The council members discussed whether to elect an individual to hold a Graduate Council representative as an unofficial chair role before the bylaws are approved. The role of this individual was questioned and to clarify it was noted this individual would chair the Graduate Council, attend pre-graduate council meetings to discuss agenda items with the Graduate Dean, and serve as a representative to other bodies on campus if there was a need for Graduate Council representation. This individual would be a member of the Graduate Council and still have voting rights unless the Graduate Council wanted to discuss this point. The council also discussed the increase of service for this individual and considered generally how this representative could be compensated, such as with a course release, and how others on campus in a similar position are currently compensated. A motion was made by Jason O'Brien to move forward with an election for this unofficial position without compensation, but with the disclaimer that it would be discussed thoroughly for the bylaws. Eric Fong seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the majority. An email will be sent to members for nominations and voting.

Testing Admission Requirement

- In February the Graduate Council discussed UA's proposal to change the requirements for GRE/GMAT/MAT admissions test. Due to the pandemic, the three universities in the system have waived the admission testing requirements and have since seen an increase in diversity among applicants in graduate programs. UA's policy can be roughly summarized as follows:
 - "The Graduate School will remove the GRE/GMAT/MAT as a university-level admission requirement. Individual programs will have the option to choose to require the GRE/GMAT/MAT as part of the admission process or to be test-optional."

The members discussed if they should also adopt a similar policy that would still allow departments to decide if they wanted to require test scores. Applicants could also still decide to submit their test scores when not required. This change would help international applicants since arranging to take the test can be difficult and cost-prohibitive. It was asked if the council needed more information to make an informed decision or if they should vote. Phillip Ligrani suggested that a vote be taken and felt the change was appropriate and it still allowed departments to decide their option. Yeqing Bao noted that departments would need to provide all requirements so applicants could understand what was needed to be competitive. Jason O'Brien suggested UAH should adopt the same policy as written by UA. It was further discussed how well, if any, the entrance exams predicted a student's success and it was expressed that it didn't provide much incremental predictable validity and even less predictability in research-based programs. It was felt that providing ongoing student support after enrollment was a better predictor of success and this will hopefully be provided in the new Graduate School structure. A motion was made by Jason O'Brien to accept the statement and it was seconded by Joseph Conway. The members unanimously approved.

Alabama Asset

- The program was once again discussed. A summary of the program was described, including the potential to combine approved certificates from other state universities so individuals may create a master's degree that is personalized, particularly focused on aiding the needs of the Alabama workforce. It was emphasized that these micro-credentials would still have UAH's normal approval process and be approved by ACHE. This type of interdisciplinary program already exists at UAB. It was decided that the Graduate Council would like to review a draft proposal so they could fully evaluate the potential program.

Council of Graduate Schools Statement

- CGS provided a statement of principles and commitments desired by all graduate schools, with many of the values supporting mental health and wellbeing for graduate students. There was a motion to approve the statement and become a signatory by Jason O'Brien and seconded by Joe Conway. The motion passed. The "CGS Statement of Principles and Commitments on Graduate Student on Mental Health and Wellbeing" will be available on the CGS website.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.