

**The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Graduate Council Meeting  
Minutes**

**Friday / April 24, 2026  
2:00 p.m. in SSB 201**

**Members Present:** Mike Anderson, COE\*  
Maria Pour, COE  
Aubrey Beal, COE  
Kader Frendi, COE  
Wafa Orman, COB\*  
Yi Tan, COB  
Ryan Weber, CAHS  
Lingze Duan, COS\*  
Haihong Che, COS  
Seyed Sadeghi, COS  
Nilsa Black-Mead, CON  
Lenora Smith, CON  
Tracy Lakin, CON  
Jeremy Elliott, CESHS\*  
Amanda Giles, CESHS  
Laura Senn, CESHS  
Jon Hakkila, Chair\*  
Amy Smith, Registrar\*  
Misty McFadden, OIREA\*

**Members Absent:** Sophia Marinova, COB  
Christina Steidl, CAHS\*  
Molly Johnson, CAHS (Proxy: Nicole Pacino)  
Joe Conway, CAHS (Proxy: Daniel Krenn)  
Max Bonamente, COS (Proxy: Seyed Sadeghi)  
Yeow Chye Ng, CON\*  
David Moore, Library\*

**Guests:** Jodi Price, CAHS  
Judy Schneider, Materials Science  
Luis Cruz-Vera, Biological Sciences  
Carrie Deans, Biological Sciences  
Dan Morrison, Sociology  
Huaming Zhang, Computer Science  
Sivaguru Ravindran, Mathematical Sciences  
Zeke Aguilera, Registrar's Office  
Susan Knight, Graduate School  
Michelle Massey, Graduate School  
Simone Frazier, Graduate School  
Audrey Jupiter, Graduate School

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*\*Non-Voting Member*

## 1. Roll Call

*A record of attendance was recorded as noted above.*

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

*Dr. Kader Frendi made a motion to approve the Graduate Council meeting agenda; motion was seconded by Dr. Nilsa Black-Mead. Motion carried.*

## 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2026

*Dr. Tracy Lakin made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2026; motion was seconded by Dr. Seyed Sadeghi. Motion carried.*

## 4. Announcement(s)

### a. Recent Graduate School Event(s)

Graduate Poster Session Competition – March 24, 2-5pm, SSB 112

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Ledia Shehu, COE/Civil Engineering – “*Experimental and Numerical Investigation of Lunar and Martian Concrete Using CSA and Sulfur Binders*”
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Lorain Salufu, COE/Civil Engineering – “*Evaluating the Impact of Business Access and Transit Lanes, Bus Rapid Transit on Corridor Traffic Operations: A Microsimulation-Based Analysis*”
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Timothy Morgan, COE/Electrical Engineering – “*Fast Electromechanical Impedance Spectroscopy for Lithium-Ion Battery Characterization*”

*Ms. Simone Frazier reported that the Graduate School Poster Session Competition was a big success, and she thanked all faculty and staff who attended as well as all who volunteered to serve as judges. She also reiterated the winners listed above.*

### b. Upcoming Graduate School Event(s) – N/A

### c. ADA Accessibility for Theses, Dissertations & DNP Projects

*Ms. Simone Frazier shared that, on April 17, 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice modified the compliance timeline for its ADA Title II website accessibility requirements. In anticipation of the new deadline, she stated that our students will need to comply by submitting their theses, dissertations, and DNP projects to ProQuest in an accessible format. To assist students with this process, Ms. Frazier said that the Graduate School will hold an accessibility workshop to help them understand what this means for their manuscripts, because it will likely be quite a challenge. She said the important thing, at this point, is for all of us to begin encouraging students to start thinking about accessibility and to use our templates from the very beginning of writing their theses, dissertations, and DNP projects. She also reported that our Microsoft Word template and manual have already been updated to reflect the required accessibility standards and that updates to the LaTeX template are in process.*

*The question was asked whether there is any type of tool that can read a document to check for accessibility. Ms. Frazier said that she would be working with ETLC on this but that, currently, she can run a PDF through DocHub, which is part of Panorama in Canvas. She said this tool is very helpful since it will tell you what is wrong and it will link you to what is incorrect. She also mentioned that there are occasions in which documents in PDF format cannot be fully remediated for accessibility in DocHub, so it is better to work with the document’s original format, such as Microsoft Word. There was some additional discussion about template issues with equations, figures, and images as well as various types of accessibility packages that some faculty have tried to use without much success.*

*Ms. Frazier finalized the discussion by announcing that the Graduate School intends to hire a PhD student during the summer to work on finalizing the LaTeX template.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **5. Use of AI**

*Dr. Hakkila once again appealed to programs/departments to develop a set of AI guidelines that reflect their own specifics for acceptable and responsible use, because students are no longer claiming to have used AI in the preparation of their theses, dissertations, graduate capstone and DNP projects. He said this is very concerning because he feels that students are indeed using AI, but since they have not received a specific set of published guidelines from their programs/departments explaining acceptable usage, students are not reporting their use of AI.*

*Dr. Hakkila reiterated that the Graduate School AI Guidelines, which were developed and provided via email to all faculty many months ago, were meant to serve only as a “default” until programs/departments developed their own. He added that, to date, only a few programs/departments have developed and submitted their AI guidelines to the Graduate School. He also explained that the lack of these guidelines will inevitably become more and more of an integrity issue as students begin to rely even more on AI in the preparation and writing of their manuscripts.*

*Finally, Dr. Hakkila asked Graduate Council members to take this issue back to their programs/departments and make an appeal for both the development of specific AI guidelines as well as faculty oversight to ensure that students are authoring their own work.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **6. N/A**

### **7. Curricular Items**

#### **Courses:**

- a. CON: NUR 608 – Adv Principles of Pathophysiology & Pharmacology ... (inactivate) – **Approved**
- b. COE: CHE 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- c. COE: CPE 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- d. COE: EE 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- e. COE: EM 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- f. COE: ISE 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- g. COE/COS: MTS 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- h. COS: OSE 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- i. COS: PH 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- j. COS: SPA 798 – Graduate Research (new) – **Approved**
- k. CESHs: ED 609 – Student Engagement, Motivation & Behavior (modify: title) – **Approved**
- l. CON: NUR 644 – Practicum in Teaching (modify: increase clinical hours from 90 to 135 with no change to cr hrs) – **Approved**
- m. CON: NUR 652 – Clinical Practicum for Nurse Educators (modify: increase clinical hours from 90 to 135 with no change to credit hours) – **Approved**
- n. CON: NUR 733 – Informatics for Advanced Nursing Practice (modify: remove NUR 729 pre-req) – **Approved**
- o. CON: NUR 742 – Project Evaluation Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice (modify: add co-req) – **Approved**
- p. COS: AES 515/415 – Advanced GIS (modify: title, description, pre-req) – **Approved**
- q. COS: PH 661 – Data Science Astrostatistics I (modify: title, topics) – **Approved**
- r. COS: OSE 799 – Doctoral Dissertation (modify: credit hours) – **Approved**
- s. COS: PH 799 – Doctoral Dissertation (modify: credit hours) – **Approved**
- t. CESHs: ED 647 – Seminar I: Foundations of Teaching (new) – **Approved**
- u. CESHs: ED 648 – Seminar II: Community / Responsive Teaching (new) – **Approved**
- v. CESHs: ED 649 – Seminar III: Teaching for Impact (new) – **Approved**
- w. CESHs: EDC 521 – Co-Teaching, IEP Development & Specialized Instruction (new) – **Approved**
- x. CESHs: EDC 542 – Low Incidence Disabilities & Transition Planning (new) – **Approved**
- y. CESHs: EDC 551 – Educational Assessment for Students with Disabilities (new) – **Approved**
- z. COB: MKT 544/MKT 344→444 – Marketing Analytics (new) – **Approved**

- aa. COE: EE 522/EE 422 – Quantum Communications (*new*) – **Approved**
- bb. COE: ISE 624 – Fundamentals of Human Systems Integration (*new*) – **Approved**
- cc. COE: ISE 647 – Introduction to Digital Engineering (*new*) – **Approved**
- dd. COE: ISE 657 – Formal Systems Engineering (*new*) – **Approved**
- ee. COS: BYS 569/469 – Radiation Biology (*new*) – **Approved**
- ff. COS: MA 504/404 – Game Theory with Applications (*new*) – **Approved**
- gg. COS: PH 662 – Data Science Astrostatistics II (*new*) – **Approved**

**Concentrations:**

- hh. CAHS: Music Choral – (*inactivate*) – **Approved**
- ii. CAHS: Music Instrumental – (*inactivate*) – **Approved**
- jj. CON: Nursing Education: (*modify: replace NUR 608 with NUR 606 & NUR 607*) – **Approved**

**Programs (new entry points):**

- kk. CAHS: Applied Experimental Psychology (PhD) – (*modify: description, delineate between post-bachelor's & post-master's entry points*) – **Approved**

**Concentrations:**

- ll. Applied Experimental Psychology: PhD Post-Bachelor's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- mm. Applied Experimental Psychology: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- nn. Human Factors: PhD Post-Bachelor's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- oo. Human Factors: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
  
- pp. COE: Industrial & Systems Engineering (PhD – (*modify: admission language for concentrations, progression language*)) – **Approved**

**Concentrations:**

- qq. Industrial Engineering: MSE – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- rr. Industrial Engineering: PhD Post-Bachelor's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- ss. Industrial Engineering: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new*) – **Approved**
- tt. Systems Engineering: MSE – (*new*) – **Approved**
- uu. Systems Engineering: PhD Post-Bachelor's Degree Entry Path – (*new*) – **Approved**
- vv. Systems Engineering: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new*) – **Approved**
- ww. Engineering Management: MSE – (*new*) – **Approved**
- xx. Engineering Management: PhD Post-Bachelor's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- yy. Engineering Management: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new*) – **Approved**

- zz. INTERD: Integrative Biology & Biotechnology (PhD) – (*modify: description*) – **Approved**

**Concentrations:**

- aaa. INTERD: Biotechnology (IBB\_Concentration) – (*modify: restructure/focus*) – **Approved**
- bbb. INTERD: Cell & Molecular Biology (IBB\_Concentration) – (*modify: restructure/focus*) – **Approved**
- ccc. INTERD: Ecology & Evolution (IBB\_Concentration) – (*modify: restructure/focus*) – **Approved**

**MS Program:**

- ddd. INTERD: Integrative Biology & Biotechnology (MS) – (*new*) – **Approved**

- eee. COS: Chemistry (PhD) – (*modify: delineate between post-bachelor's & post-master's entry points*) – **Approved**

**Concentrations:**

- fff. Academic Chemistry: PhD Post-Bachelor's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- ggg. Academic Chemistry: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- hhh. Entrepreneurial Chemistry: PhD Post-Bachelor's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- iii. Entrepreneurial Chemistry: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**
- jjj. Executive Chemistry: PhD Post-Master's Degree Entry Path – (*new entry point*) – **Approved**

- kkk. COE: Computer Engineering (PhD) – (modify: add new entry points, CPE 798) – **Approved**
- lll. COE: Electrical Engineering (PhD) – (modify: add new entry points, EE 798) – **Approved**
- mmm. COS: Optical Science & Engineering (PhD) – (modify: add new entry points, OSE 798) – **Approved**
- nnn. COS: Physics (PhD) – (modify: add new entry points, PH 798) – **Approved**
- ooo. COS: Space Science (PhD) – (modify: add entry points, SPA 798) – **Approved**
- ppp. INTERD: Materials Science (PhD) – (modify: add new entry points, MTS 798) – **Approved**
- qqq. NUR: Nursing Practice (DNP) – (modify: add new entry points) – **Approved**

**Programs (modify):**

- rrr. COB: Business Analytics (MS) – (modify: restructure) – **Approved**
- sss. COS: Computer Science (MS) – (modify: restructure/add new pathway) – **Approved**
- ttt. COS: Physics (MS) – (modify: catalog errors, admissions requirements) – **Approved**
- uuu. CESHS: Elementary Education (MAT) – (modify: add courses) – **Approved**

**Programs (new):**

- vvv. COS: Applied Science (PhD) – (new) – **Denied**  
*(Note: Members of Graduate Council had concerns that this program will compete with the other PhD post-master's entry programs within the College of Science. There were also concerns that requiring only 18 credit hours of coursework with increased flexibility and allowing an existing external project to be used as dissertation research would lack the same rigor as a discipline-specific PhD. Graduate Council therefore recommended that this proposal be denied and the program be reconsidered as a Doctor of Science program, parallel to the new UAH Doctor of Engineering program.)*
- www. COS: Data Science (MS) – (new) – **Approved**
  - xxx. DSC 692 – Data Science & AI Seminar (new course) – **Approved**
  - yyy. DSC 698 – Data Science Capstone (new course) – **Approved**

**8. Graduate Faculty Nominations – For Membership Consideration**

- a. COS: 1463 Schultz, Christopher – PhD/Atmospheric Science (supervisory committee) \*NASA – **Approved**
- b. COS: 1465 Oliver, Jason – PhD/Entomology (supervisory committee) – **Approved**
- c. COE: 1466 Burr, Jason – PhD/Aerospace Engineering (supervisory committee) – **Approved**
- d. CAHS: 1464 Yeazitzis, Taylor – PhD/Applied Experimental Psychology (teach: PY 503, PY 701; supervisory comm) – **Approved**
- e. COE: 1472 Polzin, Kurt – PhD/Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (supervisory committee) \*NASA – **Approved**
- f. CON: 1475 Fennell, Courtney – DO/Osteopathic Medicine (DNP Mentor) – **Approved**
- g. CON: 1476 McFall, Tiffany – Doctor of Pharmacy (DNP Mentor) – **Approved**
- h. CON: 1482 Allen, Jacqueline – Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP Mentor) – **Approved**
- i. CON: 1483 Collins, Nina – Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP Mentor) – **Approved**

**9. For the Good of the Order**

*Dr. Hakkila thanked all Graduate Council members for their service during the past year and provided special recognition to the members who, with the adjournment of this meeting, completed their two-year terms.*

**10. Reminder: Next Graduate Council Meeting – Fall 2026/Date TBD**

**11. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.**

/srk