

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

**Friday / September 16, 2022  
2:00 p.m. in SSB 201**

**Members Present:** Michael Anderson, COE\*  
Maria Pour, COE  
Yu Lei, COE  
Nicholas Loyd, COE  
Xiaotong Li, COB  
Dylan Baun, CAHS  
Joseph Conway, CAHS (Proxy: Dylan Baun)  
Jodi Price, CAHS\*  
Tim Newman, COS  
Robert Griffin, COS\*  
John Mecikalski, COS  
Tanya Sysoeva, COS  
Angela Hollingsworth, CON  
Tracy Lakin, CON  
Hamsa Mahafza, COEd  
Paul Whitehead, COEd  
Jon Hakkila, Chair\*  
David Moore, Library\*  
Janet Waller, Registrar\*

**Members Absent:** Joseph Conway, CAHS  
Lenora Smith, CON (Proxy: Pam O'Neal)  
Sophia Marinova, COB  
Wafa Hakim-Orman, COB\*  
Louise O'Keefe, CON\*

**Visitors:** Suzanne Simpson, IR  
Judith Schneider, Materials Science  
Jakobus Le Roux, COS  
Aurora Torres, CAHS  
Audrey Jupiter, Graduate School  
Joy Werka, Graduate School  
Gracie Lester, Graduate School  
Susan Knight, Graduate School

\*Non-Voting Member

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**1. Roll Call / Introduction of Council Members**

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

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

*Motion was made by Dr. Angela Hollingsworth to approve the graduate council meeting agenda.  
Motion was seconded by Dr. Paul Whitehead. Motion carried.*

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 26, 2022**

*Motion was made by Dr. Dylan Baun to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2022.  
Motion was seconded by Dr. Angela Hollingsworth. Motion carried.*

### **4. Announcements**

- a. Dinner with the Graduate Dean – September 21
- b. Graduate School Open Meeting with All Colleges – Week of October 10 (exact date TBD)
- c. 3MT Workshop – October 11
- d. 3MT Competition – November 2

*Dr. Hakkila provided updates about recent graduate-focused events, as listed above.*

### **5. Curricular Items**

- a. College of Nursing
  - i. Course Change (Credit Hours): NUS 799/Dissertation

*Dr. Pam O'Neal provided commentary on item 5.a.i. Council approved.*

- b. College of Science
  - i. Course Change: CS 554
  - ii. New Course: SPA 634
  - iii. Program Change: SPA M.S.
  - iv. Program Change: SPA Ph.D.

*Drs. Robert Griffin and Tim Newman provided commentary on item 5.b.i. Council agreed to table due to issues; curricular item to be resubmitted at future graduate council meeting.*

*Dr. Jakobus Le Roux provided commentary on item 5.b.ii. Council approved.*

*Dr. Jakobus Le Roux provided commentary on items 5.b.iii. and iv. Council agreed to table due to issues; curricular items to be resubmitted at future graduate council meeting.*

### **6. Graduate Faculty Nominations – For Membership Consideration**

- a. College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
  - i. Sims, Jennifer
  - ii. Vangsness, Lisa
- b. College of Nursing
  - i. Ahlersmeyer, Ellen
  - ii. Barron, Keri
  - iii. Blum, Steven
  - iv. Brent, Toni
  - v. Eyer, Joshua
  - vi. Jones, Daphne
  - vii. Kaylor, Sara
  - viii. Mayuex, Jack
  - ix. Sartain, Andrea
  - x. Smith, Todd
  - xi. Strickland, Keri
  - xii. Welch, Teresa
  - xiii. Winston, Rachel

- c. College of Science
  - i. Xue, Lulin

*Council approved all graduate faculty nominations listed above.*

#### **7. Alabama Asset / Stackable Credentials**

*UAH will participate, in a limited way, in the AL ASSET program. However, we will not establish a vehicle degree because that would violate many of our current academic procedures. We will allow programs to list micro-credentials (graduate certificates as assets). Stackable credentials are a valuable enticement for students to take graduate courses at a university without necessarily having a distinct focus area. The Provost encourages programs to begin discussing how to create stackable credentials. Currently, there is no UAH definition of a graduate certificate and the minimum number of credits is going to need to be specified; we recommend that programs consider 12-15 credits at a minimum.*

#### **8. New Thesis and Dissertation Process**

*Dr. Jon Hakkila provided information about the graduate school's plans to roll-out a newly revised LaTeX template and to transition to a new thesis/dissertation editing process that will take place within the ProQuest platform. Plans on target to launch in Fall 2022.*

#### **9. JUMP**

*Dr. Hakkila reviewed with council a previously prepared document outlining "10 Known Problems with the Existing UAH JUMP Program." He pointed out that student progress is not monitored in the current JUMP program and that many JUMP pathways are either undefined or are so flexible that they violate the program requirements described in public UAH documents. He also indicated that the UAH JUMP program makes no attempt to adhere to academic standards of accreditation established by us and our peer institutions via our accreditor, SACSCOC. These are not solely UAH problems; Dr. Hakkila and Dr. Suzanne Simpson (Institutional Research) indicated that there are many recent cases where SACSCOC has closely scrutinized accelerated master's programs at other Southern universities. In order to maintain compliance, the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa has recently tightened its own AMP standards in advance of its next reaffirmation; these changes will show up in its 2023-24 catalog.*

*Dr. Hakkila and Dr. Simpson both argued that changes also need to be made to the UAH JUMP program, and Dr. Hakkila stated that the graduate council is a good place to start appropriate discussions since JUMP primarily serves graduate programs as an alternate set of entrance requirements. Dr. Hakkila reiterated that nobody wants to get rid of JUMP; the program plays a valuable role in recruiting undergraduates for UAH graduate programs, and that the goal is simply to revise JUMP so that it can be monitored and so that it is consistent with the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation. As a starting point for JUMP discussions, he shared a document entitled, "Recommendations Needed to Fix JUMP Program Problems." Suggestions include 1) preventing students from entering the program until junior or senior year, 2) increasing the minimum GPA to ensure that only exceptional students are allowed in the program, 3) tightening JUMP pathways and tracks of study, 4) limiting the number of credits that can be double-counted and/or placing a limit on the minimum total number of credit hours students may count toward their combined programs, 5) preventing students who do not meet program requirements from counting JUMP courses in their graduate programs of study, and/or 6) limiting the allowed transition time between undergraduate degree completion and the start of the graduate program. Dr. Hakkila reiterated that these are only starting points for discussion, and he encouraged members to bring other solutions to the table for future discussion as well.*

**10. For the Good of the Order**

- a. *NC SARA was discussed with commentary from Dr. Michael Anderson, Dr. Jon Hakkila, Dr. Suzanne Simpson, and Janet Waller.*
- b. *The date of the next graduate council meeting will be Friday, October 21, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in SSB 201.*

**11. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.*