

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

**Friday / February 13, 2026  
2:00 p.m. in SSB 201**

**Members Present:** Mike Anderson, COE\*  
Maria Pour, COE  
Aubrey Beal, COE  
Wafa Orman, COB\*  
Sophia Marinova, COB  
Yi Tan, COB  
Christina Steidl, CAHS\*  
Ryan Weber, CAHS  
Lingze Duan, COS\*  
Max Bonamente, COS  
Haihong Che, COS  
Seyed Sadeghi, COS  
Nilsa Black-Mead, CON  
Lenora Smith, CON  
Laura Senn, COEd  
Jon Hakkila, Chair\*  
David Moore, Library\*

**Members Absent:**

Kader Frendi, COE (Proxy: Maria Pour)  
Molly Johnson, CAHS (Proxy: Nicole Pacino)  
Joe Conway, CAHS (Proxy: Daniel Krenn)  
Yeow Chye Ng, CON\*  
Tracy Lakin, CON (Proxy: Nilsa Black-Meade)  
Jeremy Elliott, COEd\*  
Amanda Giles, COEd (Proxy: Dan Walsh)  
Amy Smith, Registrar\*  
Misty McFadden, OIREA\*

**Guests:** Judy Schneider, Materials Science  
Larry Carey, Atmospheric Science  
Sean Freeman, Atmospheric Science  
Huaming Zhang, Computer Science  
Tim Newman, Computer Science  
Dongsheng Wu, Mathematics  
Susan Knight, Graduate School  
Michelle Massey, 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. Sophia Marinova made a motion to approve the Graduate Council meeting agenda; motion was seconded by Dr. Max Bonamente. Motion carried.*

## 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 16, 2026

*Dr. Lenora Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 16, 2026; motion was seconded by Dr. Max Bonamente. Motion carried.*

## 4. Announcement(s)

- a. Recent Graduate School Event(s)
  - i. Thesis/Dissertation/DNP Writing Workshop – January 30, 10:30-11:30am, SSB 201/Zoom (hybrid)
  - ii. Graduate Poster Session Workshop – February 11, 11am-Noon, SSB 201
- b. Upcoming Graduate School Event(s)
  - iii. Dinner with the Graduate Dean – March 4, 5:30-7pm, SSB 112
  - iv. GRFP Grant Writing Workshop – March 20, 10-11am, SSB 201

*Ms. Michelle Massey provided feedback and information about the graduate-focused events listed above.*

**[Note: Regarding 4.a.i. above, Ms. Massey reminded Council that, since the defense deadline this semester falls during Spring Break, the deadline for students to defend will be March 16, 2026; subsequent deadlines will not change.]**

- c. Graduate School Assistance with Kuali Academic Ops

*Ms. Massey announced that, per a request at last month's Graduate Council meeting, she checked into the possibility of holding a Kuali training workshop to help programs learn more about the technical components of entering their proposal information. However, after working on an individual level in recent weeks with several departments, she felt the individualized approach was working very well and recommended continuing that process. She also encouraged anyone with questions about the Kuali proposal process to reach out to the Graduate School for answers and personalized assistance.*

## OLD BUSINESS

5. n/a

## NEW BUSINESS

6. n/a

## 7. Curricular Items

### Courses:

- a. CAHS: HY 540/440 – U.S. Foreign Policy & Statecraft Since 1898 (*modify: title, description*) – **Approved**
- b. CAHS: PSC 562 – Intelligence & National Security (*modify: course offerings*) – **Approved**
- c. CAHS: PSC 564/464 – American Foreign Policy (*modify: description, outcomes*) – **Conditionally Approved with submission of syllabi that specifies graduate rigor**
- d. CAHS: PSC 566/466 – U.S. National Security Policy (*modify: objectives, title, description*) – **Approved**
- e. COS: AES 514/414 – Cartography & Applications (*modify: title, course description*) – **Approved**
- f. COS: AES 607 – Big Data & Machine Learning/AI for Atmospheric Scientists (*new course*) – **Approved**
- g. COS: AES 798 – Advanced Research in Atmospheric Science (*new course*) – **Approved**
- h. COS: BYS 569/469 – Radiation Biology (*new course: to also be cross-listed with PH 469/569*) – **Rejected until proposal is corrected per Dr. Hakkila's comments made in Kuali proposal on 2/16/26 and then resubmitted for future consideration**
- i. COS: CS 513 – Intro to Computer Architecture (*modify: reduce course offerings, change to 3 cr hrs*) – **Approved**
- j. COS: CS 521 – Intensive Intro to Programming, Design Patterns, Software Eng (*modify: change to 3 cr hrs*) – **Approved**
- k. COS: CS 798 – Intro to Research in Computer Science (*new course*) – **Approved**

- l. COE: EE 720 – Phased Array Antennas (*new course*) – **Approved**
- m. COS: MA 504/404 – Applied Game Theory (*new course*) – **Rejected due to course name being the same as a course name in COB; Dr. Dongsheng Wu agreed to discuss with mathematics department and determine a new course name; once new name is determined, proposal to be resubmitted for future consideration**
- n. COS: MA 796 – Graduate Research in Mathematics (*new course*) – **Approved**
- o. CON: NUR 700 – Statistics for Translational Research in Healthcare (*modify: name, outcomes*) – **Approved**
- p. CON: NUS 756 – Application of Theoretical Models (*modify: pre-req grade*) – **Approved**
- q. CON: NUS 758 – Quantitative Research Methods (*modify: pre-req grade*) – **Approved**
- r. CON: NUS 760 – Statistics I (*modify: pre-req grade*) – **Approved**
- s. CON: NUS 766 – Epidemiology in Rural & Medically Underserved Populations (*modify: pre-req grade*) – **Approved**
- t. CON: NUS 774 – Measurement in Research (*modify: pre-req grade*) – **Approved**
- u. CON: NUS 776 – Advanced Research Methods (*modify: pre-req grade*) – **Approved**
- v. CON: NUS 799 – Doctoral Dissertation (*modify: pre-req grade*) – **Approved**

**Programs:**

- w. CAHS: Intelligence & Security (Graduate Certificate) – (*modify: redesign certificate, description*) – **Approved**
- x. COE: Aerospace Systems Engineering (MS) – (*modify: program requirements*) – **Approved**
- y. COE: Mechanical Engineering (MSE) – (*modify: program requirements*) – **Approved**
- z. COE: Mechanical Engineering (PhD) – (*modify: program requirements, progression plans*) – **Approved**
- aa. COS: Cybersecurity (Graduate Certificate) – (*inactivate*) – **Approved**

**Concentrations:**

n/a

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

- a. CON: 1428 Darden, Kelly – DNP (*DNP Mentor*) – **Approved**
- b. COS: 1430 Thomas, Nicholas – PhD/Astrophysics (*supervisory committee*) \*NASA – **Approved**
- c. COS: 1434 Duran, Patrick – PhD/Atmospheric Science (*supervise student research, supervisory committee*) \*NASA – **Approved**
- d. COS: 1437 Hui, Chiumun Michelle – PhD/Physics (*supervisory committee*) \*NASA – **Approved**

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

- *Dr. Maria Pour asked whether students (mainly part-time students) will need to be enrolled in 798 when taking their qualifying exams. There was discussion that if UAH students are receiving proper faculty guidance, then they should be enrolled in some course (including 798 or its equivalent). But Dr. Hakkila said that the way the handbook and catalog read is that the Continuous Enrollment requirement does not apply to doctoral students until they have passed their qualifiers. He said that the way Continuous Enrollment used to be interpreted was that students only had to be continuously enrolled once they started taking 799. However, interpretation of the rule became difficult in programs that allowed students to take 799 before they had passed their qualifier. Basically, he said, we were in violation of our own rules and that is part of the reason why we pulled the handbook from the website and began revising the procedures in it for inclusion in the catalog.*

*Ms. Michelle Massey then read aloud the Continuous Registration Requirement from the UAH Catalog, which states:*

*“All students who have completed the minimum coursework requirements for the doctoral degree they are pursuing (excluding dissertation hours) must register for a minimum of three semester hours of graduate credit (to include dissertation credit) each Fall and Spring semester until all degree requirements are complete. Students need to be registered for at least three hours of 799 in the semester in which they defend their dissertation research. If a student falls out of continuous enrollment or anticipates they cannot continue their enrollment, the student must contact the Graduate School and their graduate program.”*

*She explained that her interpretation of this language expects that students must maintain continuous enrollment after fulfilling their coursework so, she said, yes, it seems that students need to be registered for a minimum of some sort of pre-dissertation research at least.*

*Dr. Hakkila concluded the discussion saying the policy allows for exceptions but exactly what those exceptions are remains unclear. He said work will continue to sort this out.*

- *Dr. Anderson asked Dr. Hakkila if he had received any feedback regarding the possibility for faculty to receive pay during the summer for teaching 799 courses. (This question was raised during the recent monthly meeting between the Associate Deans and the Graduate Dean.) Dr. Anderson said that if they are not being paid during the summer under these circumstances, faculty feel they are volunteering their time and are refusing to work during summer. It was mentioned that UAH receives tuition for the courses being taught during the summer so it was felt that some of that tuition should go to the faculty teaching the courses.*

*Dr. Hakkila stated that he plans to discuss this issue during the next Associate Provosts meeting.*

- *A question was asked whether Graduate Council voted to grade 798 as S/U, which was confirmed as correct.*

**10. Reminder: Next Graduate Council Meeting – March 20, 2026, at 2:00pm, SSB 201**

**11. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.**

/srk