

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

**Friday / March 20, 2026
2:00 p.m. in SSB 201**

Members Present: Mike Anderson, COE*
Maria Pour, COE
Aubrey Beal, COE
Sophia Marinova, COB
Yi Tan, COB
Christina Steidl, CAHS*
Lingze Duan, COS*
Max Bonamente, COS
Haihong Che, COS
Seyed Sadeghi, COS
Yeow Chye Ng, CON*
Nilsa Black-Mead, CON
Lenora Smith, CON
Amanda Giles, CESHS
Laura Senn, CESHS
Jon Hakkila, Chair*
David Moore, Library*
Amy Smith, Registrar*
Misty McFadden, OIREA*

Members Absent: Kader Frendi, COE (Proxy: None)
Wafa Orman, COB*
Molly Johnson, CAHS (Proxy: None)
Joe Conway, CAHS (Proxy: Daniel Krenn)
Ryan Weber, CAHS
Tracy Lakin, CON (Proxy: Lenora Smith)
Jeremy Elliott, CESHS*

Guests: Larry Carey, Atmospheric Science
Judy Schneider, Materials Science
Huaming Zhang, Computer Science
Dongsheng Wu, Mathematics
Carrie Deans, Biology
Hamsa Mahafza, Curriculum & Instruction
Susan Knight, Graduate School
Michelle Massey, Graduate School
Simone Frazier, Graduate School

**Non-Voting Member*

1. Roll Call

A record of attendance was recorded as noted above.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Lenora Smith made a motion to approve the Graduate Council meeting agenda; motion was seconded by Dr. Yeow Chye Ng. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 13, 2026

Dr. Max Bonamente made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2026; motion was seconded by Dr. Lenora Smith. Motion carried.

4. Announcement(s)

a. Recent Graduate School Event(s)

- i. Dinner with the Graduate Dean – March 4, 5:30-7pm, SSB 112
- ii. GRFP Grant Writing Workshop – March 20, 10-11am, SSB 201

b. Upcoming Graduate School Event(s)

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

c. 2026 UAH & CSGS Master's Thesis Award Winner:

Derek Koehl, UAH CAHS/Applied Experimental Psychology

"Analyzing Trust in Automation Using Large Language Models"

d. 2026 UAH Master's Thesis Award Winner / 2026 CSGS Master's Thesis Award Nominee:

Wren Jenkins, UAH COS/Biological Sciences

"Investigation into Floral Structure Traits in Miscanthus"

Ms. Simone Frazier, Ms. Michelle Massey, and Dr. Jon Hakkila provided feedback and information about the graduate-focused events listed above.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Update to Graduate School AI Guidelines

Ms. Simone Frazier explained that a bullet point item has been removed from the document titled, "UAH Graduate School Guidelines on the Use of Generative AI for Theses, Dissertations, Graduate Capstone and DNP Projects." On the second page of the document in the "Graduate School AI Guidelines" section, there are three bullets that provide examples of acceptable uses of generative AI tools. The first bullet that reads, "Revising, editing, and proofreading document text" has been deleted as it is no longer considered an appropriate use of generative AI.

Dr. Hakkila shared that this bullet was removed after much constructive dialogue with various programs after a student claimed the use of AI to help "revise and proofread" their paper. This student was then asked to explain that process in more detail; the student responded that they asked AI to "give them sentences and then they decided which ones they wanted to use in their paper." So, since theses, dissertations, graduate capstone, and DNP projects should reflect a student's own critical thinking and writing, the Graduate School decided to remove this example from the "acceptable use" list.

Dr. Hakkila further explained that it is fine if a student wants to use predictive AI to perform spell check and grammar check, but it is not acceptable to import their own writing into AI to have it rewritten and then used in their paper. He also once again encouraged programs to develop AI guidelines that reflect their own specifics for acceptable and responsible use.

The question was asked whether there would be any attempt to connect these guidelines to the undergraduate level. Dr. Hakkila said, as discussed in the past these guidelines were thoughtfully developed by a committee for graduate-level use only, but he thought there was a meeting being planned among the Deans and Associate Deans to discuss the undergraduate AI issue.

Another question was asked about the submission/publishing process for programs that have written their own AI guidelines. Dr. Hakkila said programs should submit a copy of their guidelines to the Graduate School, and they should also provide their AI guidelines to their students asap via any format(s) the program deems appropriate.

Last, there was a short discussion regarding concerns about students publishing their final papers, which have always been considered intellectual property and copyrighted, and how using AI in a non-private mode would be equivalent to having the student give away their intellectual property for free. Dr. Hakkila commented that he thought the university is considering purchasing software that will allow local training of the AI, thus keeping proprietary information inside the UAH firewall.

NEW BUSINESS

6. 3MT Presentation by Vignesh Vasudevan Geetha, COS: “Decoding Smoke: Making Prescribed Burns Safer for Communities”

College of Science student and winner of the UAH 2026 Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, Vignesh Vasudevan Geetha showcased his 3MT presentation. Vignesh represented UAH in the recent regional 3MT competition in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

7. Curricular Items

Courses:

- a. CAHS: HY 537/437 – Gilded Age & Progressive Era, 1877-1920 (modify: title, description) – **Approved**
- b. CAHS: PSC 564/464 – American Foreign Policy (modify: description, outcomes) – **Approved**
- c. CAHS: PSC 570/470 – Contemporary Issues in National Security (modify: title, objectives, description) – **Approved**
- d. CAHS: EDL 604 – Instructional Leadership for All Learners (modify: title) – **Approved**
- e. COE: MAE 798 – Graduate Research (new course) – **Approved**
- f. CESHs: ED 640 – Applied Learning Theories (new course) – **Approved**
- g. CESHs: ED 660 – Introduction to Differentiation (new course) – **Approved**
- h. CESHs: ED 670 – Data Literacy for Differentiated Assessment (new course) – **Approved [Note: Will prepare separate proposal to inactivate ED 635 (Assessment to Guide Differentiated Instruction)]**
- i. CESHs: ED 680 – Introduction to Applied Educational Research (modify: link ED 535 & ED 680) – **Approved**
- j. CESHs: ESL 630 – Designing Instruction for Academic Literacies (new course) – **Approved**
- k. CON: NUR 607 – Pharmacology in Advanced Practice (modify: add pre-req) – **Approved**
- l. COS: CS 517/317→417 – Intro to Design/Analysis of Algorithms (modify: cross-list with CS 417 at 3 credits) – **Approved**
- m. COS: BYS 581/481 – Introduction to Systems Biology (new course) – **Approved**

Programs:

- n. CAHS: History (MA) – (modify: description) – **Approved**
- o. COB: Cybersecurity Studies (Graduate Certificate) – (modify: requirements) – **Approved**
- p. COE: Aerospace Systems Engineering (PhD) – (modify: requirements, progression plans) – **Approved**
- q. COE: Electrical Engineering (MSE) – (modify: requirements) – **Approved**
- r. COS: Chemistry (MS) – (modify: add CH 649 to course requirement for polymer chemistry) – **Approved**
- s. COS: Atmospheric Science (PhD) – (modify: entry points) – **Approved**
- t. COS: Computer Science (PhD) – (modify: reduce credit and math requirements) – **Approved**
- u. COS: Computer Science, Intensive Core (Graduate Certificate) – (modify: adjust requirements) – **Approved**
- v. COS: Mathematical Sciences (MS) – (modify: restructure program) – **Approved**
- w. COS: Mathematics, Applied (PhD) – (modify: restructure program) – **Approved**
- x. COS: Mathematical Sciences (MA) – (inactivate) – **Approved**

Concentrations:

n/a

8. Graduate Faculty Nominations – For Membership Consideration

- a. CAHS: 1450 Golding, Jonathan Mark – PhD/Cognitive Psychology (*supervisory committee*) – **Approved**
- b. COE: 1456 Boehm, Kirk – PhD/Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics (*teach: MAE 569,642; supervisory comm*) – **Approved**
- c. COE: 1447 Duggleby, Andrew – PhD/Mechanical Engineering (*supervisory committee*) – **Approved**
- d. CON: 1442 Bianchi, Ann (emeritus) – PhD/Nursing Science (*supervisory committee*) – **Approved**
- e. COS: 1441 Morales, Claudio (emeritus) – PhD/Mathematics (*supervise student research, supervisory comm*) – **Approved**
- f. COS: 1448 Sayre, David – PhD/Computer Science (*teach: CS 524/424*) – **Approved**
- g. COS: 1461 Bang, Sarah – PhD/Atmospheric Science (*supervisory committee*) *NASA – **Approved**
- h. COS: 1462 Harkema, Sebastian – PhD/Atmospheric Science (*teach: AES 502/402*) – **Approved**

9. For the Good of the Order

n/a

10. Reminder: Next Graduate Council Meeting – *April 17, 2026, at 2:00pm, SSB 201*

11. Adjourn – *The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.*

/srk