

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Graduate School

Graduate Council Minutes

April 17, 2020

Academic Year 2020

2:00 P.M.

Meeting No. 4

Via Zoom

**Members Present:** Michael Anderson, Ramazan Aygun, Yeqing Bao, Dylan Baun, David Berkowitz, Joseph Conway, Eric Fong, Karen Frith, Robert Griffin, Phillip Ligrani, Wafa Hakim Orman, David Moore, Jason O'Brien, TingTing Que, Lenora Smith, Janet Waller, DongSheng Wu.

**Members Absent:** Ellise Adams, Paul Collopy.

**Voting Members:** Michael Anderson, Ramazan Aygun, Dylan Baun, Joseph Conway, Eric Fong, Karen Frith, Robert Griffin, Wafa Hakim Orman, Jason O'Brien, TingTing Que, Lenora Smith, DongSheng Wu.

**Proxy:** Michael Anderson for Paul Collopy; Karen Frith for Elise Adams.

**Non-Voting Members:** David Berkowitz, Yeqing Bao, and Robin Graves for the Graduate School; Janet Waller, Registrar; and Wafa Orman, Economics.

**Visitors Present:** Laird Burns, MGT; Yu, Lei, CH; John Pottenger, PSC; Sara Graves, CS; M.Maloney, Grad School.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by Dr. Berkowitz.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Old Business:

1. **Approve last month's minutes** <https://www.uah.edu/graduate/resources/graduate-council>

- The March minutes were displayed on the white board for review.
- Corrections were acknowledged, noted, and amended.
- The March minutes were amended, Eric Fong motioned, Karen Frith seconded and minutes were approved. The vote to accept was unanimous.

2. **Introduction of Dr. Laird Burns-President of Faculty Senate**

- Dr. Berkowitz introduced and welcomed Dr. Burns to the faculty council meeting. Dr. Burns presented a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Faculty Senate. He provided rationale as to their purpose of wanting to have representatives appointed by the faculty senate as noted in the changes to section 6 in the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Berkowitz noted that having two committees (Graduate Council and Faculty Senate) increased the level of faculty participation and governance. Thus, having the Faculty Senate appoint the Graduate Council does not help that process.
- Dr. Burns also noted that the Faculty Senate was concerned about the lack of visibility of the graduate council process. Dr. Berkowitz noted that the Provost asked that Graduate Council provide advance notice of the agenda and that he has complied with that request.
- Dr. Burns requested that Council representatives be listed on the webpage.
- Dr. Frith stated there was concern of items being discussed in public. Examples include NISP and program proposals in addition to strategies for growth.
- Dr. Burns suggested that an ex officio member to the Graduate Council would be requested.
- Dr. Berkowitz in turn suggested that the Faculty Senate should have an ex officio member from the Graduate Council. This would help with communications.

3. **Vote on Resolution of Affirmation**

- After Dr. Burns had completed his presentation a discussion ensued about the next options for the Graduate Council.
- The options were to:
  - Un-table the Resolution motion from the March meeting and vote,
  - Withdraw the Resolution
- The resolution was un-tabled and voted on. After discussion, no changes were made and the Graduate Council voted, 11-3 to pass the Resolution.
- The Resolution will be sent to the Provost, President and Faculty Senate.

#### **4. Dr. Bao-Revisit Alabama Asset**

- Dr. Bao provided an update on the new Alabama Asset program.
- Assets cater to the needs of the labor market.
- The courses will need to be accessible throughout the state.
- They will need to be stackable and transferable.
- Some campuses are moving faster with proposals such as UAB and Auburn.
- The state as a whole is very interested in the program.
- UAB has already two NISPs out for review for an Interdisciplinary Master of Arts and Interdisciplinary Master of Science.
- Our goal would be to propose interdisciplinary Master's programs to meet the needs of an asset.
- Janet Waller, the registrar, will be involved in the state-side planning meetings.

#### **5. Dr. Joseph Conway-Revisit Role of Lecturers as Master Thesis Director**

- Dr. Conway discussed the role of lecturers for Thesis
- There was a strong discussion which provided a lot of feedback.
  - Would lecturers be concerned that this will become a criterion used for reappointment even though they are not hired to do research?
  - Several Graduate Council members have concerns that lecturers are not getting credit for the thesis that they are helping to advise.
- The discussion was tabled.
- Dr. Berkowitz suggested that there was an opportunity to revisit this in more detail. He appointed Dr. Conway to head up a small committee to provide direction for revision to the Graduate Handbook.

#### **New Business:**

##### **1. NISP for Kinesiology Master Program**

There is a NISP for Kinesiology for a Master's degree that was sent out. The president would like to have it by Friday. It was requested that the council members look at it and provide votes by Tuesday.

##### **2. Language Testing and Transcripts for International Students**

The Language component was not suspended for the upcoming students. The TOEFL and IELTS are still in place. There are some new testing methods that Dr. Bao will discuss with the English Language Proficiency Assessment Task Force. Dr. Bao will share the results and recommendations after the meeting on how UAH will move forward.

There are some delays for incoming transcripts. There is no certainty as to how long this process will be. It appears to be only international transcripts.

### **3. Thoughts on the Fellowship Matrix**

Dr. Berkowitz would like for the Graduate Council to think about not having GRE/GMAT as part of the graduate fellowship decisions. What other alternative evaluations that are fair could be included in the matrix.

### **4. Other New Information**

- International numbers are really down. Undergraduate numbers are steady. There will be a better assessment after May 4, 2020.
- A pass grade counted toward the Jump program will only be allowed for this semester.

**Tentative date for next meeting via zoom Friday, May 15, 2020 at 2:00.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:08.**