

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Graduate School

Graduate Council Minutes
Academic Year 2020
Meeting No. 3

March 26, 2020
2:00 P.M.
Via Zoom

Members Present: Ellise Adams, Michael Anderson, Yeqing Bao, David Berkowitz, Joseph Conway, Paul Collopy, Eric Fong, Phillip Ligrani, Wafa Hakim Orman, Karen Frith, Janet Waller, Tingting Que, Ramazan Aygun, Jason O'Brien, Lenora Smith, Dongsheng Wu, and Robin Graves.

Members Absent: Angela Balla, Dylan Baun, Robert Griffin, and David Moore.

Voting Members: Joe Conway, Dylan Baun, Eric Fong, Paul Collopy, Phillip Ligrani, Michael Anderson, Donsheng Wu, Ramazan Aygun, Robert Griffin, Ellise Adams, Lenora Smith, and Karen Frith.

Proxy: Joseph Conway for Angela Balla and Dylan Baun.

Non-Voting Members:

David Berkowitz, Yeqing Bao, and Robin Graves for the Graduate School;
Janet Waller, Registrar; and Wafa Orman, Economics.

Visitors Present: Lori Lioce, Nursing; Yu Lei, Chemical Engineering; Joseph Robertshaw, English; John Pottenger, Political Science; Matthew Niemiller, Biology; Rob Preece, Space Science; Toka Diagana, Mathematics; Tauhidur Rahman, Electrical and Computer Engineering; (Abdul) Abdullahi Salman, Civil Engineering; Kevin Bao, Marketing.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 by Dr. Berkowitz.
The February minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Adjusting Entrance requirement during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- a. **GRE/GMAT Waivers.** Dr. Berkowitz discussed the suggestion of the GRE/GMAT entrance exams being waived but not the TOEFL/IELTS exam as it is needed to determine if students are able to understand the English language. It was mentioned that some departments at UAH do not require the exams for entrance into their program. Dr. Berkowitz shared that the Provost would like the Graduate Faculty to consider temporarily waving the GRE/GMAT entrance exams for the summer/fall entrance. The Provost feels it's in the best interest of UAH at this time to remain competitive among other universities. The Graduate Faculty has some concern of the threshold on how to evaluate if a student qualifies academically upon entering particular programs without a GRE/GMAT entrance exam requirement. The Colleges of Business, AHSS, Science, Education, Engineering and Nursing have agreed to suspend the GMAT/GRE. Each college will have specific criteria for consideration of entrance into graduate programs. If a student has taken the GMAT/GRE then it will be used in evaluation.
- b. **Pass Fail Grading.** Dr. Berkowitz spoke about the current COVID-19 situation and the effect it is taking on the students' grades. He asked how the Graduate Council felt about the pass/fail option, as UAH recognizes a "B" or better not a pass or fail. It was mentioned that some students will want their true grade if it positively affects their GPA as others may opt in the pass/fail option. This particular issue would be relevant for the undergrad students as well as the graduate students. The JUMP students probably would utilize the pass/fail option that are taking upper level courses during the present time. It was suggested that conversation be revisited once more information becomes available from the Registrar and Provost. The Council will provide guidance on this issue.

2. Dr. Bao-Faculty Senate proposal regarding the Graduate Council Membership

The Graduate Council continued its discussion of the proposed changes to Chapter 6 of the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Aygun noted, Faculty Senate feels as though they are not receiving information/communication from the Graduate Council meetings. The Graduate Council has begun to post minutes and send out agendas to faculty to **increase** its communication. The Graduate Council meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. For this meeting a zoom invite was sent to all faculty. Streaming the Graduate Council meetings would be an option to alleviate lack of communication and is being considered for future meetings. Dr. Collopy motioned and Dr. Ramazan Aygun seconded for Dr. Berkowitz to invite Dr. Burns,

President of the Faculty Senate, to discuss the proposed changes to Chapter 6 of the Faculty Handbook. the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Dr. Karen Frith- Resolution of Affirmation

Dr. Frith presented a Resolution of Affirmation for the Graduate Council to remain independent from the Faculty Senate. The resolution was discussed then tabled until after Dr. Burn's presentation.

4. Dr. Joseph Conway-Discussion about Role of Lecturers as Master Thesis Director

Dr. Joseph Conway is interested in allowing Lecturers to direct student thesis. Many lecturers in English have terminal degrees and are active in research in order to advance their careers as they seek tenure track positions. Per the Dissertation/Thesis handbook section 6.3- only full time Tenured or Tenure track faculty are allowed to direct Dissertation/Thesis. Dr. Berkowitz is in the process of rewriting/updating the language in the Graduate handbook. He is open to new discussions and ideas about this topic. Dr. Berkowitz suggested talking with faculty and getting their views. The topic was tabled until next month's meeting.

5. Dr. Bao- Q & A responses -Alabama Asset

Dr. Berkowitz suggested the Alabama Asset discussion be tabled until next month's meeting.

Tentative date for next meeting via zoom Friday, April 17, 2020 at 2:00.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 P.M.