

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

**Friday / March 11, 2022
2:00 p.m. in SSB 313**

- Members Present:** Michael Anderson, COE*
Kevin Bao, COB
Dylan Baun, CAHS
Joseph Conway, CAHS
Harry Delugach, COS
Junpeng Guo, COE
Wafa Hakim-Orman, COB*
Jon Hakkila, Chair*
Yu Lei, COE
Nicholas Loyd, COE
Lenora Smith, CON
Janet Waller, Registrar*
Paul Whitehead, CoED
- Members Absent:** Eric Fong, COB (on sabbatical)
Robert Griffin, COS*
Angela Hollingsworth, CON (proxy: Lenora Smith)
Xiaotong Li, COB (proxy: Kevin Bao)
Lori Lioce, CON
John Mecikalski, COS
David Moore, Library*
Matthew Niemiller, COS
Jason O'Brien, CoED
Louise O'Keefe, CON*
Jodi Price, CAHS*
- Visitors:** Jakobus Le Roux, COS
Thomas Morris, COS
John Pottenger, CAHS
Aurora Torres, CAHS

*Non-Voting Member

1. Roll Call

A record of attendance was recorded as noted above.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion was made by Dr. Hakkila to approve the graduate council meeting agenda. Vote to approve was unanimous.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 11, 2022

Motion was made by Dr. Baun to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2022. Motion was seconded by Dr. Smith. Motion carried.

4. Announcements

- a. Dinner with the Graduate Dean – February 8 update
- b. Graduate Poster Session – March 7 update
- c. Graduate Student Association Interest Meeting – March 9 update

5. Curricular Items

- a. College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences
 - i. Status of recent e-vote on new courses for Ph.D. in Applied Experimental Psychology

Dr. Hakkila reported that all criteria approved; program to begin Fall 2022.

- b. Admissions Criteria
 - i. ECE admission requirement changes

Dr. Hakkila reported that ECE would like to drop the GRE requirement and asked Dr. Morris to speak to this. Dr. Morris acknowledged that other institutions have made this change and have seen success within their programs. Dr. Morris also noted that this would be something the department would monitor and, if they notice a negative change, steps would then be taken to correct.

Dr. Hakkila then spoke to when the change would need to take place; due to the catalog release date, it needs to be planned a year in advance in order for changes to enter the next catalog and take effect the following year. This change will need to be submitted by April 6th.

6. Graduate Faculty Nominations – For Membership Consideration

- a. Dr. Christopher Hain – AES/Science
- b. Dr. Surangi Jayawardena – Chemistry/Science
- c. Dr. Jay Land – Physics/Science

Motion was made by Dr. Anderson to approve all graduate faculty nominations. Motion was seconded by Dr. Guo. Motion carried.

7. Academic Probation & Dismissal Procedures

Dr. Hakkila reminded council of the need for an updated graduate probation, dismissal, and appeals process. This generated a healthy and vigorous discussion regarding the current procedures, which do not meet the needs of either the students or their academic programs. Several council members expressed concern that this topic remains on the table as a long-term initiative, because they felt some form of immediate action is needed before publishing the 2022-2023 Graduate Catalog. Dr. Hakkila asked for input regarding catalog wording, which he will craft and submit to council for an online vote in advance of the next meeting.

8. JUMP – SACSCOC Standard 9.2

Dr. Hakkila discussed the following SACSCOC Standard 9.2 language:

“The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours. The institution provides an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.”

SACSCOC expects joint programs for bachelor and master degrees to have a total of 150 hours unless there are special, justifiable circumstances.

Dr. Hakkila tabled this discussion.

9. Academic Rigor – SACSCOC Standard 9.6

Dr. Hakkila briefly discussed the following SACSCOC Standard 9.6 language:

“Post-baccalaureate professional degree programs and graduate degree programs are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs, and are structured (a) to include knowledge of the literature of the discipline, and (b) to ensure engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training.”

The cross-listed courses must delineate the rigor for undergraduate and graduate courses. Learning Outcomes help to delineate the two.

This discussion was tabled.

10. Truth in Advertising – SACSCOC Standard 9.7

Dr. Hakkila discussed the following SACSCOC Standard 9.7 language:

“The institution publishes requirements for its undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate professional programs, as applicable. The requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs.”

Dr. Hakkila stated that this means we must have truth in our advertising.

This discussion was tabled.

11. 10-Year Rule

Dr. Hakkila discussed the 10-year rule/time of completion. Dr. Hakkila opened the floor to discuss the idea that students need 10 years to complete a degree. Dr. Delugach stated that any policy that discourages part-time students will hurt the enrollment of their masters' programs. When students take one course per semester, it can take up to five and one-half years to complete a degree. Dr. Delugach suggested that the PhD committee should address whether the work from the student remains relevant.

Dr. Hakkila discussed whether the problem is with the rule or with the process behind the rule.

This is a discussion that the Graduate Council will re-address.

12. Thesis/Dissertation Submission Process & Spring 2022 Deadlines

- a. February 1: Application to Graduate
- b. Before March 11: Submit Draft to Committee
- c. March 11: Oral Defense
- d. March 28: Submission to College Dean
- e. April 6: Submission to Graduate Dean
- f. April 15: Non-Thesis Final Oral Exam

Dr. Hakkila stated that, this semester, all students must follow this published timeline.

13. For the Good of the Order

No comments.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.