

# Alcorn State University

## GRADUATE COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, March 29, 2017

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, in the Academic Affairs Inner Conference Room in the Walter Washington Administration Building. Dr. Donzell Lee presided.

*Present:* Dr. Jermiah Billa, Dr. Akash Dania, Dr. Latoya Hart, Dr. Dickson Idusuyi, Dr. Larry Konecky, Dr. Donzell Lee, Dr. Keith McGee, Dr. Victor Njiti, Ms. Julia Odom, Dr. Babu Patlolla, Dr. Cynthia Scurria, Dr. Johnny Thomas, Dr. Voletta Williams, Dr. Helen Wyatt and Dr. Ping Zhang.

*Absent:* Dr. Janelle Baker, Dr. Sandra Barnes, Dr. Donna Williams

*Alternative Reps Present:* Mr. Alfred Galtney, Dr. Stephen Hall (Representative for Dr. Dickson Idusuyi), Mrs. Belinda Smith

**Call to Order:** Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. The Agenda was approved as printed.

### **SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Policies and Procedures: Admission Requirements of International Students** - The Graduate Council was convened to discuss policies and procedures involving conditional admission of international students. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated regulations regarding issuance of I-20s for international students to specify admission requirements. I-20s cannot be issued to students with a Conditional admission designation. Dr. Lee discussed the impact these regulations would have on enrollment of international students in the various degree programs. This would certainly dilute diversity if we lose a lot of international students. After much discussion from council members and departments that have high enrollments of international students, it was the consensus of the council to modify our admission requirements. International students meeting all requirements with the exception of scoring a 3.0 on the Analytical Writing on the GRE will be required to complete the department's writing proficiency requirement after arrival to campus. Therefore, the writing proficiency will be moved from an admission requirement to Continuing Status until the writing requirement is met after enrollment. Departments will track these students and advisers will monitor to ensure students satisfy this requirement to be fully admitted Unconditional. The Graduate School's position is to maintain consistency with federal standards for admission requirements for international students. The appropriate addendum will be made to the Graduate Catalog. The Graduate School is not changing any requirements, but simply moving a requirement.

**Good of the Order**

Time is set aside for council members to offer comments or observations about the business of the council and its work. The Graduate Council is doing an effective job in addressing this issue for maintenance of diversity and will review future concerns for domestic students related to the writing proficiency requirement.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.