



Graduate School

Date: April 21, 2025

To: Members of the UAMS Graduate Council

From: Dr. Brooke Montgomery, Chair

Subject: Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2025

Members Present: Drs. Brooke Montgomery, Mathias Brochhausen, Angela Odle, Sayem Miah, Jacob Painter, Jure Baloh, Lin-Xi Li, Patricia Wight, Adbel Fouda, Mick Tilford, and Martha Rojo

Members Absent: Drs. Horacio Gomez-Acevedo, Sam Atcherson, Zhiqiang Qin, Brian Fairman, and Lisa Jansen

Non-voting Members Present: Dr. Sean Taverna, Dr. Latrina Prince, and Charlotte Gass

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Dr. Brooke Montgomery started the meeting by requesting approval of the March 2025 minutes. The minutes were 1st approved by Dr. Patricia Wight and 2nd approved by Dr. Sayem Miah.

Administrative Items

Dr. Sean Taverna

Dr. Taverna thanked everyone for their participation in commencement/graduation planning. The main question that he has been fielding concerns faculty regalia. Faculty must wear regalia to participate. The deadline to order faculty regalia has passed, however faculty may purchase regalia online (ex. Amazon). We have a 2025 UAMS Graduate School – Commencement Program that has been set to Creative Services for review and print. The date for the 2025 UAMS Graduate School graduation and reception is at 6 pm on the 12th Floor of the Stephens Spine Center on the main campus. There will be a live stream available. As of right now, we have approximately 312 attendees.

Dr. Taverna thanked Dr. Fouda for his family contributions to Art from the Heart event. His daughter contributed a piece of artwork.

Dr. Taverna wanted to address take two of the 2025 UAMS Student Research Day. Dr. Taverna received comments from three deans, multiple faculty members, and students about how great the event went. The awards ceremony went great, and he hopes to post the awards online. Dr. Taverna stated they will be getting next year's committee started as soon as next week. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to email Dr. Taverna.

Dr. Taverna wanted to address the impact of the current administration with some of the goings on here. As many are aware, the IMSD grant which currently supports approximately six students, is going away in January 2026. Some things on the radar to help, please help with ideas for a T 32 training grant(s). Dr. Taverna offered his help with development, if needed. Dr.



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Taverna stated that it is important to keep funding resources and find new funding resources for our students.

Dr. Taverna also discussed the current situation concerning F-1 student visas being revoked. As of right now, we have not had any F-1 student visas revoked at UAMS. The International Student Office is currently checking our list two to three times a day. However, Dr. Taverna expressed that he understands it can be a distraction for our international students. If students have questions, please direct them to us.

Dr. Miah asked, what is the plan of action if a F-1 student gets revoked? What kind of support will be provided. Dr. Prince confirmed that if an F-1 student visa is removed, there is nothing that UAMS can do. The F-1 student visa is revoked by the federal government. If a F-1 student visa is revoked, he/she will have to leave the U.S. immediately. This is not an UAMS policy, and we can't interference with the federal government.

Dr. Prince stated that we might not be provided with a reason for the F-1 student visa to be revoked. If a student's F-1 visa is revoked, we can not allow them to pursue their degree.

Dr. Miah wants to confirm if there is legal support for students, faculty, or staff who need legal counsel. Charlotte stated that on the UAMS Immigration Services website, they provide a page of UAMS Approved Law Firms at <https://hr.uams.edu/immigration-services/approval-law-firms/>.

Dr. Prince stated that she and Charlotte periodically send updates and links to students concerning immigration attorneys and resources.

Dr. Taverna mentioned Mark Hagemeyer as a contact. Dr. Taverna believes that he is retiring soon, but willing to ask him.

Dr. Fouda asked if we should discourage students from traveling. Dr. Prince stated yes, we have been advising them to not travel outside of the U.S. right now. However, Dr. Prince stated that we cannot make them stay but highly discourage travel right now.

Dr. Taverna is concerned about how this is impacting our international students mentally. Dr. Taverna again stated to please feel free to communicate with us about any issues that pop up (anticipated or not).

Dr. Latrina Prince

Dr. Prince stated that she is currently working on the 2025-2026 UAMS Academic Catalog. Dr. Prince has been sending emails to faculty and program directors for updates. The deadline that was previously sent was for the 1st round of reviews. Please make sure your edits are submitted as soon as possible. Once the 2025-2026 UAMS Academic Catalog is published, we will not be able to make any updates. Please make sure your websites reflect the 2025-2026 UAMS Academic Catalog.

Fall 2025 fall schedules are now in progress. Dr. Prince will be sending out emails. Please make sure that you review your fall schedules for instructors, mode of instruction, etc. If changes are needed in Workday, it is a different process. Dr. Prince will not have access to



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make changes. Dr. Prince will have to work with the Registrar's Office for the changes. Please keep in mind that the Registrar's Office will be making the changes for all colleges and could experience a greater wait time due to volume.

Dr. Prince has posted the 2025-2026 UAMS Graduate School – Academic Calendar. The 2025-2026 UAMS Graduate School – Academic Calendar can be found on our [website](#). Please look at it for all dates. The only date missing is for the 2026 UAMS Student Research Day. Once the date is finalized, Dr. Prince will update the calendar.

Workday Student is up and going. Students will start using Workday Student fully in the Fall 2025 term (tuition/fees, registration, etc.). Academic advising holds were not posted in GUS for the Summer 2025. However, for the Fall 2025 term, students will have an academic advising hold posted in Workday Student. To request the removal of a hold, please email the Graduate School. However, if you would like to remove holds, please contact Dr. Prince and she will grant you access. If students have questions, Dr. Prince requested that you send them to us. Dr. Prince said to please have patience as we transition into a new student system information system.

Dr. Prince reminded everyone that the Cancer Walk is coming up! The Cancer Walk is the first weekend in May. If you have registered, there could be time still or to provide a donation.

Other Administrative Items

There were no other administrative items to discuss, so the meeting moved to the committee reports.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – No Chair

Dr. Latrina Prince provided the report since there is currently no committee chair.

Dr. Prince expressed her appreciation for all the members taking time to review curriculum changes, sending back feedback, and voting. The curriculum committee reviewed a curriculum change for the Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Health Sciences. The curriculum change request was approved.

Faculty Committee – Dr. Patricia Wight, Chair

Dr. Wight confirmed that the faculty committee voted to approve one faculty appointment for the Graduate School.

Academic Senate – Drs. Lin-Xi Li and Martha Rojo, GS Representatives

Dr. Rojo reported that the Academic Senate had a pet drive. People donated pet food, toys, and bedding. The pet drive was deemed a success.



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The Academic Senate also discussed the political climate and the effect it had on students and faculty. They talked about potential solutions and debriefing.

A survey from the Academic Senate was sent out faculty to assess satisfaction.

Other Items

Dr. Prince confirmed that there will not be a Graduate Council Meeting in May. The Graduate Council does not meet during the summer. The Graduate Council will reconvene in August 2025.

Closing

There was no other business to discuss; therefore, Dr. Latrina Prince motioned to end the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.