

# Report from the Graduate Council

November 22, 2019

submitted by Karen M. Kuralt

## Approved Curriculum Items

19-6067*	Program changes	Engineering Science and Systems Ph.D	approved 11/6
19-6074	New course	GEOG 4325/5325 Map Design & Web Mapping	approved 11/20
19-6078	Prereq & desc. change	FINC 4383/5383	approved 11/20

\*All changes listed on 19-6067 were approved except for item #5, which reads, "Courses: credit hours for Doctoral Dissertation Research can not be used to replace the required credit hours for System Engineering Master's Thesis or Graduate Project." The council voted to strike this item on November 6, noting that the ENSS Ph.D. program faculty do not have standing to impose a change on the SYEN M.S. program; only the M.S. program faculty can stipulate which courses they will or will not accept to satisfy their own requirements. Grad Council is referring this item back to the Systems Engineering Department for further discussion. If the department wishes to implement this change, it must be submitted on a program change form for the M.S. program and approved by the M.S. program faculty.

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## Approved for Graduate Faculty Status

### *Nominees for Affiliate Status*

Saquid Hussain	Doctorate	Texas A&M	CALS	approved 11/6
Md Mahmudur Rahman	Doctorate	Morgan State	CEIT	approved 11/6
James E. Deitrick	Doctorate	UCA	CEIT	approved 11/20
Dirk T. Haselow	Doctorate	UAMS	CEIT	approved 11/20
Brian Walker	Doctorate	UA Little Rock	CALS	approved 11/20

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## Approved Policy Changes

None

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## Other Issues Discussed

Council members were asked to leave available time on their schedules to meet with HLC representatives on Feb. 24 and 25 if needed. Graduate programs are encouraged to make sure both that their websites are up to date and that they include the program's mission statement and learning outcomes in preparation for the HLC visit. Coordinators should respond quickly to Evidence File Requests when they are received.

**Other Issues Discussed**

The number of Grad School applications is down compared to this time last year. However, a greater percentage of applicants is being accepted than in previous years. The Grad School is working on a variety of recruiting strategies to bring up the number of applications, including social media campaigns, email campaigns, and application fee waivers.

The Council also discussed the problem of requiring applicants to submit transcripts from every institution attended. This is a slow and expensive process that sometimes results in qualified applicants failing to complete their applications. Dr. Berry and Dr. Stevenson are researching the rationale for this requirement to determine whether it can be changed or modified to make the application process easier for prospective students.

The Graduate School has been given permission to conduct an internal search to hire an associate dean. An interim associate dean will be appointed to serve a term from Jan. 16 through June 30, allowing time for a full search to take place during Spring 2020. The permanent associate dean's contract will start on July 1, 2020.