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Graduate Council Minutes - September 24, 2015

Graduate Council

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

September 24, 2015 Minutes

Members Present

Baek, S.; Behn, B.; Bemis, D.; Boder, E.; Bonom, J.; Broemmel, A.; Brothers, E.; Cox, C.; Desmidt, H.; Forrest-Bank, S.; Fu, J.; Fuller, R.; Galloway, S.; Gregor, Jens; Hodges, C.; Kania, S. (Chair); Keny, J.; Marshall, S.; Mee, R.; Moazen, M.; Morrow, J.; Nebenfuhr, A.; Ohnesorg, S.; Rentsch, J.; Sachs, A.; Schaur, G.; Schriver, R.; Stier, John; Kilpatrick, Y.; Townsend, L; Wolitz, D.

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by chair, Dr. Stephen Kania, on Thursday, September 24, 2015, at 3:07 p.m. in the Panhellenic Building Room 202.

1. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the August 27, 2015 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council.

2. SAIS Presentation

Dr. Gary Skolits presented a report on a revised SAIS assessment created by the SAIS task force. Dr. Jennifer Morrow will be receiving input regarding 11 questions from the Graduate Council. Software has been implemented to conduct this survey, and the Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center will be conducting the training for the software. The survey is currently being beta tested on smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices to ensure there are no complications when it goes live. Dr. Morrow stated this is a year-long process of data collection, and she will be able to update the Council at the next meeting if requested.

3. Committee ReportsAcademic Policy Committee (Attachment 1)

Dr. Kania said due to a schedule conflict, Maria Stehle cannot attend today's meeting. Therefore, a vote on the grading scale will be conducted at the next Graduate Council meeting. Dr. Kania asked the Council to look over all materials because there will be a discussion and then a vote. The vote will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Credentials Committee (Attachment 2)

Dr. Kania said 40 candidates were considered for Credentials. In comparison, there were 18 and 23 candidates at this time in the two previous years. The Committee is recommending directive status for 19 faculty, 8 tenured faculty, and 13 non-tenure track faculty. (Attachment 2)

Curriculum Committee

No report.

Appeals Committee

No report.

4. Professional Development Awards

The first call for Professional Development Awards (PDA) has been issued. Dr. Hodges said PDAs still serve a very useful purpose and hopes to be able to again raise the amount of the award at some point.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Administrative ReportsVice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, presented the following information:

- There will be a second session of forums for the Top 25 Refresh series. The purpose of the forums is to obtain information from all UT constituents. Those who are unable to attend the forums can go online, read the document, and make suggestions. Dr. Hodges recommended that Council members do so.
- The Graduate School will launch a search in a few weeks for Dr. Joy DeSensi's replacement.
- There will be a workshop for Directors of Graduate Studies toward the end of October or early November.
- Dr. Ernest Brothers reminded the Council about Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training Lunch and Learn Sessions on Fridays at the Office of Research and Engagement. He asked the Council to encourage both faculty and graduate students to attend the training sessions.
- Dr. Hodges said Dr. Robert Nobles of the ORE is putting together a task force to look at issues concerning plagiarism. The task force will look at ways the University can secure software that can check programs for plagiarism.

7. Graduate Associate Deans

- Dr. Hodges said Maria Stehle presented information about the proposed changes to the grading system.
- Dr. Hodges said she learned at the Council of Graduate Schools' Meeting that the IRS is concerned about universities paying for graduate students' insurance. Because the CGS has made it clear that students only work 20 hours, this is not an issue at the current time. However, Dr. Hodges will let the Council know if there are any changes.
- Dr. Stephanie Galloway is working with OIT about Graduate School forms. The Graduate School is asking for original signatures and is ensuring that students turn in required forms on time, and that the information on the forms is securely transmitted.
- The Graduate School staff is putting together two collaborative teams. One will be about best practices on recruiting graduate students. Other team will be

about graduate student success. She wants the groups to look at ways it can enhance our recruitment and ways to bring students here and support retention and success.

8. Graduate Student Senate

- John Keny, President of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), said the Senate has distributed travel award emails and asked members to please let them know if they have students who haven't received notification regarding the travel awards.
- The Graduate Student Senate had a luncheon meeting with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Student Life on October 1.
- The Graduate Student Senate is hosting an All Vol hog roast before the Arkansas game. The GSS is working on similar events to help strengthen the graduate student community.
- The Graduate Student Senate's next meeting is October 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Missy Hodge
Graduate School

ATTACHMENT 1
ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 10, 2015, 2:00 – 3:15
Graduate School Conference Room (111 SSB)

Present: Stuart Waters (proxy for Mehmet Aydeniz), Shandra Forest-Bank, Hillary Fonts, Carolyn Hodges (ex. Officio, Dean of the Graduate School), Stephanie Galloway (ex. Officio, Asst. Dean of the Graduate School), Stephen Kania (Chair of Graduate Council), Maria Stehle (Chair, APC), Eric Boder, John Keny (Graduate Student Senate President)

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Maria Stehle at 2 PM.

Brief Welcome and Introductions

1. Feedback on proposal of changing grading scale for graduate students: Dr. Stehle presented a summary of feedback collected so far. The feedback was mixed; mostly positive from a few departments, some undecided, and some voiced concerns. Graduate students from the veterinary school have sent emails voicing their opposition to the proposed change. The understanding of APC was, however, that each graduate council member should come to the next meeting prepared to cast their vote representing the opinions of their constituents.

The members present discussed the feedback and possible recommendations the committee could or should make. Since APC has already decided to make a motion that the proposed change of grading scale should be voted on by the Graduate Council, the committee decided that they should move forward with this vote at the next Council meeting. The information that was sent out to Council members will be sent again together with an amendment that explains what each newly introduced grade will mean at the graduate level before the next Council meeting. Dr. Stehle agreed to write up this explanation and circulate it among APC members. Members emphasized again that if the Council votes to approve the proposed change, faculty can still choose not to use the additional plus and minus grades at the graduate level; however, the grade values for B+ and C+ (the GPA point values) will have changed.

2. GTAs as graders of papers: Discussion
APC received a request to create a written policy regarding the appropriate use of graduate assistants as graders. The request originated in an email discussion about whether it was appropriate to use graduate students as graders in graduate level courses. While Dr. Hodges emphasized that graduate students should not grade graduate student work, there does not seem to be a clear policy on this in the Graduate Catalog. In a discussion among APC members it became clear that different colleges have different needs and handle this issue differently. It is clear that the evaluation of the students should be in the hands of the instructor of record. Dr. Hodges suggested that colleges should monitor this, but that a general policy might be good since ethical issues, and possibly FERPA issues and complaints could arise from not having a policy. The committee agreed to gather information on this issue and continue the discussion in the next meeting.

3. Old Business/ New Business

Dr. Galloway presented two issues that the APC will discuss in their next meeting. After gathering more information, APC will decide if there is a need to make policy recommendations.

First:

Dr. Galloway had a question about the language in the catalogue that indicates that students have to have a 3.0 GPA to graduate. Students can apply to graduate with a GPA of less than 3.0. Students will apply to graduate under the assumption that by the time they graduate, their GPA will be at or above the required 3.0. APC discussed whether we should consider making a policy recommendation to change the language in the catalogue (so that, for example, students can only apply to graduate if they have a 3.0). The committee decided to gather more information on this question for the next meeting

Second:

The explanation of "clerical error" as a reason for a change of grade appears to be used very often and sometimes even a few semesters after the grade has been submitted. Is there a way to clarify the language on the form or in the catalogue to limit the use of "clerical error" or to put a timeline on such changes? APC will brainstorm about how to reduce these "clerical error" changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

ATTACHMENT 2
Credentials Committee Report
September 10, 2015
111 Student Services Building

Present: Amy Broemmel (chair), Henri Grissino-Mayer, Joshua Fu, Jens Gregor, (Georg Schaur voted electronically)

Employee Name	Title	Current Department	Type Of Request	Approval
Abdoulmoumine, Nour	Assistant Professor	Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science	Probationary	Until Tenure
Agarwal, Pratul	Joint Faculty Associate Professor	UT-ORNL/Genome Science and Technology Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Allington, Richard	Professor	Theory and Practice in Teacher Education	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Barroso, Cristina	Associate Professor	Public Health	Probationary	Until Tenure
Berthelie, Valerie	Assistant Professor	UT-ORNL/Genome Science and Technology, Medicine	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Bozdogan, Ham	Professor	Business Analytics and Statistics	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Cheng, Xiaolin	Joint Faculty Assistant/Associate Professor	UT-ORNL/Biochemistry & Cellular and Molecular Biology	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Donohoe, Dallas	Assistant Professor	Nutrition	Probationary	Until Tenure
Driscoll, Lisa	Associate Professor	Educational Leadership and Policy Studies	Probationary	Until Tenure
Emery, Josh	Assistant Professor	Earth & Planetary Sciences	Probationary	Until Tenure
Fomin, Nadia	Assistant Professor	Physics and Astronomy	Probationary	Until Tenure
Garcia, Alberto	Professor	Industrial and Systems Engineering	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Gehin, Jess	Joint Faculty Associate Professor	UT-ORNL/Bredesen Center-Energy Science & Engineering, Nuclear Engineering	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020

Gillis, Matthew	Assistant Professor	History	Probationary	Until Tenure
Gregor, Jens	Professor	Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Guo, Zhanhu	Associate Professor	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	Probationary	Until Tenure
Humble, Travis	Joint Faculty Associate Professor	UT-ORNL-Bredesen Center-Energy Science and Engineering	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Jabson, Jennifer	Assistant Professor	Public Health	Probationary	Until Tenure
Johnston, Steven	Assistant Professor	Physics and Astronomy	Probationary	Until Tenure
Labbe, Jessy	Joint Faculty Assistant Professor	UT-ORNL/Biochemistry and Cellular & Molecular Biology	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Leib, Brian	Associate Professor	Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Meschke, Laurie	Associate Professor	Public Health	Probationary	Until Tenure
Morrell-Falvey, Jennifer	Joint Faculty Assistant Professor	UT-ORNL/Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Narula, Chaitanya	Joint Faculty Professor	UT-ORNL/Bredesen Center-Energy Science and Engineering, Chemical Engineering	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Naskar, Amit	Joint Faculty Associate Professor	UT-ORNL/Bredesen Center, Materials Science and Technology	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Natrrass, Christine	Assistant Professor	Physics and Astronomy	Probationary	Until Tenure
Olsson, Tore	Assistant Professor	History	Probationary	Until Tenure
Plaut, Conrad	Professor	Mathematics	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Preston, Ben	Joint Faculty Associate Professor	UTK-ORNL/Bredesen Center, Civil and Environmental Engineering	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020

Retterer, Scott	Adjunct Faculty, Assistant Professor	UT-ORNL/Bredesen Center-Energy Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Rider, Bob	Professor	Theory and Practice in Teacher Education	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Sanft, Charles	Associate Professor	History	Probationary	Until Tenure
Santore, Rudy	Associate Professor	Economics	Tenured Continuing	10 years 10-1-2025
Simpson, Mike	Joint Faculty Professor	UT-ORNL/Bredesen Center-Energy Science and Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Sims, Charles	Assistant Professor	Economics	Probationary	Until Tenure
Smith, Brennan	Joint Faculty Associate Professor	UT-ORNL/Bredesen Center-Energy Science and Engineering	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 10-1-2020
Vacca, Allison	Assistant Professor	History	Probationary	Until Tenure
Williams, Shannen	Assistant Professor	History	Probationary	Until Tenure
Winford, Brandon	Assistant Professor	History	Probationary	Until Tenure
Zhou, Haidong	Assistant Professor	Physics and Astronomy	Probationary	Until Tenure