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Academic Policy Committee Report - September 4, 2014

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ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 4, 2014 (2:15 – 3:30 pm)

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Phuriwat Anusonti (UTSI), Mehmet Aydeniz, Shandra Forrest-Bank, Pat Freeland, Yanfei Gao, Carolyn Hodges, Stefanie Ohnesorg (Chair), Joan Rentsch, Jessica Welch

I. *Introduction*: The meeting began with Chair Stefanie Ohnesorg explaining to the committee the role of the Academic Policy Committee and the process for obtaining archived reports of this committee.

II. *5-year Dual Bachelor's/Master's Programs*. Stefanie Ohnesorg noted that SACSCOC new policy expands the interpretation of Core Requirement 2.7.1 and expects institutions with combination (dual) programs to meet or exceed the credit hour thresholds in the standard for the degrees awarded (e.g., regardless of the number of hours taken at the graduate level and applied to the baccalaureate degree, the total hours must reflect a minimum of 120 for the bachelors and 30 for the masters for a total of 150 hours - with no double dipping). There was agreement that in a future meeting a proposal would be discussed to add that requirement to the UT *Graduate Catalog*.

III. *On-line Graduate Catalog*. There was discussion regarding the need to make changes in wording and in the placement of information to produce a more user-friendly Graduate Catalog. Stefanie Ohnesorg pointed to the explanation provided of the Graduate Certificate Program as an example of where additional clarity is needed. The committee agreed to discuss the matter further at a future meeting.

IV. *Academic Leave Policy*: Committee members discussed the need to follow up on the new Graduate Student Leave of Absence Policy to evaluate the extent to which students understand the policy and address any problems that develop. There was also interest in further discussion of a Family and Medical Leave policy for graduate students. Jessica Welch, Graduate Student Senate President, stated that she would discuss with the Graduate Student Senate what action they might take to implement a Family and Medical Leave Policy.

The next meeting of the Academic Policy Committee is scheduled for October 2, 2014.
(Minutes taken by Pat Freeland)