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# Academic Policy Committee Report - January 24, 2013

Graduate Council

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## ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2:15 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

111 STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

Present: Stefanie Ohnesorg (Chair), Mary Albrecht, Ralph Brockett, Russell Crook, Dave Folz, Yanfei Gao, R.J. Hinde, Jennifer Morrow, Christian Parigger, Kay Reed, Marian Roman, Amanda Sanford, John Scheb, Shawn Spurgeon..

The meeting was called to order by Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair, at 2:15 p.m.

### 1. Dual Doctoral Degrees Policy. - APPROVED

The existing policy entitled “Joint Doctoral Degrees” was reviewed to replace the references from “joint” to “dual” to be in compliance with policy statements from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). A motion was made and seconded to change the language in the policy from “joint” to “dual.” The motion was approved to go to the Graduate Council with that recommendation.

The policy statement will be:

#### **Dual Doctoral Degrees**

**Dual** domestic and international doctoral degrees may be earned at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), through approved **dual** degree programs with other educational institutions offering doctoral degrees. **Dual** doctoral degrees are available only in fields where **dual** degree programs have been established between UTK and the collaborating institution(s). More information on currently available **dual** doctoral programs may be found within the individual program descriptions contained in the Graduate Catalog.

Each **dual** doctoral degree program is governed by a specific memorandum of agreement **and** must follow UTK policies and be approved by the UTK Chancellor. All requirements for **dual** doctoral degrees must be consistent with standard university procedures, including those for graduation.

In **dual** doctoral degree programs, specific tasks and requirements, such as coursework, preparation leading to the dissertation stage, needed resources, and mentoring and training for the dissertation, will be completed and degrees awarded as agreed between the partner institutions in the memorandum of agreement.

Any student participating in a **dual** doctoral program shall fulfill the admission standards of the UTK Graduate School. Admission is required prior to participation in the program. When enrolled at UTK, students must be on campus prior to the beginning of the first semester and must be registered within the deadlines for all students. Students must apply for admission to UTK within one calendar year of matriculation into the program.

The academic departments at the partner institutions will together be responsible for developing a set of courses to fulfill graduation requirements and secure approval by the partner institutions. Students participating in dual doctoral degree programs must be admitted to candidacy at UTK.

The doctoral committee for the dual degree must meet the requirements of UTK and should include at least one faculty member from the partner institution. If (In) qualifying examinations are required, the partner institutions should establish and agree upon the format (oral and/or written) and content. The comprehensive examination for the doctoral degree must be developed and administered by both institutions. UTK Graduate School policies regarding comprehensive examinations will be followed.

All oral examinations and defenses conducted at UTK are expected to be in English. Dissertations must meet the requirements for submission at the UTK Graduate School. The dissertation will fulfill the requirements for both institutions.

Rationale:

The policy for dual doctoral degrees was developed with the term “joint” attached to it. To be consistent with the policy statement in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS COC) document entitled, “Collaborative Academic Arrangements: Policy and Procedures,” the Graduate Council must rename this policy as “Dual Doctoral Degrees.”

The SACS COC policy statement states:

For the purposes of accreditation and review by SACS Commission on Colleges, the following definitions apply:

- A dual educational program is one whereby students study at two or more institutions, and each institution awards a separate program completion credential bearing only its own name, seal and signature.
- A joint educational program is one whereby students study at two or more institutions and are awarded a single program completion credential bearing the names, seals and signatures of each of the participating institutions.

The two other changes highlighted in yellow are grammatical corrections.

## 2. Semester Credit Hour Definition. - APPROVED

The Undergraduate and Graduate Council Academic Policy Committees met on January 16, 2013 and approved for recommendation to the Councils the following definition for semester credit hour:

### **Semester Credit Hour Definition.**

The unit of credit is the semester credit hour. One semester credit hour represents an amount of instruction that reasonably approximates both 50 minutes per week of

classroom-based direct instruction and a minimum of two hours per week of student work outside the classroom over a fall or spring semester. Normally, each semester credit hour represents an amount of instruction that is equivalent to 700 minutes of classroom-based direct instruction. The amount of time that is required to earn one semester credit hour in a laboratory, fieldwork, studio, or seminar-based course varies with the nature of the subject and the aims of the course; typically, a minimum of two or three hours of work in a laboratory, field, studio, or seminar-based setting is considered the equivalent of 50 minutes of classroom-based direct instruction. Semester credit hours earned in courses such as internships, research, theses, dissertation, etc. are based on outcome expectations established by the academic program.

Rationale: Meets federal guidelines and SACS requirement.

### 3. BA-MPPA EXCEPTION FOR DUAL DEGREES. – APPROVED

The Department of Political Science requested an exception to the policy limiting course credit to be used to meet both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. A motion was made and seconded to approve this exception to the policy for the BA-MPPA dual degree program. The motion carried. The catalog text will appear as:

For qualified students, the Department of Political Science offers a 5-year BA-MPPA program with a BA major in Political Science and a non-thesis MPPA major in Public Policy and Administration. The primary component of the program is that a qualified student may take up to 9 hours of approved graduate courses for their senior undergraduate electives and have them count toward both the BA degree and the MPPA degree. Students are typically considered for conditional admission to the program during, or immediately following, their third year of undergraduate study at UT.

To be considered for conditional admission to the program:

- A student must be a declared Political Science major with a minimum GPA of 3.4, must have completed at least 15 hours of credit in Political Science, and must have completed at least 90 hours of the 120 hours of coursework required for the BA degree with a major in Political Science.
- A student must provide three letters of recommendation and complete a personal interview with the Department of Political Science.

Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to have completed ECON 201, POLS 340, and POLS 401. The Department may consider other relevant factors such as an applicant's work experience and level of maturity before conditionally admitting a student to the BA-MPPA program.

Conditional admission of a student into the 5-year BA-MPPA program must be obtained before taking a graduate course that is to be used to satisfy the requirements of both the BA degree and the MPPA degree. Students will be informed of the outcome of their application for conditional admission prior to the beginning of their fourth year of undergraduate study.

A student who is conditionally admitted to the BA-MPPA program may, during his or her fourth year of undergraduate study, complete up to 9 hours of graduate credit that count towards the BA and towards the MPPA requirements, provided that these graduate credit hours were approved both by the Department head (or designee) and by the Graduate School prior to satisfying all requirements for the BA degree.

Conditional admission into the BA-MPPA program does not guarantee acceptance into either the Graduate School or the MPPA program. Students who have been conditionally admitted to the BA-MPPA program must apply for admission to the Graduate School and to the MPPA program during their fourth year of undergraduate study, following the standard application procedure. A GRE score must be submitted as part of the application for admission into any graduate program in the Department of Political Science. Students will be fully admitted to the BA-MPPA program after they have been accepted both by the Graduate School and by the MPPA program.

Once fully admitted to the MPPA program, BA-MPPA students are required to complete the standard curriculum for the MPPA program.

A student will not be eligible for a graduate assistantship until the student has satisfied all of the requirements for the BA degree.

4. Electronic Media/Videoconferencing during Defenses and Final Exams.

Stefanie Ohnesorg asked that the committee discuss how to proceed with the discussion of the topic of electronic media/videoconferencing during defenses and final exams. This item will be on the agenda for the February 21, 2013 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013.