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Academic Policy Committee Report - February 18, 2010

Graduate Council

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ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010
111 STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

REPORT

Present: Stefanie Ohnesorg, Ralph Brockett, Yanfei Gao, Robert Hatcher, Carolyn Hodges, Trevor Moulden, Kay Reed, Marion Roman, Tom Whitworth, Songning Zhang.

The meeting was called to order by Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair, at 2:15 p.m. in 111 Student Services Building.

1. Joint Doctoral Degrees Policy

The committee reviewed and voted to approve to recommend to Graduate Council the following policy for the Graduate Catalog. The policy should be placed in the section under the heading of "Doctoral Degrees."

Joint Doctoral Degrees

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

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

In joint doctoral degree programs, the 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 joint 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 matriculating 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 joint doctoral degree programs must be admitted to candidacy at UTK.

The doctoral committee for the joint degree must meet the requirements of UTK and should include at least one faculty member from the partner institution. If 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.

*Change made to avoid beginning and ending the sentence with the word "requirements." We attempted to keep the original meaning. The original statement was: "All requirements for joint doctoral degrees shall be approved through standard university procedures for establishing graduation requirements."

2. Graduate Program Director

The committee voted to recommend that the Graduate Council approve the following change in the Graduate Catalog statement:

CHANGE FROM: Graduate Program Director

CHANGE TO: Director of Graduate Studies.

Each academic department or program has designated a tenured or tenure-track faculty member who is the Director of Graduate Studies.

The committee had more discussion on the specific definition of the role of Director of Graduate Studies. APC will return to this definition at a later date.

3. Doctoral Committee

The committee continued its discussion of components of current policy and a draft of a changed policy. The committee will continue having brown-bag lunch meetings to discuss this policy after Spring Break.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.