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Graduate Council Minutes - August 19, 2010

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

August 19, 2010 Minutes

Members Present

David Anderson, Vincent Anfara, Pam Angelle, Alvaro Ayo, Chris Boake, Marianne Breinig, Ralph Brockett, Ed Caudill, Michael Essington, Daniel Feller, Patricia Freeland, Yanfei Gao, Tom George, Frank Guess, Camille Hall, Robert Hatcher, Donald Hodges, George Hoemann, Stephen Kania, Tom Ladd, Jan Lee, Leann Luna, Catherine Luther, Zhongguo Ma, Sibyl Marshall, Joann Ng Hartmann, Blanche O'Bannon, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Masood Parang, Chris Parigger, Greg Petty, Jeff Phillips, Greg Reed, Cynthia Rocha, Marian Roman, Rita Smith, Colin Spaulding, Marlys Staudt, Barbara Thayer-Bacon, John Wachowicz, Michael Zemel, Joan Heminway, Ernest Brothers, Catherine Cox, Joy DeSensi, Gay Henegar, Carolyn Hodges, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Kay Reed, Greg Tipps

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Michael Essington on Thursday, August 19, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, Black Cultural Center.

1. Welcome by Faculty Senate President

Joan Heminway, President of Faculty Senate, welcomed the Graduate Council. The Faculty Senate plans to focus this year on faculty issues by encouraging faculty to be actively involved in the Presidential search, VolVision process, and the UTK-ORNL Ph.D. interdisciplinary program.

2. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the April 15, 2010 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council.

3. Committee ReportsAcademic Policy Committee

Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee, shared some of the topics to be discussed by the committee this year:

- Joint program structure
- Doctoral committee guidelines
- Technology use in thesis/dissertation defenses

Appeals Committee

Marianne Breinig, Chair of the Appeals Committee, reported that the committee only meets when there is an appeal.

Credentials Committee

Michael Zemel, Chair of the Credentials Committee, stated the committee worked to define expectations for faculty members serving on doctoral committees and will focus on reapprovals and approvals under special circumstances this year.

Curriculum Committee

Sibyl Marshall, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, shared some of the topics to be discussed by the committee this year, including a checklist for programs to verify if they meet requirements.

4. Orientation of Members to Graduate Council

The chair reminded the Graduate Council members that if they are unable to attend the Graduate Council Meeting, they are to contact a proxy to attend and vote in their place.

Gay Henegar explained the check procedure for members, proxies, and ex-officios.

Kay Reed, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, informed the Graduate Council that the Graduate Council website contains information related to the work of the Council. The agenda for the meetings will be posted, as well as the minutes from the Graduate Council meeting. Each of the Graduate Council committees has a website with their own information on it.

Yvonne Kilpatrick, Interim Director of Graduate Admissions, introduced Greg Tipps, Associate Director of Graduate Admissions. Job tasks of the director and associate director were shared with the Graduate Council membership.

Ernest Brothers, Assistant Dean of the Office of Training and Mentorship, is actively working with departments across campus with recruitment and retention.

Joy DeSensi, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, stated the following:

- Graduate Deans' Group meets six times a year with the first meeting on Thursday, August 26 at 2:00 in the Graduate School Conference Room.
- Hard copies of the departmental handbooks are due in the Graduate School.
- The title, Graduate Director, has been changed to Director of Graduate Studies
- Best Practices in Teaching Program will be continuing this year. Students attend seven sessions on various topics, and if they fulfill the requirements they receive a certificate. Fall registration is still open.

Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, spoke about the following:

- Professional Development Awards will be given out four times this year to encourage faculty in professional development.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant/Associate Orientation was on Thursday, August 12 with approximately 350 to 400 students in attendance.
- Graduate enrollment is up this year.

- Workshop for Directors of Graduate Studies will be held this fall.
- Banner will be up and running in Fall 2010 for Spring 2011 registration.
- A committee is reviewing graduate assistantships and will be looking for ways to improve the management and distribution.

Colin Spaulding, Vice President of Graduate Student Senate, stated that the main focus for the Graduate Student Senate is family medical leave for graduate students.

The next meeting will be changed to September 23. When room arrangements are finalized, the Graduate Council will be notified.

5. Brief Meetings of Committees

Chairs of the Academic Policy Committee, Credentials Committee, Curriculum Committee, Appeals Committee, Professional Development Award Committee, and Graduate Deans' Group met briefly with their members

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gay Henegar
Secretary to Graduate Council