



4-24-2008

## Graduate Council Minutes - April 24, 2008

Graduate Council

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Members Present

Mary Albrecht, Vincent An fara, Basil Antar, Ben Bates, Richard Bennett, Ralph Brockett, Don Bruce, Marianne Breinig, Catherine Cox, Vijay Chellaboina, Harry Dahms, David Dupper, Michael Ehrhardt, Ann Fairhurst, Tom George, George Hoemann, Carolyn Hodges, Drew Justice, Stephen Kania, Jan Lee, Sibyl Marshall, Sandra McGuire, Sally McMillan, Matthew Murray, Joann Ng Hartmann, Stefanie Ohnesorg, David Patterson, Ken Phillips, Brenda Rayman, Jan Rosinski, Rita Smith, Susan Smith, Pia Wood

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Matthew Murray, on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 3:10 p.m. in the Shiloh Room, University Center. David Patterson, President of Faculty Senate, presented Matthew Murray with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as the Graduate Council Chair for the 2006–2008 term.

1. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the March 6, 2008 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council.

Stephanie Ohnesorg, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Council Bylaws, requested that the entire committee be listed in the minutes. The revision will read:

“The Ad-hoc Bylaws Committee was composed of the following members: Stefanie Ohnesorg, Nick Cook, Bill Dunne, Sibyl Marshall, Matthew Murray and Kay Reed. Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair, presented proposed bylaws for approval by Council. “

2. Committee ReportsAcademic Policy Committee

Ben Bates, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee, presented the report for the April 10, 2008 meeting.

The committee discussed the proposal on joint degrees. Some areas that need to be addressed were whether two degrees would be awarded for the work of one degree, and if this degree would be an expansion of an existing or new degree. The committee does not oppose the joint degree proposal, but felt that further clarification was needed before approval.

Credentials Committee

Steve Kania, member of the Credentials Committee, presented the report for the April 3, 2008 meeting. (Attachment 1)

The Graduate Council approved the committee recommendations on faculty approved to direct dissertations as presented.

Curriculum Committee

David Dupper, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, presented the report from the April 10, 2008 meeting. (Attachment 2)

The Graduate Council approved the changes as presented.

Nominating Committee

Sybil Marshall and Richard Bennett announced that Vincent Anfara was elected the Council Chair for 2008–2010.

3. New Business

No new business was presented.

4. Administrative Reports and AnnouncementsGraduate Dean

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

- The renovations for new space (111 Suite, Student Services Building) for the Graduate School are to take place this summer with hopes of completion for Fall 2008. A conference room adjoining the area has been awarded to the Graduate School.
- The search for the Half-Time Associate Dean of the Graduate School has resumed. The appointment will begin August 1, 2008.
- Budget hearings were held. Last year \$400,000 was spent on additional assistantships. This year Dr. Holub, Provost, has awarded \$200,000 to the Graduate School for additional assistantships with additional funding going directly to the colleges. A committee will be formed to determine the expenditure of funds.
- Graduate School requested support for a budget manager. Dr. Holub proposed to hire one budget manager to handle budgets from the Graduate School and other units reporting to him, such as the Center for International Education and the Honors Program.
- Graduate School fellowships have been awarded for the 2008–2009 year. (Attachment 3)
- The Graduate School will be working to clarify the joint degree policy. The College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences revised their Ph.D. program by replacing the umbrella Ph.D. comprised of areas of concentration with individual majors for Ph.D. degrees. This will allow more accurate statistical data and improve access for prospective students.

- Jennifer Spirko, the Thesis/Dissertation Consultant is working on a revision to the Guide to the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations. She will be presenting a paper at the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation International Conference in Aberdeen, Scotland in May 2008.
- Policies for international students will be reviewed in consultation with Pia Wood, Director for the Center of International Education.
- The Graduate School will be working to make the appeal process more efficient.
- The Graduate Education Subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Committee will have a draft ready by the end of next month.
- Vince Anfara, as Chair of the Graduate Council, will assist with creation of a diversity plan for the Graduate School.
- The report from the Task Force for Structure of the Graduate School has been posted on the Graduate School website.

#### Graduate Student Senate

Drew Justice, Vice President of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) for 2008–2009, was introduced and welcomed.

#### Graduate Council Chair

Matthew Murray, Chair of the Graduate Council, presented the following report:

- The Chair's Annual Report for 2007–2008 has been completed. (Attachment 4)
- Graduate Hooding will be Thursday, May 8 at 4:30 in the Thompson-Boling Assembly Center and Arena.
- The Graduate Council Bylaws have been passed by the Faculty Senate.
- Matt stated his concerns regarding having a quorum at the council meeting and expressed the importance of attendance by the council member or the proxies.
- Thanks were expressed to the Graduate School staff members for their service to the Council this year.

#### 5. Items from the floor

There were no items from the floor.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gay Henegar  
Secretary to Graduate Council

ATTACHMENT 1  
FACULTY APPROVED TO DIRECT

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INITIAL Approval of Tenure-Track Faculty without Tenure (Probationary)
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Fouts, Hillary Assistant Professor	Child & Family Studies	Until Tenure
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CONTINUING Approval of Faculty with Tenure
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Kallett, Marilyn Professor	English	Approved until 2018
Smith, Arthur Professor	English	Approved until 2018
Wilson, Larry Professor	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	Approved until 2018

ATTACHMENT 2

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**(283 Economics)**

APPROVAL FOR NON-STANDARD FORMAT COURSE

**581 Mathematical Methods in Economics (3)**

**Projected Dates for Session:** 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. or  
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. each weekday, August 1-21

**Total Number of Weeks:** Three Weeks

**Total Number of Contact Hours:** 45 Contact Hours

**Description of Course:** Mathematical analysis in economic theory. Applications of selected mathematical techniques to economic topics: theories of choice, firm, consumer behavior, general equilibrium, games, distribution, growth, stability, and input-output.

**Instructor:** TBA (currently William S. Neilson)

**Effective Term:** Fall 2008

**COLLEGE OF NURSING****All changes effective Fall 2009****I. COURSE CHANGES**

ADD

**621 Philosophy of Scientific Practice (3)** A critical examination of the philosophical, historical, and theoretical context of knowledge.

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.*

**622 Methods for Translational Research (3)** Provide students with methods and tools for evaluating the strength of existing evidence through meta-synthesis and meta-analysis and testing application of interventions.

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.*

**623 Bioethics, Cultural and Societal Issues within Healthcare (2)** A critical analysis of ethical, diversity and social issues within healthcare systems.

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.*

**624 Evidence-Based Practice and Use of Information Technology (3)** Provide students with knowledge and tools to design and implement evidence-based practice in health care systems. Emphasis on critical examination, synthesis and application of evidence in support of high quality practices.

*(RE) Prerequisite(s): 622.*

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.*

**625 Healthcare Economics (3)** Critical analysis of economics in health and healthcare focusing on the healthcare market, financing, and delivery in the United States.

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.*

**630 Project Organization Seminar (1)** Conceptualization, analysis, and critical assessment of a clinical problem.

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major*

**631 Advanced Practice Option I (2)** Application of advanced practice nursing concepts in area of clinical focus.

*Contact Hour Distribution: 1 directed study and 1 practicum.*

*Grading: Satisfactory/No Credit or letter grade.*

*(RE) Prerequisite(s): 621 and 630.*

*(DE) Prerequisite(s): 613.*

*(DE) Prerequisite(s) or (DE) Corequisite(s): 612 and 623.*

*Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.*

**632 Advanced Practice Option II (4)** Field experiences in areas of clinical focus and planning for capstone project.

*Contact Hour Distribution: 2 directed study and 2 practicum.*

*Grading: Satisfactory/No Credit or letter grade.*

*(RE) Prerequisite(s): 631.*

*(DE) Prerequisite(s): 613.*

*(DE) Prerequisite(s) or (DE) Corequisite(s): 624 and 625.*

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.*

**633 DNP Practice Immersion (6-12)** Individually designed practicum, field, or internship experiences in a variety of administrative, educational, research, or clinical practice settings.

*Grading Restriction(s): Satisfactory/No Credit only.*

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 12 hours.*

*(RE) Prerequisite(s): 632.*

*(DE) Prerequisite(s) or (DE) Corequisite(s): 612 and 613.*

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.*

**634 DNP Capstone (3)** Preparation of a tangible and deliverable academic product derived from the practice immersion experience contained in the DNP student's program of study.

*(RE) Prerequisite(s) or (RE) Corequisite(s): 633.*

*Registration Restriction(s): Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.*

REVISE TO ADD CREDIT RESTRICTION

**501 Nursing Research: Methods, Design, and Analysis (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*



**504 Advanced Health/Physical Assessment (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**505 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**506 Advanced Anesthesia Pharmacology (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**507 Concepts for Advanced Practice Nursing: Health Promotion and Health Policy (4)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**510 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**512 Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing (1)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**513 Advanced Practice Role Seminar (1)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**515 Advanced Pathophysiology for Nursing Practice (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**516 Advanced Pathophysiology: Neurological/Cardiovascular with Anesthesia Implications (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**517 Advanced Pathophysiology: Respiratory/renal with Anesthesia Implications (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**518 Advanced Pathophysiology: Obstetrics/Regional Anesthesia (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**519 Psychopharmacology in Advanced Practice (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**522 Integrated Health Science for Anesthesia (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**523 Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**524 Basic Principles of Anesthesia I (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**525 Basic Principles of Anesthesia II (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**526 Professional Issues in Nurse Anesthesia (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**527 Nursing of Women and Children: Clinical Experience in Children's Health (1-5)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**528 Well Child Care: Assessment of Growth, Development, and Behavior (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**529 Clinical Practice: Adult and Older Adult (1-5)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**530 Adult Health Nursing I (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**531 Adult Health Nursing II (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**532 Homeland Security Threats (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**533 Homeland Security I (5)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**534 Homeland Security II (5)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**535 Homeland Security III (7)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**536 Homeland Security IV (8)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**537 Global Issues in Health Care Delivery During Disaster (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**538 Gerontological Nursing I (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**539 Gerontological Nursing II (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**544 Clinical Nurse Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar I (2-11)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**545 Clinical Nurse Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar II (2-11)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**546 Clinical Nurse Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar III (2-11)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**547 Clinical Nurse Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar IV (2-11)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**548 Clinical Nurse Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar V (2-11)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**549 Clinical Nurse Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar VI (2-11)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**550 Nursing of Women and Children I (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**551 Nursing of Women and Children II (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**553 Nursing Care of Women and Children: Clinical Experience in Women's Health (1-5)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**554 Care of the Well Woman and Minor Acute Illnesses (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**555 Care of the Pregnant Woman (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**556 Care of Complex Health Problems in Women (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**560 Mental Health Nursing I (6)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**561 Mental Health Nursing II (7)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**562 Acute Illnesses in Children (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**563 Care of the Child with a Chronic Condition (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**564 Nursing of Women and Children: Clinical Experience in Infant's Health (1-5)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**565 Teaching Practicum (1-6)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**566 Educational Principles and Strategies (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**567 Embryology and Neonatal Pathophysiology for Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practice (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**568 Care of the Neonate (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**569 Care of the Ill Neonate (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**570 Family Nurse Practitioner I (6)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**571 Family Nurse Practitioner II (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**572 Family Nurse Practitioner II Clinical (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**573 Family Nurse Practitioner III (8)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**577 Special Topics (1-3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**582 Scholarly Inquiry for Advanced Practice Nursing (3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**583 Directed Clinical Practice (1-10)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**590 Nursing Administration: Macro-Analysis (6)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**591 Nursing Administration: Micro-Analysis (6)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**592 Nursing Administration: Macroanalysis (2)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**593 Independent Study (1-3)**

*Credit Restriction: Graduate credit only.*

**II. PROGRAM CHANGES**

ADD DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE (Pending THEC approval)

On page 164 of the 2008-2009 *Graduate Catalog* add heading and requirements for new DNP degree.

**DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE  
NURSING MAJOR**

***(PENDING APPROVAL FROM THE TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION)***

The College of Nursing offers the Doctor of Nursing Practice program (DNP), designed for MSN graduates who are interested in earning a clinical doctoral degree in nursing. At the completion of the DNP program, students will be able to

- Integrate nursing science with other disciplines as the basis for the highest level of evidence-based nursing practice.
- Demonstrate professionalism, advocacy, ethical principles, and scientific integrity in advanced nursing practice.
- Provide collaborative leadership in the development of clinical practice models, health policy, and standards of care, for diverse populations.
- Generate system and outcomes research and analyze other evidence to guide improvements in practice.
- Utilize information systems/technology to support and improve nursing care and healthcare systems, and prevent illness and disability.

**Admission**

- Meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School.
- Hold a master's degree in nursing from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education.
- Have a minimum cumulative graduate grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for previous college work.
- Have achieved a competitive score on the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination.
- Have TOEFL scores of at least 550 on the paper test, 213 on the computer-based test, or 80 on the internet-based test if native language is not English.
- Complete College of Nursing Graduate Program Data Form.
- Submit College of Nursing Graduate Rating Forms from three college level instructors and/or nurses and administrators who have supervised applicant's professional work.
- Submit an essay describing personal and professional aspirations.
- Schedule a personal interview with the College of Nursing DNP admissions committee. International applicants may be interviewed by telephone or teleconferencing at the discretion of the admissions committee.

See College of Nursing website ([www.nursing.utk.edu](http://www.nursing.utk.edu)) for current application deadlines and additional information on admission procedures.

**Requirements**

The following courses are required for all students.

	<b>Hours Credit</b>
612 Health and Nursing Policy/Planning	3
613 Nursing Leadership in Complex Systems	3
621 Philosophy of Scientific Practice	3
622 Methods for Translational Research	3
623 Bioethics, Cultural and Societal Issues within Healthcare	2
624 Evidence-Based Practice and Use of Information Technology	3
625 Healthcare Economics	3
630 Project Organization Seminar	1
631 Advanced Practice Option I	2
632 Advanced Practice Option II	4
633 DNP Practice Immersion	6-12
634 DNP Capstone	3
----- Epidemiology	3
----- Inferential Statistics	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>42-48</b>

**Special Requirements and Policies**

- Prior to enrollment in the DNP program, each student must successfully complete a criminal background check.
- Each student must hold personal professional liability insurance and health insurance.
- As Registered Nurses, DNP students must be eligible to practice nursing in Tennessee, i.e., licensed in Tennessee or one of the inter-state compact states.
- Each student must present evidence of meeting current health requirements. See College of Nursing website, [www.nursing.utk.edu](http://www.nursing.utk.edu).
- Each student must present evidence of current health care provider CPR certified.
- A maximum of 6 graduate hours taken before acceptance into the DNP program may be applied toward the degree.
- A minimum grade of B in all DNP nursing courses and a 3.0 cumulative GPA is required for continuation in the program.
- Successful completion of Nursing 633 and 634 will serve as the culminating experience for the program.



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

Vice President for Academic Affairs & Student Success

P267 Andy Holt Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
Phone: (865) 974-6289

March 31, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dean Joan Cresia

FROM: Katie High  
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs  
and Student Success

SUBJECT: UT Knoxville College of Nursing

I have received from the College of Nursing a Notification of Intent to establish a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. I have transmitted the Notification of Intent to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The Commission has instructed the College of Nursing to proceed with a proposal.

Once the proposal is approved by the appropriate administrative channels within UT Knoxville, a consultant will review it. It will then be placed on the agenda for the UT Board of Trustees. Once approved by the Board, it will proceed to the Higher Education Commission for approval.

Please contact me should you have questions.

C: Ken Phillips  
Jan Lee

## ATTACHMENT 3

**2008 GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS  
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE**

As of April 24, 2008

**DEAN FELLOWSHIPS - \$15,000**

James Banfield – Nuclear Engineering, MS  
Amy Beavers – Educational Psychology, PhD  
Curtis Chesney – Business Administration, MBA  
Alisha Coffey – Life Sciences, PhD  
Sarah Copeland – Information Sciences, MS  
April Daigle – Chemistry, PhD  
Vinh Xuan Dang – Mathematics, PhD  
Lori Farney – Sociology, PhD  
Xin Gao – Music, MM  
Juan Gomez – Modern Foreign Languages, PhD  
John Hampstead – English, MA  
Kelly Hider – Art, MFA  
Robert Jett – Wildlife & Fisheries Science, MS  
Alison Kempf – Audiology, AuD  
Jordan Kuck – History, PhD  
Ryan Overton – Civil Engineering, MS  
Virginia Reeder – Psychology, PhD  
Monica Rother – Geography, MS  
Amber Sheets – Political Science, MA  
Yilin Shi – Landscape Architecture, MLA  
Joshua White – Business Administration, PhD

**DIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT FELLOWSHIPS - \$15,000**

Maria Brandeis – Natural Resources, PhD  
Ezekiel Cooper – Landscape Architecture, MLA  
Calvi Green – Microbiology, MS  
Leah Muriel – Business Administration, PhD  
Milos Popovic – Sport Management, MS  
Brittnee Robinson – Electrical Engineering  
Mi Ra Sung – Psychology, PhD  
Shambrekia Wise – Public Health, MPH

**GRISCOM FELLOWSHIP - \$5,000**

Sarah Price – Anthropology, PhD

**LORI MAYER FELLOWSHIP - \$7,000**

Sarah K. Fischer – Psychology, PhD

**SEATON FELLOWSHIP - \$5,000**

Karen Craig – Business Administration, PhD

**SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP - \$5,000**

Christopher Gulvik – Microbiology, PhD

**SPIVEY FELLOWSHIPS - \$15,000**

Deidre Evans – English, PhD

Sara M. Miller – Art, MFA

Anthony Minnema – History, PhD

Rachel Moore – Music, MM

Carrie Ottsen – Modern Foreign Languages, PhD

**YATES DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS - \$15,000**

Bridget Algee-Hewitt – Anthropology, PhD

Angie Fuss – Educational Psychology, PhD

Rachel Goodman – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, PhD

Michael Neilan – Mathematics, PhD

ATTACHMENT 4  
**Graduate Council Annual Report: 2007/08**  
**Matthew N. Murray, Chair**

The University Graduate Council is a committee of the Faculty Senate that oversees academic policies, procedures and curriculum of the Graduate School. Graduate Council is a mechanism that allows faculty voice in the governance of university graduate programs in cooperation with University administration. Faculty participation on the committees of Graduate Council, along with Council-wide faculty engagement, is essential to the maintenance of sound policies and best practices in graduate administration and instruction. Graduate Council could not work effectively without strong faculty support, as well as support from the Graduate School and University Administration.

**New Initiatives**

- Graduate Council Bylaws. An ad hoc committee including Nick Cook (GSS), Bill Dunne (Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences), Sybil Marshall (Law), Matt Murray (College of Business), Stefanie Ohnesorg (Arts and Sciences), and Kay Reed (Graduate School) was established to develop bylaws for Graduate Council. The committee built on a foundation provided by existing governing documents, including Faculty Senate Bylaws and Graduate Council committee bylaws. The proposed bylaws, which await a second reading in front of the full Senate, have altered the administrative structure of Graduate Council. A new chair elect, acting chair and past chair structure has been chosen, consistent with the system in place for the Faculty Senate. In addition, an Executive Committee has been established, also paralleling the Faculty Senate.
- Graduate Council members (including Anfara, Chellaboina, Murray, and Ohnesorg) have worked actively with the Dean of the Graduate School and others on special task forces looking at policies and procedures related to graduate assistantships and on Graduate School organizational structure. A report from the task force on Graduate School structure has been released; the Assistantship group will continue its work into the summer.
- Academic dishonesty was a topic that the Chair proposed as an item of focus for the year. While no formal action was taken, it is recommended that this issue be considered as an action item for 2008/09. This effort should include representation from Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, Faculty Senate, the Graduate School and University legal council; post-docs should also be involved in any discussions. The University Libraries currently offer an online session on academic dishonesty; the Center for International Education requires that all incoming students participate in a session on academic dishonesty.



- The Chair served on a small committee established by the Dean of the Graduate School to review requests for additional graduate fee waivers and stipends. Twenty-four new waivers were allocated, along with \$274 thousand in new stipend funds.
- A small working group that included the Graduate Council Chair, the Chair of the Curriculum Committee and members of the Graduate School and Registrar's Office staff convened to examine the procedures for making curriculum changes. The issue was motivated by concerns that the current process is too time consuming. The group examined procedures at UT and at several other universities but took no formal action and made no recommendations. The Provost has included a request in his budget for a "Living Catalog," which will in effect implement a new system for curriculum development that will include an electronic workflow. This development will address some of the issues raised in the discussions of the working group.

### Ongoing Activities

- [The Academic Policy Committee \(APC\)](#). The APC considered a number of proposals that were taken to the floor of Graduate Council. A new plus/minus grading system was considered as a counterpart to the system that was being developed by the Undergraduate Council. The APC voted *not* to support a new system for graduate students and *no* action was taken by Graduate Council on this matter.

New policies were adopted in several other areas, including a change in the numerical grading system for the Law School, the inclusion of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as an alternative to TOEFL and approval of dual graduate-undergraduate credit for approved bachelors-masters degrees. The APC also clarified the language of the policy regarding admission of international students who take the Internet-based TOEFL examination. Finally, the committee considered a proposal from the College of Engineering that would allow development of a joint PhD program with other Universities.

- [Credentials Committee](#). The Credentials Committee took action on a number of proposals from academic units to approve faculty to direct dissertations that were subsequently approved by Graduate Council. Credentials Committee bylaws were changed to allow consideration for approval to direct dissertations for tenured faculty members who have not been fully promoted after 10 years.

There continues to be ongoing debate regarding the appropriate path that should be taken by the Credentials Committee in evaluating faculty. Some feel that there should be no review outside of individual departments while others think the Credentials Committee could play an even stronger role. The Committee must often deal with new issues that arise, including consideration of faculty for approval from units that do not offer doctoral degrees. The Committee will meet over the

summer to reconsider its policies and make recommendations to Graduate Council in the fall.

- [Curriculum Committee](#). An extensive array of curriculum changes were considered and recommended for approval by the Curriculum Committee. In general the changes that were adopted were modest in scope.
- [Appeals Committee](#). The Appeals Committee reviewed its largest caseload in recent years. Each of the cases considered were both unique and complicated. Many of the problems that lead to the filing of an appeal could be avoided with better advisor and administrative oversight within departments and colleges.

For more information on the University of Tennessee Graduate Council see <http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/gcouncil.shtml>. For additional detail on the actions considered and taken by various Graduate Council committees, see the minutes of the respective committees.