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Academic Policy Committee Report - January 13, 2005

Graduate Council

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ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005
4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, ANDY HOLT TOWER

Present: Charles Feigerle (Chair), Mathew Murray, Stephanie Ohnesorg, Mary Papke, Cheryn Picquet, and Belle Upadhyaya.

The meeting was called to order by Charles Feigerle, Chair, at 2:05 p.m.

1. Time Limits for All Graduate Assistantships.

Revision for Graduate Catalog: Delete current statement on page 43, bottom paragraph, left column. Include new statement on page 42 after Work Assignments and Related Factors. New statement reads as follows:

Proposed statement for Graduate Catalog: The maximum number of years that a graduate student can be appointed to a 25% or more assistantship is three years as a master's student, five years as a doctoral student, or eight years in doctoral programs in which students enter with a baccalaureate degree only. Departments or programs may impose stricter limits. Requests for an extension beyond the maximum terms here specified must be made in writing by the academic unit to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Established time limits for completion of graduate programs--six years for a master's program and eight years for a doctoral program--also apply to all graduate assistants.

Passed unanimously as written (Murray motion, Upadhyaya second).

2. Deadline for Graduation Application.

Current policy statement in Graduate Catalog: A student planning to graduate must submit an application for graduation the term he/she intends to graduate.

Proposed statement: A student planning to graduate must submit an application for graduation no later than the last day of classes of the term prior to the term he/she intends to graduate.

Rationale: This change will allow the respective offices (Graduate Student Services and the Registrar) to communicate with and check on each applicant for graduation in a more timely fashion.

Passed Unanimously (Murray motion, Upadhyaya second).

3. Discussion of External Reviewers for Doctoral Dissertation Committees.

Possible features of including an external (to university) reviewer on a doctoral dissertation committee were discussed:

- Will participate as part of the dissertation committee only.
- Will sign indicating participation on doctoral committee appointment form.
- Will not be involved in participating on approval of graduate program (admission to candidacy).
- Will participate in defense of dissertation and sign the approval page and the pass/fail form.

Discussed. There was support that true external reviewers (persons outside UT with no adjunct status) if included should be 5th person on the committee. They need not be included in approval for admission to candidacy. Matter will be brought before the graduate deans group to see if there is support for formalizing these into catalog-based policies.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.