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Graduate Council Minutes

Graduate Council

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Graduate Council Minutes - March 8, 2007

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Members Present

Matthew Murray (Chair), Mary Albrecht, Vincent Anafara, Ben Bates, Richard Bennett, Marianne Breinig, Ralph Brockett, Thomas Burman, Yanfei Gao, Nan Gaylord, Tom George, David Golden, Carolyn Hodges, George Hoemann, Jan Lee, Karen Levy, Sally McMillan, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Mary Papke, Masood Parang, Linda Phillips, Jelena Pjesivac-Grborvic, Jan Rosinski, Rupy Santore, Susan Smith, Belle Upadhyaya, John Wodarski, Eddie Woodruff, Michael Zemel, Yang Zhong.

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Matthew Murray, Chair, on Thursday, March 8, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. in the 8th Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower.

1. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the February 1, 2007 meeting were approved by the Council.

2. Committee ReportsAcademic Policy Committee

Ben Bates, Chair of Academic Policy Committee, presented a proposal from the committee for a definition of Graduate Director. The purpose is to establish a single contact person who can share and be responsible for communicating information with the Graduate School. The Graduate Council approved the proposed definition (Attachment 1).

Bates stated that the committee had also discussed shifting the deadline for the admission to candidacy but that the wording "submitted and approved" became an issue. The committee will continue this discussion and develop a proposal using "Best Practices."

Credentials Committee

Tom Burman, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the report from the February 15, 2007 meeting. Council approved the committee recommendations as presented (Attachment 2).

A question was raised on a previously discussed bylaws issue. The discussion will be continued at the April committee meeting.

4. New Business

No new business was presented.

5. Administrative Reports and Announcements

Graduate Dean's Report

Carolyn Hodges, Dean of the Graduate School, discussed the following items:

- Graduate Directors' Workshop was presented February 21 and very well attended.
- Hodges noted that beginning next week she will be meeting with all graduate directors in small groups of three or four. A brief questionnaire was sent to the directors for information regarding programs offered, production, demographics, recruiting methods, issues of concern related to the Graduate School.
- Last week the campus budget hearings were held. Graduate Assistantship stipends, tuition and fee waivers were discussed. After meeting with Donald Cunningham and Denise Barlow, it was determined that there is a need to do a comparison study with other peer institutions. Trends, history, and comparisons will help determine our path. A task force may be assigned. Last year some additional money was added to supplement stipends, tuition, and fee waivers from tuition revenue, and Hodges has requested that the supplement be continued.
- The Conference of Southern Graduate Schools meeting in Chattanooga on February 23–25 was attended by Hodges and Papke.
- Hodges also attended a recruitment seminar in Atlanta on February 27– March 1. Strategies and techniques were discussed, and they will be shared with the graduate directors when she meets with them.
- NRC assessment reports have been sent out by Linda Painter. 100% of the program reports are complete, and faculty surveys are 85% complete.
- SARIF Graduate Assistantship Awards have been announced for summer.
- UTK, UTSI, and UT, Chattanooga, are working together on an on-line Engineering Management Program. They are looking at ways the programs can cooperate together and share resources. More information will be coming as the program develops.

Sally McMillan suggested that when the Graduate School is looking into stipend levels. It also would be important to look within disciplines. Papke also stated that special attention needs to be made to see if the stipend comes with fee waiver, in-state fee waiver, health insurance, etc. when making the comparisons.

Graduate Deans' Group

Mary E. Papke, Chair, stated that Robert Holub, Provost, will be attending the April meeting. The issue of joint degrees is under study.

Mohan M.K. and Mike Ickowitz noted that the Office of Graduate and International Admissions is improving the distribution of information on admission application data to the campus.

Guidelines for the diversity enhancement fellowship are waiting for approval from central administration.

Graduate Student Senate

Eddie Woodruff, President of the Graduate Student Senate, stated the Fun Run had 145 participants with the total donations to the library of \$7,500 including the \$5,000 from the athletic department and \$1,000 from the Chancellor's Office. The proceeds will fund a database. Linda Phillips has been working closely with the Graduate Student Senate. The next Graduate Travel Award application deadline will be April 16, 2007. The application will soon be an on-line form. The form will still go through the signature process.

Woodruff announced that this was his last meeting as president. At the next meeting he will introduce the new president.

Graduate Council Chair

Matthew Murray, Chair, noted the following items:

- Matthew Murray brought up the UTK policy on holding theses and dissertations. Murray expressed concern that the student may end up in having to change focus half way through the dissertation. A larger discussion should be initiated and should include the Vice Chancellor for Research, when named. The Chair will follow up on this issue.
- Stefanie Ohnesorg reviewed the report from the ad hoc committee's discussion on how to improve graduate hooding. The Graduate Council will address this issue at the April meeting.
- Kay Reed stated that the Graduate Hooding will be at the Convention Center on May 10 at 6:00 p.m. Parking will be available in the 11th Street and White Avenue garages with buses circulating from the garages to the Convention Center. Security will be arranged for the events. Locust Street garage is free after 6:00 p.m.
- The Chair read the names of the committee members who will be rotating off the committee. Golden, Klinkhammer, Breinig, Elias, Keene, Hackett, Anfara, Frymier, Upadhyaya, Woodruff, Colvin, Pjesivac-Grborvic, Dupper, Wodarski, and M. Smith were thanked for their service to the Council.

5. Items from the floor

- Marianne Breinig is concerned about the lack of flexibility to respond to changes in opportunities for admissions. Her concern was related to a recent initiative by

the Chinese government for select Chinese students to study at foreign universities.

- Academic policy on undergraduate grading changes was tabled at the Undergraduate Council. That council is studying the impact on other policies. Hope Scholarships and GPA will be affected. If approved, the change will go into effect in Fall 2008.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gay Henegar
Administrative Specialist II
Graduate School

**ATTACHMENT 1
ACADEMIC POLICY ON GRADUATE DIRECTOR**

Effective Fall 2008

Graduate Catalog, page 25
Remove the following section:

Departmental Liaison

One faculty member in most academic departments has been designated as a liaison. The liaison acts as a contact to assist non-departmental students with course selection and other academic matters.

Replace with following section:

Graduate Director

Each academic department or program has designated a tenured or tenure-track faculty member who is the director of graduate studies. This individual, with the assistance of the other graduate faculty in the department, is responsible for the administration of the graduate program(s) in the department and also serves as the contact person with the Graduate School.

**ATTACHMENT 2
FACULTY APPROVED TO DIRECT DISSERTATIONS**

INITIAL Approval of Tenure-Track Faculty without Tenure (Probationary)

Andrew, Damon Assistant Professor	Exercise, Sport & Leisure Studies	Until Tenure
Davis, John Assistant Professor	Philosophy	Until Tenure
Drever, Anita Assistant Professor	Geography	Until Tenure
Kalafsky, Ronald Assistant Professor	Geography	Until Tenure
Palenchar, Michael Assistant Professor	Advertising & Public Relations	Until Tenure
Tran, Liem Assistant Professor	Geography	Until Tenure
Wyatt, Tami Assistant Professor	Nursing	Until Tenure

CONTINUING Approval of Faculty with Tenure

Bassett, David Professor	Exercise, Sport & Leisure Studies	10 Years
DeSensi, Joy Professor	Exercise, Sport & Leisure Studies	10 Years
