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Graduate Council

10-5-2006

Graduate Council Minutes - October 5, 2006

Graduate Council

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Members Present

Vincent An fara, Ben Bates, Richard Bennett, Marianne Breinig, Ralph Brockett, Tom Burman, James Diamond, Bill Dunne, Dave Dupper, Amy Elias, James Foggin, Paul Frymier, Nan Gaylord, Tom George, David Golden, Rosalind Hackett, Eric Haley, George Hoemann, Stephen Kania, Barbara Klinkhammer, Karen Levy, Sibyl Marshall, Sally McMillan, Michael Lane Morris, Matthew Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Linda R. Painter, Mary E. Papke, Masood Parang, Jelena Pjesivac-Grbovic, Linda Phillips, Jan Rosinski, Rudy Santore, Susan Smith, Rupy Sawhney, Belle Upadhyaya, John Wodarski, Eddie Woodruff, Michael Zemel.

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Matthew Murray, Chair, on Thursday, October 5, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in the 8th Floor Board Room of Andy Holt Tower.

1. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the August 31, 2006 meeting were approved by Council.

2. Welcome – Dr. Robert C. Holub, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Matthew Murray, Chair, welcomed Robert C. Holub, Provost, to the Graduate Council meeting.

Holub announced that one of his first actions as Provost was to change the name of the Office of Graduate Studies to the Graduate School. Linda R. Painter, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, has asked Brenda Rayman, Catalog Editor, to execute the changes for the Graduate School Catalog 2007–2008.

Holub extended appreciation to Painter for accepting the role of Interim Dean of the Graduate School. The search for the new Dean of the Graduate School began Wednesday, October 4, 2006. Holub stated that Academic Affairs would like to see the Graduate School develop a strong relationship with the Office for Research. Holub stated that there is a direct correlation between the relationship of the Graduate School and the Office of Research and the status of graduate education at the University of Tennessee.

Since graduate student funding is an issue, Holub noted that a possibility for enhancing graduate education at and attracting graduate students to the University could be to look at policies for graduate student residency classification. A second possibility could be for the new Dean of the Graduate School to work with the Development Office to seek further funding for graduate fellowships.

Fall 2006 graduate enrollment numbers are down for the University compared to Fall 2005 enrollment. Holub stated that the current student enrollment at the University of Tennessee is 26,000, and it is his goal that graduate enrollment be 25% of the total enrollment for the University. Holub said that he believes admission issues can be both centralized across the University and specific to various departments.

Holub addressed the question from Council regarding graduate school recruitment. The Dean of the Graduate School will be responsible for overall recruitment efforts that are contingent upon available resources.

Holub addressed concerns from Council regarding research and grant processes.

3. Committee Reports

Academic Policy Committee

Ben Bates, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee, presented the report from the September 21, 2006, meeting. The following items were addressed:

- Bates recommended that the bylaws for the Academic Policy Committee be reviewed.
- Murray suggested that the following issues be addressed by the committee in the future: plagiarism, SPEAK® Testing Program, general policies related to distance education.
- Michael Keene recommended that the committee revisit the policy on minimum TOEFL scores in relationship to the new internet-based TOEFL exam.
- The committee reviewed the draft position description for departmental graduate coordinators.

Credentials Committee

Tom Burman, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the report from the September 14, 2006, meeting. The committee will be addressing the process by which new and current faculty members are approved to direct doctoral dissertations. Council approved the committee recommendations as presented (Attachment 1).

Curriculum Committee

David Golden, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, presented the report from the September 21, 2006, meeting. Council approved the recommendations as presented (Attachment 2).

Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Hooding

Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Hooding, presented the committee's recommendations from the "Review of the Graduate Hooding Ceremony." Council will review the recommendations and discuss further at future meetings (Attachment 3).

4. New Business

No new business.

5. Administrative Reports and Announcements

Graduate Dean

Painter presented the following items as a report:

- As of October 2, 2006, Dr. Mohanan M.K. joined the University of Tennessee as the new Director of the Office of Graduate and International Admissions.
- Graduate Studies has been redefined as the Graduate School of the University of Tennessee. Both the Graduate School Catalog for 2007–2008 and the current website are being updated to reflect this change.
- The Fall 2006 Graduate Coordinators' meeting was held on Sept. 20, 2006.
- Painter presented the graduate enrollment statistics for Fall 2006:
 - Fall 2006 enrollment is currently at 5,587. This includes graduate and professional students (Law and Veterinary Medicine students included).
 - Fall 2006 enrollment is down by 288 compared to Fall 2005.
 - Pam Hindle, Associate Registrar, is assisting Painter and Holub with analysis of the Graduate School's enrollment history.
 - Further details regarding the Noli System, SIS "graybar reports," DB2 connect software and access, and completion of applications will be further issues of discussion and evaluation as admission enrollments are analyzed.
- The NRC Survey of Doctoral Programs is in process. Of the University of Tennessee's doctoral programs, 39 programs are being asked to report the core, new, and associated faculty. Further clarification for the required data is being refined on the NRC level.
- The first Professional Development Award application deadline is Wednesday, October 11, 2006.
- Last spring the "Administration of Assistantships" policy was moved from the Graduate Catalog to a publication titled the Graduate Assistantship Handbook. Painter recommended that the "Administration of Assistantship" policy be included in the Graduate Catalog as well.
- Thesis/Dissertation Consultant Alan Hollis is resigning as of 12/31/2006, and a search for her replacement is under way.

Graduate Deans' Group

Mary Papke, Chair of the Graduate Deans' Group, noted that in addition to the items already covered in other reports, the group discussed changes in the fellowship program related to the end of the Geier Desegregation Compliance Consent Decree.

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Eddie Woodruff, President of the GSS, noted the following items in his report:

- *Fall 2006 Travel Fund Awards* - A total of 110 Graduate Student Travel Award applications were received, and of these applications forty-two awards were made. Approximately \$61,000 was requested in travel monies, and a total of \$11,292 was awarded. The GSS plans to request additional funds for this award from the Office of the Provost.
- *Love Your Libraries Fun Run* - Graduate Student Senate's goal is to raise \$10,000 for the 2007 Love Your Libraries Fun Run. The University of Tennessee's Athletic Department is the first donor for the fund raiser and has donated \$5,000. The Tennessee Athletics Department will be an official sponsor of the Fun Run.
- *Graduate Student Senate Website* - The GSS is in the process of updating its web page.

Graduate Council Chair

Matthew Murray, Chair, noted the following details:

- The Graduate Council will continue to work closely with the Graduate School.
- The issue of academic dishonesty was discussed in the Academic Policy committee meeting. Graduate Council will be discussing this issue further.
- Bylaws for the Graduate Council should be accurate and changed when needed.
- The facilities plan for the University of Tennessee presented at the Faculty Senate Retreat by Denise Barlow, Vice Chancellor of Finance & Administration, was impressive. The facility plans for the University may be viewed at <http://www.pp.utk.edu/masterplan.htm>.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy L. Barnhart
Secretary to the Graduate Council

**ATTACHMENT 1
FACULTY APPROVED TO DIRECT DISSERTATIONS**

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

Brown, Janet W.	Nursing	Until Tenure Decision
Chen, Guoxun	Nutrition	Until Tenure Decision
Fairbrother, Jeffrey	Exercise, Sport & Leisure Studies	Until Tenure Decision
Jahns, Lisa	Nutrition	Until Tenure Decision
Kirk, Claudia	Comparative & Experimental Medicine	Until Tenure Decision
Moran, Mary Janes	Child & Family Studies	Until Tenure Decision
Stolz, Heidi	Child & Family Studies	Until Tenure Decision
Wass, Tara	Child & Family Studies	Until Tenure Decision

CONTINUING Approval of Faculty with Tenure

Drumm, Eric C. Professor	Civil & Environmental Engineering	10 Years
Hatch, Amos Professor	Theory & Practice in Teacher Education	10 Years
Houston, David J. Associate Professor	Political Science	10 Years
Steinhoff, John Professor-UTSI	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	10 Years

INITIAL/CONTINUING Approval of Non Tenure Faculty/Staff

Hofmeister, William H. Research Professor - UTSI	Materials Science & Engineering	5 Years
Hansen-Petrik, Melissa	Nutrition	5 Years

ATTACHMENT 2

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

(All changes effective Fall 2007)

PART 1: COURSE CHANGES

SCHOOL OF ART

(132) Art Printmaking

REPEATABILITY CLARIFICATION

562 Printmaking II (2-6)

Repeatability: Not repeatable. May be taken once for 2-6 hours.

563 Printmaking III (2-6)

Repeatability: Not repeatable. May be taken once for 2-6 hours.

564 Printmaking IV (2-6)

Repeatability: Not repeatable. May be taken once for 2-6 hours.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

(235) Chemistry

REPEATABILITY CLARIFICATION

501 Chemistry Seminar (1)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

(278) Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

REVISE CREDIT HOURS AND REMOVE CONTACT HOUR DISTRIBUTION

460 Evolution (3)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

(339) English

REPEATABILITY CLARIFICATION

413 Restoration and 18th-Century Genres and Modes (3)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

(405) French

DROP

434 Literature of Quebec (3)

445 Advanced French for Business (3)

(924) Spanish

REVISE TITLE

621 Seminar in Spanish Literature or Linguistics (3)

631 Seminar in Spanish American Literature or Linguistics (3)

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

(698) Music General

REPEATABILITY CLARIFICATION

521 Special Topics in Performance (1-3)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 12 hours.

(711) Music Jazz

REPEATABILITY CLARIFICATION

520 Seminar in Jazz (3)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 12 hours.

(706) Musicology

REPEATABILITY CLARIFICATION

593 Independent Study (1-15)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 18 hours.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

(830) Psychology

REVISE CREDIT HOURS

593 Independent, Off-campus, or Foreign Study (1-9)

PART 2: PROGRAM CHANGES

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

DROP

Performance concentration (Theatre major – MFA)

ADD

Acting Concentration (Theatre major – MFA)

(The requirements for the acting concentration are the same as the performance concentration (see page 85 – 2006-2007 Graduate Catalog.)

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

(All changes effective Fall 2007)

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

REPEATABILITY CLARIFICATION

(250) Communication Studies

593 Independent Study (1-6)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES**(All changes effective Fall 2007)****I. COURSE CHANGES****DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE, SPORT, AND LEISURE STUDIES****(347) Exercise Science**

ADD

633 Advanced Methods and Instrumentation in Biomechanics (3) Focus on methods and instrumentation commonly used in biomechanics. Provides practical experience and theoretical foundations for selected topics in two-/three-dimensional kinematics, anthropometric models and parameters, force measurements and force platform, pressure distribution measurements, two-dimensional/three-dimensional kinetics, muscle electrical activity and electromyography, and other related methods.

Recommended Background: Basic biomechanics course or consent of instructor.

DEPARTMENT OF THEORY AND PRACTICE IN TEACHER EDUCATION**(847) Reading Education**

ADD

519 Transacting with Literature (3) Strategies for integration of language, writing, content, literature, and higher level thinking skills (K-12).

ADD

529 Emergent Literacy (3) Theory and practice in emergent literacy. Focus on the development of early reading and writing from preschool through first grade.

(978) Theory and Practice in Teacher Education

REVISE CREDIT HOURS

542 Integrated Middle Grades Methods (6)**II. PROGRAM CHANGES****DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE, SPORT, AND LEISURE STUDIES**

ADD MOTOR BEHAVIOR SPECIALIZATION (EDUCATION MAJOR, SPORT STUDIES CONCENTRATION, PHD)

On page 119 of the 2006-2007 Graduate Catalog, under Majors, Education major, Sport Studies concentration add the specialization motor behavior.

On page 121 of the 2006-2007 Graduate Catalog, revise first sentence under heading Doctor of Philosophy, Education Major, Sport Studies Concentration to read as follows:

The PhD with a major in education offers a concentration in sport studies with areas of specialization in motor behavior, sport psychology, and sport sociology.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

(All changes effective Fall 2007)

II. PROGRAM CHANGES

ADD NEW INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAJOR (MS)

On page 138 of the 2006-2007 Graduate Catalog, add the entire program text below, directly above "Doctor of Philosophy Requirements."

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Reliability and Maintainability Engineering Major

A Master of Science degree with a major in reliability and maintainability engineering is offered through an interdepartmental program. Both thesis and non-thesis options are available. The program can be completed on campus or through distance delivery.

Admission

Applicants for admission to the MS program with a major in reliability and maintainability engineering are expected to have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited undergraduate program in engineering or physics. Students from other appropriate disciplines (e.g. chemistry, mathematics, etc.) can be admitted but additional engineering courses may be required. Entering students must have, as a minimum, competency in mathematics through ordinary differential equations. The Reliability and Maintainability Engineering Program Coordinator is the contact for all students interested in the reliability and maintainability engineering major.

Requirements

Students, with the concurrence of their graduate committee, may choose between a thesis option and a non-thesis project option. The chosen coursework must be approved by the graduate student's major professor and committee. After the completion of the formal program coursework and research, the student must pass an oral examination conducted by his/her graduate committee. The committee will include the student's major professor, the Reliability and Maintainability Engineering Program Coordinator (or appointee), and another faculty member at the rank of assistant professor or above. At least two-thirds of the minimum required hours must be taken in courses numbered at or above the 500 level.

Thesis Option (30 hours)

- Twelve hours of core courses chosen from the list below.
- Three hours of elective courses chosen from the list below.
- Six hours in statistics chosen from the list below.
- Three hours in engineering, statistics, business management, or a related field.
- Master's thesis. Six hours through the department of the major professor.
- A final oral examination covering the thesis and related coursework. The final oral examination must be at the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus.

Non-Thesis Option (30 hours)

- Twelve hours of core courses chosen from the list below.
- Six hours of elective courses chosen from the list below.
- Six hours in statistics chosen from the list below.
- Three hours in engineering, statistics, business management, or a related field.
- Project in lieu of thesis (3 hours). The course will be supervised by the student's committee. A written project proposal describing what the student will do in the course must be approved and submitted in advance to the student's graduate committee. A written final report is required. The project course may be taken through the major professor's department – Chemical Engineering 580, Electrical and Computer Engineering 501, Engineering Science 590, Industrial Engineering 501, Mechanical Engineering 590, or Nuclear Engineering 598.
- A final oral examination covering the project and related coursework. The final oral examination must be at the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus.

Reliability and Maintainability Engineering Core Courses

Statistics 563 or Mathematics 423; Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Nuclear Engineering 483*; Industrial Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or Nuclear Engineering 484*; Chemical Engineering or Nuclear Engineering 585*.

Reliability and Maintainability Engineering Electives

Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, or Mechanical Engineering 507; Chemical Engineering or Industrial Engineering 561; Electrical and Computer Engineering 503 or 504; Industrial Engineering 516 or 517; Biomedical Engineering, Engineering Science, Mechanical Engineering 534*; or Nuclear Engineering 579*.

Statistics Electives

Statistics 566, 567, 571*, 572*, 573*, 574*, 575, 578, or 579.

*Currently offered through distance.

COLLEGE OF LAW**(All changes effective Fall 2007)****I. COURSE CHANGES****(613) Law**

REVISE PREREQUISITES AND CLARIFY REPEATABILITY

833 Representing Enterprises (3-5)*Repeatability: Not repeatable. May be taken once for 3-5 hours.**(DE) Prerequisite(s): 818, 826, 827, 840, 842, 940, and 972.**Comment(s): Up to two of the prerequisites may be taken as corequisites.*

CLARIFY REPEATABILITY

847 Advanced Constitutional Law (2-3)*Repeatability: May be repeated if topic differs. Maximum 9 hours.***887 International Business Transactions (2-3)***Repeatability: Not repeatable. May be taken once for 2-3 hours.***960 Employee Benefits Law (2-3)***Repeatability: Not repeatable. May be taken once for 2-3 hours.***990 Issues in the Law (3)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 40 hours.***991 Issues in the Law Seminar (2)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 40 hours.***993 Directed Research (1-2)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 8 hours.***994 Independent Study (1-4)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 12 hours.**Comment(s): May only be taken during last three semesters of study.***995 Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law (1-2)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.***996 Law Review (1)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.***997 Moot Court (1)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.***998 Planning and Drafting (1)***Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.***II. PROGRAM CHANGES**

REVISE DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE TO ADD A CREDIT RESTRICTION

On page 154 of the 2006-2007 *Graduate Catalog*, 1st column, under Doctor of Jurisprudence, revise first sentence of the first paragraph to add the following

The Doctor of Jurisprudence degree will be conferred upon candidates who complete, with the required average, six semesters of resident law study and who have 89 hours of credit, including all required courses. Of the required 89 hours of credit, no more than 18 hours of credit may be earned in any combination of the following courses – 947, 993, 994, 995, 996, or 997.

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

(All changes effective Fall 2007)

I. COURSE CHANGES

REVISE TO CLARIFY REPEATABILITY

867 Special Problems in Comparative Medicine (1-8)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.

877 Special Problems in Pathology (1-8)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.

887 Special Problems in Small Animal Clinical Sciences (1-8)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.

897 Special Problems in Large Animal Clinical Sciences (1-8)

Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.

ATTACHMENT 3
Ad-Hoc Committee
Review of the Graduate Hooding Ceremony
Recommendations

June 2006

Ad-Hoc Committee Members:

Tom George
Beauvais Lyons
Matthew Murray
Stefanie Ohnesorg
Mary E. Papke
Kay Reed
Eddie Woodruff

In response to the Graduate Council's discussion of the Graduate Hooding Ceremony and its policies in April 2006, an ad hoc group met and reviewed the current policies and practices. The ad hoc group developed the following recommendations for presentation to the Graduate Council for review:

1. The name of the ceremony should be changed to reflect the fact that Master's students are not hooded during the ceremony. A possible name could be: Graduate Commencement: Doctoral Hooding and Recognition of Master's Degrees.
2. The policy on eligibility for participation in the ceremony by thesis and non-thesis Master's students should be changed to make them both eligible if within 12 hours of completing degree requirements. The current policy (Graduate Catalog, page 29, heading Graduation) states, "Students who need 12 hours or fewer to complete a non-thesis program may participate in the spring graduate hooding ceremony."
3. All faculty members who serve on a graduate committee for the participating graduate students should be encouraged to attend the ceremony. A significant faculty representation should be expected for a ceremony that is honoring recipients of graduate degrees and the hallmark of the graduate degree is professed to be the collegiality of the relationship between mentor and graduate student.
4. In the printed program for the ceremony, the list of Master's degree candidates should include information on prior bachelor's degrees and other graduate degrees that were awarded.
5. The printed program for the ceremony should include the university's welcoming statement. The statement reads as follows:

As the state's leading comprehensive research and land-grant institution, UT's primary purpose is to move forward the frontiers of human knowledge and enrich and elevate society, as further elaborated in its Mission Statement. The university does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of educational opportunities or employment opportunities or benefits. The institution welcomes and honors people of all races, creeds, cultures, and sexual orientations, and values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and academic freedom and integrity. Faculty prepare students to lead lives of personal integrity and civic responsibility.

6. The printed program for the ceremony should include a clear disclaimer that indicates that the presence of a student's name in it does not constitute actual awarding of a degree. The University Registrar's Office does not award degrees until at least two or more weeks after the ceremony and after complete checking is finished on requirements. The statement used by the Registrar's Office in the commencement program is:

The list of candidates for graduation was prepared before final grades were reported, and inclusion herein does not constitute evidence of graduation. The listing of a name in this program should not be construed as an indication that the person will in fact receive a degree from the University of Tennessee at this commencement. Conversely, the absence of a student's name from this list does not necessarily mean that the person will not be awarded a degree.

Other points that the committee reviewed and discussed about the ceremony were:

Venue—the ceremony seems small in number of participants for the size of the Thompson-Boling Arena. The number of participants has grown to about 5,000 people, with about 400 Master's students, 80 doctoral students, 80 faculty hooders, and about 50 other faculty seated on the Arena floor. Problems have been noted concerning the lighting in the Arena and the acoustics from the sound system.

Reception for Students, Families and Faculty—ideally the ceremony should provide some opportunity for the students and their families to meet with faculty who attend. A suggestion has been made that signs and banners be placed at the back of the Arena floor so that students and their families may meet with faculty members following the ceremony.

NOTES FROM AD HOC GRADUATE HOODING CEREMONY COMMITTEE

May 2, 2006 Meeting

Present: Matt Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Mary Papke, Kay Reed, Dick Townsend, Eddie Woodruff.

Issues for Discussion:

1. Hooding for terminal degrees? MFA. Need a definition of “terminal.”
2. Participation Policies – Who can walk?
3. Who can hood?

Questions:

How are studio art and theatre design treated as far as terminal degrees at other institutions? How do peer institutions handle this?

Suggestions for Follow up:

1. Perhaps a change of name of the event is in order:

Graduate Commencement: Doctoral Hooding and Recognition of Master’s Degrees

rather than Graduate Hooding.?
2. Terminal degree is not what the ceremony is about. It is about the level of achievement-not that it is “terminal?”
3. Perhaps put the hooding of MFA candidates in the department/school itself is an answer.
4. Eddie – Can you email students to ask how they perceive the notion of a name change?
5. All committee members for the graduates should be encouraged to attend the ceremony.

June 27, 2006 Meeting

Present: Beauvais Lyons, Matthew Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Mary E. Papke, Kay Reed

The group reviewed the discussion points from the first meeting and then considered the points developed by Beauvais Lyons following his observations in the Spring 2006 Graduate Hooding Ceremony. His observations included the following:

1. The processional banners for each college should be part of the ceremony. If not carried, one option would be to have them on the platform throughout. They are one of the most aesthetic aspects of our commencement, and should be incorporated somehow.
2. The ceremony is poorly matched to the space. Is the Cox Auditorium too small? Are there any other options. The acoustics were terrible. Is there any way to transform the space with better lighting?
3. The final processional was awkward. A clearer sense of directions from the platform committee regarding whether the faculty and the newly hooded PhD candidates are to follow the platform committee.
4. Give the singer the lyrics (via the program) to the alma mater.
5. Somewhere this program should include the university's welcoming statement. If not with the EOE tag line, somewhere else. This goes for the main commencement program as well. From Chapter 1.1 of the Faculty Handbook:

"As the state's leading comprehensive research and land-grant institution, UT's primary purpose is to move forward the frontiers of human knowledge and enrich and elevate society, as further elaborated in its Mission Statement. The university does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of educational opportunities or employment opportunities or benefits. The institution welcomes and honors people of all races, creeds, cultures, and sexual orientations, and values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and academic freedom and integrity. Faculty prepare students to lead lives of personal integrity and civic responsibility."

6. Including the MFA hooding along with other terminal/advanced degrees does not seem as pressing to me after experiencing this hooding. If it is an issue of time of study, it is worth noting that some of the Doctors of Audiology recipients had completed their MA degrees in 2005. In any case, I may advocate for a ceremony to be conducted in the School of Art itself, which would be the most meaningful for the MFA candidates themselves.