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Graduate Council Minutes - August 31, 2006

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Members Present

Ben Bates, Richard Bennett, Marianne Breinig, Ralph Brockett, Amy Colvin, Bill Dunne, David Dupper, Amy Elias, Paul Frymier, Nan Gaylord, James Gehlhar, Tom George, David Golden, Rosalind Hackett, Eric Haley, Stephen Kania, Barbara Klinkhammer, Jan Lee, Karen Levy, Sally McMillan, Michael Lane Morris, Matthew Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Linda R. Painter, Mary E. Papke, Linda Phillips, Jelena Pjesiac-Grbovic, Jan Rosinski, Rudy Santore, Susan Smith, Rupy Sawhney, Belle Upadhyaya, Eddie Woodruff, Michael Zemel.

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Matthew Murray, Chair, on Thursday, August 31, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in the 8th Floor Board Room of Andy Holt Tower.

1. Introductions

Dr. Matthew Murray, Professor of Economics and Chair of Graduate Council, extended appreciation to Graduate Council for his election as chair for 2006-2008. Murray extended appreciation to Dr. Stefanie Ohnesorg, Associate Professor of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, for her role as Graduate Council Chair 2004-2006.

Introductions of the following people were made:

- Dr. Linda R. Painter, New Interim Dean of Graduate Studies
- Dr. Mary E. Papke, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies
- Dr. Kay Reed, Assistant to the Dean of Graduate Studies
- Ms. Tammy Barnhart, Program Resource Specialist of Graduate Studies
- Ms. Alan Hollis, Thesis/Dissertation Consultant of Graduate Studies
- Ms. Alison Miller, IT Specialist I of Graduate Studies
- Mr. Michael Ickowitz, Associate Director of Graduate and International Admissions
- Ms. Brenda Rayman, Curriculum Coordinator, Registrar's Office
- Ms. Catherine Cox, Graduate Catalog Coordinator, Registrar's Office

2. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the April 27, 2006 meeting were approved by Council.

3. Orientation to Graduate Council

Murray extended appreciation to Graduate Council members and proxies for agreeing to serve for the 2006-2007 academic year. He explained that the purpose of this first meeting was to orient the members to the work of the Council. The Council's role is to deliberate and set graduate policies, which are printed and made available in the *Graduate Catalog*. Murray encouraged Council members to share information on Graduate Council activities with their colleagues at the department and college level.

Graduate Council is a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate. A description of the relationship to the Faculty Senate was described.

The schedule of Graduate Council and committee meetings was distributed.

Each chair of the standing committees was introduced as follows:

- 1) Academic Policy Committee, Chair – Ben Bates
- 2) Appeals Committee, Chair – To be determined
- 3) Credentials Committee, Chair – Thomas Burman
- 4) Curriculum Committee, Chair – David Golden
- 5) Graduate Deans' Group, Chair – Mary E. Papke
- 6) Professional Development Committee, Chair– Linda R. Painter

Council members were introduced to the web pages for Graduate Council. The minutes and agenda will be distributed to the members electronically by email notices with links to the appropriate web pages.

3. New Business

No new business.

4. Administrative Reports and Announcements

Graduate Dean's Report - Linda R. Painter

Welcome - Linda Painter extended appreciation to Graduate Council members and the Graduate Deans for agreeing to serve on Council for 2006-2007.

Staff Changes - Linda Painter noted recent staff changes:

- Dr. Anne Mayhew, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, retired as of July 31, 2006.
- Dr. Robert Holub is the new Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.
- Dr. Linda Painter is the new Interim Dean for the Graduate School, and a search for a new Dean of the Graduate School will begin this semester. At this time, a search committee is being formed.
- Ms. Rose Ann Trantham, Director for Graduate and International Admissions, retired in February 2006, and Dr. Mohanan M.K., the new Director, will be in place at the beginning of October 2006.

Graduate and International Admission Fall 2006 Enrollment – Enrollment for graduate and professional students is 5,536. In comparison to 2005-2006, enrollment is down by 232.

NRC Survey – The current NRC Survey deadline for submission of data is December 15, 2006. The NRC Survey provides an excellent opportunity for the University to improve its graduate programs ratings. Painter will be working closely with the deans of the colleges to assist them with the NRC data submittals.

Graduate Coordinator Workshop – The Graduate Coordinator Workshop will be held on September 20, 2006, in the Shiloh Room of the University Center. Topics to be covered will be the responsibilities, role, and definition of Graduate Program Coordinators; Fall 2006 Enrollment Data; Admissions Dates and Deadlines; NOLIJ and other additional items. Administrative Assistants and secretaries are welcome to attend.

New Graduate Teaching Assistants / Associates Orientation will be an item for further development and organization for this current year.

Graduate Student Senate – The Graduate Council will work closely with the Graduate Student Senate to support the Senate's platforms.

Graduate Student Senate – Eddie Woodruff, President

Woodruff reported that Graduate Student Senate's goals for the 2006-2007 year will be the following:

- Increase the amount of travel fund award amounts allotted to graduate students;
- Work closely with the Graduate School;
- Develop graduate student scholarship funds and non-service fellowships;
- Work for increases in stipends for graduate assistants;

The announcement was made that the Love Your Library Fund Run will be held Saturday, February 24, 2007, this year.

Graduate Council Chair – Matthew Murray

Murray expressed his confidence in the mechanisms in place within the Graduate Council to improve graduate education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

6. Items from the Floor.

There were no items from the floor.

The next Council meeting will be held on October 5, 2006.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy L. Barnhart
Secretary to the Graduate Council