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Graduate Council Minutes - March 9, 2006

Graduate Council

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Members Present

Mary Albrecht, David Anderson, Vincent Anfara, Ben Bates, Marianne Breinig, Tom Burman, Ann Fairhurst, James Foggin, Nan Gaylord, James Gehlhar, Tom George, David Golden, Andrew Haddow, George Hoemann, Barbara Klinkhammer, Jan Lee, Karen Levy, Anne Mayhew, Mary McAlpin, Matthew Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Mary E. Papke, Masood Parang, Linda Phillips, Susan Smith, John Wodarski.

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair, on Thursday, March 9, 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 February 2, 2006 meeting were approved.

2. Committee ReportsAcademic Policy Committee

Matthew Murray, Academic Policy Committee Chair, presented the report from the February 23, 2006, meeting.

The committee presented to Council the following recommendation for changes in policy on Thesis/Dissertation Abstracts and Titles:

Students must submit an abstract for purpose of cataloging. Any symbol used in the title or abstract must conform to Arial MS Unicode. This abstract should not exceed 350 words. Students have the option of also submitting an additional abstract that may use any symbol system and be of any length.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2006 with publication in the *Guide for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations*.

Council approved the recommended Changes in Policy on Thesis/Dissertation Abstracts and Titles.

Credentials Committee

Mary McAlpin presented the report for Michael Zemel, Credentials Committee Chair, from the February 16, 2006 meeting. Council approved the requests for faculty to be approved to direct doctoral dissertations as listed (Attachment 1).

3. New Business

- *Marianne Breinig, Nominating Committee Chair*, presented the report from the February 23, 2006 meeting. Three nominations were submitted to the nominating committee. Of these three nominations, two nominees accepted: Dr. Matthew Murray, Department of Economics, and Dr. David Golden, Department of Food Science and Technology.

Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair of Graduate Council, extended appreciation to David Golden and Matthew Murray for accepting nomination for the position of Graduate Council Chair 2006-2008. Graduate Council voted by closed ballot, and announcement of the new Chair is forthcoming.

- *Beauvais Lyons, Professor of Art*, presented to Council the recommendation to pursue steps to regard the Master of Fine Arts Degree as equal to other advanced degrees (Ph.D. and Ed.D.) for hooding exercises at commencement. Anne Mayhew, Dean of Graduate Studies, proposed that an ad-hoc committee should be established to proceed with this type of proposal. Stefanie Ohnesorg agreed to form this ad-hoc group to deal with this issue.

4. Administrative Reports and Announcements

Graduate Dean's Report – Anne Mayhew

- Mayhew reported that the Budget Hearings for 2006-2007 have been completed. Both Mayhew and the University's graduate faculty and staff stressed the importance for increased funding for the amount and number of stipends that can be provided to potential graduate students to remain competitive. The Chancellor's staff will look further into funding avenues.
- NRC Rankings - The data submission to the Graduate School for NRC rankings will be an ongoing process for the University's graduate programs.
- Professional Development Committee – Mayhew (Chair) reported that \$200,000 in funding was provided for the 2006-2007 Professional Development Awards. Of this total, \$120,000 has been awarded in amounts of \$1,500 to \$5,000 per award. At the present time, fifty-eight applications have been received; thirty-two awards have been awarded; twelve applications are awaiting evaluation on April 28, 2006; and twenty-one applications have been rejected.
- Graduate Applications are up for the upcoming 2006-2007 academic year.
- The International GTA Languages training program partially funded by the Graduate School has been terminated. Mayhew has established a group to continue to work on other ideas in assisting international students, faculty, and staff to improve English speaking skills.

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) – Andrew Haddow

- Haddow presented a document entitled “Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities,” which was endorsed by the Graduate Student Senate on February 22, 2006 (Attachment 2). The current wording for this proposal, the title, the contents, and the development procedures were discussed by Council with no further action. Graduate Council members expressed concerns over the manner in which the document was developed and presented. If Council members want to discuss the idea of a graduate student bill of rights further, they should contact Andrew Haddow at gss@utk.edu.

Graduate Council Chair’s Report – Stefanie Ohnesorg

Stefanie Ohnesorg reviewed the following items:

- Deadline for Graduate School Fellowship Applications 2006-2007 is Friday, March 10, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.
- As programs and departments begin to establish orientation schedules for 2006-2007, they should refer to other orientation schedules, such as CIE to avoid conflicts. To facilitate further scheduling, the CIE Orientation schedule and the New GTA Orientation schedule should be distributed and will be posted on the Graduate Studies web page by mid-April. Departments are also encouraged to send their orientation schedules to Graduate Studies so that they can be posted as early as possible.
- The following is the final calendar schedule for 2005-2006 Graduate Council Committees:

Graduate Deans’ Group - April 6, 2006
Credentials Committee - April 6, 2006
Academic Policy Committee - April 13, 2006
Curriculum Committee - April 13, 2006
Graduate Council - April 27, 2006

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy L. Barnhart
Secretary to Graduate Council

ATTACHMENT 1
FACULTY APPROVED TO DIRECT DISSERTATIONS

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

Alexandre-Jouline, Gladys Assist. Professor	Biochemistry, Cellular, & Molecular Biology	Approved until Tenure
Beebe, Lora Assistant Professor	Nursing	Approved until Tenure
Best, Michael Assistant Professor	Chemistry	Approved until Tenure
Fitzhugh, Eugene Assistant Professor	Exercise, Sport & Leisure Studies	Approved until Tenure
Gilchrist, Michael Assistant Professor	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Approved until Tenure
Grzywacz, Robert Assistant Professor	Physics	Approved until Tenure
Harte, Federico Assistant Professor	Food Science & Technology	Approved until Tenure
McIntosh, Jeri Assistant Professor	History	Approved until Tenure
Papenbrock, Thomas Assistant Professor	Physics	Approved until Tenure
Skolits, Gary Assistant Professor	Instructional Technology, Health, & Educational Studies	Approved until Tenure
Tompkins, David Assistant Professor	History	Approved until Tenure
Vogt, Frank Assistant Professor	Chemistry	Approved until Tenure
Zhong, Qixin Assistant Professor	Food Science & Technology	Approved until Tenure

CONTINUING Approval of Faculty with Tenure
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Counce, Robert M. Professor	Chemical Engineering	10 years
Essington, Michael, Professor	Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science	10 years
Gross, Lou, Professor	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	10 years

INITIAL/CONTINUING Approval of Non Tenure Faculty/Staff

Pinnaduwege, Lal, Research Professor	Physics	5 years
Zhang, Zhenyu, Professor ORNL	Physics	5 years

ATTACHMENT 2**GSS Bill: 03-06****TITLE: University of Tennessee Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities****SPONSOR: Andrew Haddow, President****DATE: February 22, 2005**

Whereas, graduate students comprise over 20% of the student body at the University of Tennessee, and

Whereas, the roles and responsibilities of graduate students continue to change within institutions of higher education, and

Whereas, a variety of needs must be recognized and met by the faculty and administration at the University of Tennessee, and

Whereas, these changes need to be addressed because today the very title of “graduate student” includes an array of people with a variety of needs and concerns, and

Whereas, in order to protect this diversity, the *Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities*—in concert with *Hilltopics*, the *Graduate Assistant Handbook*, the *Graduate Council Appeal Procedure*, and the *Faculty Senate Handbook*—aims to protect diversity and to ensure that all individuals can successfully pursue their degree of choice at the University of Tennessee

Be It Hereby Enacted, that The University of Tennessee Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to read:

Because the roles and responsibilities of graduate students continue to change within institutions of higher education, a variety of needs must be recognized and met by the faculty and administration at the University of Tennessee. These changes need to be addressed because today the very title of “graduate student” includes an array of people with a variety of needs and concerns. In order to protect this diversity, the *Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities*—in concert with *Hilltopics*, the *Graduate Assistant Handbook*, the *Graduate Council Appeal Procedure*, and the *Faculty Senate Handbook*—aims to protect diversity and to ensure that all individuals can successfully pursue their degree of choice at the University of Tennessee.

Graduate Student Rights

- 1) Graduate Students have a right to be respected as junior colleagues.
- 2) Graduate Student employees have a right to a fair living wage as stated in the guidelines regarding estimated costs of living for students and employees (established by the University and the Faculty Senate Living Wage Task Force).

- 3) Graduate Students have a right to an accurate and timely description of financial aid, funding, and other forms of support offered within their program and the University at large. All student and work-related requirements should be open and discussed with the graduate student upon entry into their respective program. Qualifications and requirements for the maintenance of funding should be provided to all graduate students and contract renewals should be in a timely and transparent fashion.
- 4) Graduate Students have a right to feedback and guidance with regard to their academic work and fair and non-biased evaluation of their work for the University of Tennessee.
- 5) Graduate Students have a right to freedom from all forms of discrimination, as stated in University of Tennessee's Non-Discrimination statement (EEO/Title IX/Section 504 Statement/ADA) as outlined in *Hilltopics* and pursuant to the Graduate Student Senate's resolution on non-discrimination.
- 6) Graduate Students have a right to refuse to perform tasks unrelated to their academic or professional development.
- 7) Graduate Students have a right to fair recognition for contributions to scholarly works contributed to the University of Tennessee, its faculty, and research.
- 8) Graduate Students have a right to shared governance on the departmental, college, university, state, and national levels.
- 9) Graduate Students have the right to a grievance process, as outlined in the University of Tennessee *Graduate Council Appeal Procedure* and *Hilltopics*.
- 10) Graduate Student employees have the right to adequate health care, including coverage for their partners and dependents.
- 11) Graduate Students have the right to appropriate workspace, technologies, training, professional support, formal assessment, and evaluations in relation to their role as both student and employee.
- 12) Information regarding academic and professional work of graduate students should be discussed only when appropriate.

Graduate Student Responsibilities

- 1) Graduate Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the academic and ethical standards of the University as outlined in *Hilltopics* and the *Graduate Assistant Handbook*.
- 2) Graduate Students are responsible for completing and submitting all documents required of graduate students by the University and their respective departments.
- 3) Graduate Students recognize their role as representatives of the University of Tennessee and their department and are responsible for representing themselves, their department, and the University as professionals.

- 4) Graduate Students are responsible for maintaining adequate progress in their degree program as outlined in the *Graduate Assistant Handbook*.
- 5) Graduate Students are responsible for communicating regularly with their department and the university, as necessary.
- 6) Graduate Students are encouraged to be active participants in the community, their department, and the University at a level appropriate to their ability and in keeping with their professional and academic responsibilities.

Be It Hereby Further Enacted, that University of Tennessee Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities be placed in the appropriate University literature be that *Hilltopics* or the *Graduate Assistant Handbook*.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Seconded by _____

VOTE for _____ against _____ abstentions _____

Date _____

ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Signature _____

Date _____

ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Signature _____

Date _____