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Academic Policy Committee Report - November 17, 2016

Graduate Council

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**ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016, 2:00 P.M.
111 STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING**

Present: Maria Stehle (Chair), Eric Boder, Julie Bonom, Reza Seddighi, Shandra Forrest-Bank,

Other attendees: Mary Albrecht (Accreditation), Stephanie Galloway (Graduate School), Dixie Thompson (Dean of the Graduate School), Catherine Cox (Graduate Council Liaison)

The meeting was called to order by Maria Stehle, Chair, at 2:00 p.m.

The following items were discussed:

- 1) Maria Stehle asked for a volunteer to serve as chair during the spring semester as she will not be on campus. Mehmet Aydeniz notified Maria that he would Chair the committee while she is away.

- 2) College of Nursing asked for feedback from other departments as to how they form committees for non-thesis comprehensive exam students.
 - Committees are formed with the advisor and student.
 - Nursing determined they can communicate to their students to choose both, clinical and policy/research/theory faculty to be on their committee.

- 3) Senior Eligible for Graduate Credit (Senior Privilege Form) Dixie Thompson

Dr. Thompson communicated the following issues concerning language with this policy:

- Current policy indicates combined coursework may not exceed 15 hours.
Requests are often submitted requesting an overload of the 15 hours.
 - i. With the high caliber of undergraduate students being admitted today (high ACT scores and high achievers) enrolling in 18 hours does not seem to be an issue as in years past.
 - ii. We are also building and promoting our accelerated programs where students must submit the Senior Privilege Form.

- After discussion, APC approved and is requesting a change in the Senior Eligible for Graduate Credit policy as follows – remove current wording and replace with the following (red text is revised wording):

- **VOTE: APC voted and unanimously approved the proposal to revise the policy for Senior Eligible for Graduate Credit. The proposal is moving forward with a recommendation for approval to the Graduate Council.**

University of Tennessee Seniors – Seniors Eligible for Graduate Credit (Senior Privilege)

Subject to approval by the Dean of the Graduate School, a senior at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who needs fewer than 30 semester credit hours to complete requirements for a bachelor's degree and has at least a B average (3.0) may enroll in graduate courses for graduate credit. **During the fall and spring semesters, the combined total of undergraduate and graduate course work cannot exceed 18 credit hours. During the summer semester, the combined total cannot exceed 12 credit hours.**

- Students who have met all requirements for graduation are not eligible.

- Approval must be obtained each semester at the Graduate School, 111 Student Services Building, (865)974-2475. Senior Requesting Graduate Credit form (**Senior Privilege**) is available online at http://gradschool.utk.edu/senior_interactive.pdf.
- A maximum of 9 credit hours of graduate credit at the 400 and 500 level can be obtained in this status. **Under special circumstances, 600-level courses may be taken for Senior Privilege.**
- Some departments do not permit seniors to register for graduate courses without prior permission.
- Courses taken for graduate credit may not be used for both the baccalaureate and a graduate degree program except in the case of approved dual bachelor's/master's programs.

Formerly:

University of Tennessee Seniors – Seniors Eligible for Graduate Credit

Subject to approval by the Dean of the Graduate School, a senior at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who needs fewer than 30 semester credit hours to complete requirements for a bachelor's degree and has at least a B average (3.0) may enroll in graduate courses for graduate credit, ~~provided the combined total of undergraduate and graduate course work does not exceed 15 credit hours per semester.~~

- ~~Only students working toward a first bachelor's degree are eligible.~~
- Students who have met all requirements for graduation are not eligible.
- Approval must be obtained each semester at the Graduate School, 111 Student Services Building, (865)974-2475. Senior Requesting Graduate Credit form is available online at http://gradschool.utk.edu/senior_interactive.pdf.
- A maximum of 9 credit hours of graduate credit at the 400 and 500 level can be obtained in this status.
- Some departments do not permit seniors to register for graduate courses without prior permission.
- Courses taken for graduate credit may not be used for both the baccalaureate and a graduate degree program except in the case of approved dual bachelor's/master's programs.

4) MINORS (Dixie Thompson)

The current language in the catalog concerning minors is as follows:

MINORS

For the master's degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, a minor is defined as 6-12 semester credit hours in one field outside the major. Usually, the minor courses are within a single teaching discipline that also offers a major.

Four interdisciplinary minors are available: computational science, environmental policy, statistics, and watershed.

The minor area must be approved by the major and minor academic units and a member from the minor unit must serve on the graduate committee.

Discussion:

- What about doctoral students that want to receive a minor?
- Would the doctoral minor look the same as the master's minor?
- Would requirements for the master's and doctoral minor be the same?
- Let's take this back to our units for discussion. This will also be a discussion item in the Graduate Associate Deans meeting. And, we can discuss this at the next Graduate Council Meeting.

We will get feedback and then come back to APC for discussion, revisions, and vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dixie Thompson: The College of Social Work is concerned with the revised wording for the certificates. What about certificates that require more hours than 12? They have two certificates that require 21 credit hours (Gerontology and Veterinary Social Work).
- Dixie Thompson: Accelerated Programs – Mary Albrecht, R.J. Hinde, and Dixie Thompson are discussing the bachelors/master's accelerated programs. For accreditation purposes we must comply with SACSCOC. In the past, we approved these programs not realizing we were not in compliance (going below the 150 hours for both degrees). Currently, we are violating SACSCOC.
 - We have to address a standard for our accelerated programs.
 - The programs have to be pedagogically sound.
 - The language in both the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog must be consistent.
 - This will be a discussion with associate deans, department heads, and directors of graduate studies.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox
Graduate Council Liaison