



January 2017

# Academic Policy Committee Report - January 26, 2017

Graduate Council

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**Academic Policy Committee Meeting Report**  
**Thursday, January 26, 2017, 2:00 P.M.**  
**111 Student Services Building**

Present: Mehmet Aydeniz (serving as Chair), Eric Boder, Julie Bonom, Shandra Forrest-Bank, Reza Seddighi, Shalini Yerukala (GSS President)

Other attendees: Marian Roman (Chair, Graduate Council), Dixie Thompson (Dean of the Graduate School), Stephanie Galloway (Assistant Dean, Graduate School), John Stier (Associate Dean, CASNR), and Catherine Cox (Graduate Council Liaison)

The meeting was called to order by Mehmet Aydeniz, at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Thompson communicated that the graduate Associate Deans will receive an invitation to attend the APC and Curriculum Committee meetings. When they review the agendas, if they see items of interest to their unit, then this will give them the opportunity to join in the discussions and give their input before the items go to Graduate Council.

Dr. Thompson reminded the group that the Graduate Catalog is being reviewed methodically to make certain that 1) policies currently listed are being followed; and 2) if a policy is no longer in effect, that we remove it from the catalog.

Two items brought for discussion today are:

1) 400-level courses

We need to create a statement in the catalog concerning/explaining 400-level courses. 400-level courses are undergraduate courses. Only those listed in the Graduate Catalog are available for graduate credit. For accreditation purposes, the 400-level courses available for graduate credit must have something in the syllabus detailing the higher expectations for graduate students.

*Recommended Statement:*

400-level courses: Some courses at the 400-level are available for graduate credit. The 400-level courses approved for graduate credit are listed in the Graduate Catalog's course descriptions. All 400-level courses taught for graduate credit must have information contained in the course syllabus detailing the higher expectations and/or additional requirements in order for graduate credit to be earned.

From committee discussion, the statement was revised as shown below.

400-level courses: Certain courses at the 400-level are available for graduate credit. The 400-level courses approved for graduate credit are listed in the Graduate Catalog's course descriptions. All 400-level courses taught for graduate credit must have information contained in the course syllabus detailing the higher expectations and/or additional requirements in order for graduate credit to be earned.

**Vote: APC voted and unanimously approved the revised statement above be inserted in the Graduate Catalog as a third bullet point under the heading, "Grades, Credit Hours, and Grade Point Average." The proposal is moving forward with a recommendation for approval to the Graduate Council.**

- 2) Policy on Minors:  
The way the current catalog reads there is no provision for doctoral or EdS students to receive a minor. We need a more formal statement in the catalog to define what a minor is and what is required for a minor.

Current language in catalog:

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.

*Recommended change:*

Minors

Minors provide an opportunity for graduate students to demonstrate training in a field of study outside the major. For students pursuing a graduate degree, a minor consists of no fewer than 6 semester credit hours in a field of study outside the major.

The student's graduate committee must approve the minor area of study, and at least one member of the student's graduate committee must be selected from the minor area. Students declare a minor at the time of filing the Admission to Candidacy Application. The minor is awarded simultaneously with the degree conferral and is listed on the transcript.

Academic units request approval for minors through the curricular approval process. A complete list of approved graduate minors can be found at Majors/Minors A-Z.

After discussion and editing, APC approved the above recommended change and is requesting to remove the current language and replace with the above revised text.

**VOTE: APC voted and unanimously approved the proposal to revise the current language for Minors. The proposal is moving forward with a recommendation for approval to the Graduate Council.**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Discussions for future meetings:

- Dixie Thompson: One of the colleges conducted a survey concerning the validity of the Credentials Committee. At the next APC meeting a representative from the college will present their survey results.
- 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. We have to address a standard for our accelerated programs. The language in both the Undergraduate and Graduate

Catalog must be consistent and have specific language about the dual/accelerated programs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox  
Graduate Council Liaison