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Graduate Council Minutes - March 31, 2016

Graduate Council

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

March 31, 2016 Minutes

Members and Guests Present

Acuff, C. (proxy for GSS President John Keny); Albrecht, M.; Aydeniz, M.; Baek, S.; Bemis, D.; Bonom, J.; Brothers, E.; Desmidt, H.; Forrest-Bank, S.; Fouts, H.; Frymier, P.; Fu, J.; Fuller, R.; Galloway, S.; Gellert, P.; Gregor, J.; Grissino-Mayer, H.; Kania, S. (Chair); Kilpatrick, Y.; Kirk, C.; Larson, J.; Marshall, S.; Mee, R.; Moir-McClean, T.; Nebenfuehr, A.; Ohnesorg, S.; Rentsch, J.; Roman, M.; Rutenberg, A.; Schaur, G.; Stehle, M.; Stier, J.; Thompson, D.; Thompson, P.

1. The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Stephen Kania on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in the Panhellenic Building, room 202.
 - Dr. Kania extended his appreciation to all that responded to his email for the appointment of Graduate Council representatives. A chair-elect still needs to be appointed. Please submit names or you may self-select.
 - The Executive Committee of the Graduate Council met March 9, 2016, and discussed the appointment of a Nomination Committee for chair-elect, the Graduate Council meeting schedule for 2016-2017, and processes for election of new members and committee appointments.

2. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the February 25, 2016 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council.

3. Committee ReportsAcademic Policy Committee

Maria Stehle, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee (APC), reported on the March 3, 2016 meeting. (Attachment 1)

1. English Placement Proposal: this proposal is to revise language in the catalog to coincide with the procedure they are currently executing. We learned that the Undergraduate APC Committee is also looking at the language to revise in the UG Catalog. We will wait on this proposal until next academic year when both APC Committees will revisit the proposal.
2. Request from College of Veterinary Medicine to be exempt from the new grading scale policy was presented to Graduate Council and approved.
 - a. Dr. Claudia Kirk, from the College of Veterinary Medicine, explained their grading scale is in compliance with their accrediting agency. Dr. Kirk gave several examples that to veer from their current grading practice would have an adverse and harmful effect on their students.
 - b. Dr. Mary Albrecht reported she spoke with Monique Anderson, the Registrar, and Monique communicated a different grading scale is already established for undergraduate, graduate, Law, and Veterinary Medicine.
 - c. Their request to be exempt seems appropriate.
 - d. Dr. Albrecht proposed a sentence be added to the Graduate Catalog to indicate that the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Law are exempt from the graduate grading scale. [*Exemptions include the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine (see college handbooks for details).*]

Credentials Committee

Jens Gregor, member of the Credentials Committee, reported on the March 3rd meeting the following approvals were given to faculty: six were approved until tenure, one for five years, and nine for ten years. Graduate Council approved the recommendations. (Attachment 2)

Curriculum Committee - no report, as there was no meeting.

Appeals Committee

Marian Roman reported the Provost and the Chancellor upheld the decision of the Appeals Committee and Interim Dean Mary Albrecht's decision.

4. New Business

No new business.

5. Administrative Reports and AnnouncementsMary Albrecht (Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School) reported:

- Mary Albrecht expressed her appreciation to all the assistance she received during the graduate dean transition. She also thanked the Graduate School staff for all the hard work they do each day.

Ernest Brothers, Graduate Associate Deans Group (Attachment 3)

- A challenge has been finding consistent data when seeking large Grants.
- Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week is April 4 – 8. A flyer available to print and handout to students in your area. Many activities have been planned. Please note that Friday, April 8 is the Three-Minute Thesis competition. This is a fun and intense competition. In the future, there will be an opportunity to compete at the Council of Graduate Schools December meeting.

Graduate Student Senate

Chris Acuff (proxy for Graduate Student Senate President, John Keny) reported the following:

- At our last meeting we unanimously passed the resolution supporting the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- Next week we will have GSS elections. We have two candidates for GSS President. No one qualified for VP, but SGA Election Commission is working on that process.
- GSS Transition Ceremony is Thursday, April 21. Time and place TBD.
- Next Monday, at 5:30 p.m., for the Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, we will have a reception for the new Graduate School Dean, Dr. Dixie Thompson at Hodges Library Mary E. Greer Room.
- Graduate student night at the baseball stadium, Wednesday, April 6, at 6:00 p.m.
- Graduate student Trivia Night is Thursday, April 7, at Soccer Taco on Market Square from 6 – 8 p.m.

Dr. Dixie Thompson, new Graduate School Dean

- I extend my appreciation to Mary Albrecht for serving as interim dean.
- Head's Up: We want to hear your voice. A short survey will be sent out next week for students, faculty and staff. This will help us to move forward as we make decisions in the coming year.
- Remind your graduate students if they plan to attend the Hooding Ceremony they need to go to the Graduate School webpage and RSVP.

- Please consider the chair-elect position for Graduate Council.
- At the last Graduate Associate Deans' meeting there was a discussion about collecting common data. This is ongoing and we are looking at the various areas and levels of data to collect.
- Wednesday, April 6 is the day set aside for departments to say thank you and do "something special" for the graduate or professional students in their lives.

Graduate Council Chair

- Our last meeting for this academic year is April 28. We look forward to working with the new Graduate School Dean, Dr. Dixie Thompson.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox
Graduate School

ATTACHMENT 1
ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 2, 2016, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Graduate School Conference Room

Members present: M. Aydeniz, E. Boder, J. Bonom, S. Forrest-Bank, P. Gellert, V. Kupritz, K. Rooker (GSS), M. Stehle (Chair), and S. Galloway.

Also present: M. Albrecht, C. Cox, S. Kania (Chair, Graduate Council), T. Saenkhum (Director of ESL), D. Thompson, and G. Tipps.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Maria Stehle, Chair, at 2:10 p.m.

2. Minutes

Minutes were already discussed at Graduate Council meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved. In the future, Minutes will be sent via e-mail for electronic approval (at least in cases where Graduate Council will discuss prior to next APC meeting).

3. English Placement Proposal

Presented by Tanita Saenkhum, Director of ESL and Greg Tipps, Associate Director of Graduate Admissions (on behalf of Yvonne Kilpatrick, Director of Graduate Admissions). Two documents were distributed to APC prior to meeting: (1) Proposal to change language in Graduate Catalog for English Proficiency and (2) to add English 122 language to Graduate Catalog.

Saenkhum explained they are requesting to revise language in catalog to make it coincide with current program practice. During spring admissions season 2015, she led a pilot program of pre-placing entering graduate students based on their TOEFL or IELTS score. Students without test scores or who questioned the validity of their score were, as in the past, evaluated at UT. The pilot program was deemed a success. As at other universities, the TOEFL/IELTS score were an accurate predictor of English level. The standard for requiring students to enroll in English 122 is higher than the standard for admissions (see Proposal). In the past between 200 and 300 students took UT's placement exam. With new procedure, much fewer took it. Importantly, placement can be streamlined and accomplished much earlier before student arrival at UT, which will also allow her department to know how many sections of English 122 to create.

Saenkhum communicated that graduate students are no longer mixed with undergraduates in English 121. Instead, a new course, English 122, was created specifically for graduate students. Generally, the material in English 122 is more appropriate to graduate student needs.

A variety of related issues were discussed:

Coordination with CIE:

Thompson expressed concern about communications because when she shared with Pia Wood in CIE, Wood had not seen it before. Tipps explained that CIE is not involved in the English Placement exam because the ESL office is in charge of administering English placement and instruction, which is separate from CIE responsibilities.

Graduate Catalog:

Two sections of the catalog to revise: (1) language for English Placement and (2) language for English Certification. Tipps explained that the language for English Certification is from the Graduate Admissions Office.

Enforcement: How will the policy be enforced and what will be the sanctions for students who either do not take the required class or get lower than C? The policy has long stated that students who get lower than C must re-take. This revision does not address that policy. Saenkhum did not know what percent of students do not take the class but reported 3 to 5 students per year enroll at last term before graduating. The most commonly expressed reason for not taking English 121 (now 122) was "scheduling conflict."

After discussion, it was recommended students take the English class in 1st semester and require it in the first year.

Applicability of policy: Saenkhum and Tipps clarified that the policy applies to all students who are not native speakers of English.

Timing: The proposal, if approved, will be effective for Fall 2016.

Overall:

There was general support for the proposal and its potential for improved efficiency, as well as transparency in showing incoming students and applicants the level needed both for acceptance at UT and for passing out of the English class. There was no dissent.

Further action:

Stehle asked Tipps and Saenkhum to revise the proposal based on today's discussion. Kania recommend bringing revised proposal to Council's next meeting March 31 and, if possible, to Graduate Deans' meeting March 10. The purpose of announcing the motion to Graduate Council before the next meeting is to allow some time for units to seek input and respond .

4. Proposal for CVM Exemption from new Grading Policy

Stehle initiated discussion of Dr. Claudia Kirk's request for the College of Veterinary Medicine to be exempted from the new Grading Policy (approved at the November 19, 2015 Graduate Council meeting and approved by the Faculty Senate on February 1, 2016).

Kania reported that Kirk is in Washington, DC and asked for postponement to next meeting, but he suggested discussing in the interest of time.

In response to Stehle, Kania affirmed that this proposal falls within APC charge based on bylaws. He noted that College of Law has separate grading scale. Thompson wondered why this issue was not raised earlier. If APC had understood CVM concerns better, Graduate Council might still have passed the change. Now that it is approved, their request for exception procedurally makes sense. Gellert noted they could have proposed a friendly amendment to the motion at Graduate Council.

Albrecht noted Registrar's Office concerns about programming new scale in Banner and also having to revise the grading scale explanation on the back of hard copy transcripts.

Kania explained CVM grading includes C's and that students do not fail with "C" grades. This situation is already in place in CVM although it is unclear how given old and new policy. CVM Standards is not in our catalog. It is what they provide accreditors.

Albrecht noted that there could be an issue coordinating different grading scales with joint PhD-DVM degrees and new DVM-Doctor of Public Health. Kania added that also other students can take Vet courses, although they rarely do.

Motion from Gellert: To approve in principle of CVM exemption to the new grading and ask CVM (Kirk) to bring specific language to Council.

Motion seconded by Forrest-Bank.

Motion approved unanimously.

Albrecht noted Kirk should also suggest language about CVM for Catalog.

Both items will be for discussion at Council not necessarily for voting. APC expressed hope that Dr. Kirk, or an alternative representative, attend the Graduate Council meeting to answer questions.

5. Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gellert

ATTACHMENT 2
Credentials Committee Report
March 3, 2016
111 Student Services Building

Present: Amy Broemmel (chair), Henri Grissino-Mayer, Georg Schaur, Jens Gregor, and Jim Larson (Joshua Fu voted electronically)

Employee Name	Title	Current Department	Type Of Request	Approval
Baker, Christopher	Assistant Professor	Chemistry	Probationary	Until tenure
Bettaieb, Ahmed	Assistant Professor	Nutrition	Probationary	Until tenure
Compton, Brett	Assistant Professor	Mechanical, Aerospace and Biomedical Engineering	Probationary	Until tenure
Cui, Mei-Zhen	Professor	Comparative and Experimental Medicine	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Dhar, Madhu	Research Assistant Professor	Large Animal Clinical Sciences	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 4-1-2021
Gavrilets, Sergey	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Gross, Louis	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Kalisz, Susan	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Kania, Stephen	Professor	Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Madhukar, Madhu	Associate Professor	Mechanical, Aerospace and Biomedical Engineering	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Munoz, Isabel Solange	Assistant Professor	Geography	Probationary	Until Tenure

Pacelle, Richard	Professor	Political Science	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Scheb, John	Professor	Political Science	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Sharma, Bhavya	Assistant Professor	Chemistry	Probationary	Until Tenure
Vaidya, Uday	Professor	Mechanical, Aerospace and Biomedical Engineering	Tenured Continuing	10 years 4-1-2026
Wood, Richard	Professor	Nuclear Engineering	Probationary	Until Tenure

ATTACHMENT 3
Graduate Associate Deans' Group
Thursday, March 10, 2016, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Haslam Business Building, Room 327

Attending: Mary Albrecht (Chair), Ernest Brothers, Sherry Cummings, Stephanie Galloway, Mary Gunther, Stephen Kania, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Sandra Leach, Brent Mallinckrodt, Joan Rentsch, Dixie Thompson

The meeting was called to order by Ernest Brothers at 2:00 p.m.

1. Updates:
 - a. Dr. Mary Albrecht reported that Dr. Sean Hendricks, our IT person, is working with our staff to update all our forms. The forms will be ready to send out around the week of March 21.
 - b. Dr. Mary Albrecht communicated it is not necessary for the Graduate School to approve co-advisors.
 - c. Dr. Mary Albrecht reported that soon our Graduate Council Minutes and reports will be housed on TRACE through the University Libraries.
 - d. Dr. Stephen Kania reported that at the last Graduate Council meeting, APC distributed two items to members for discussion and for vote (Embargo extension and Exemption from Continuous Enrollment in course 600 for those going on internships). After discussion and minor edits, both were approved.
2. Graduate Training Updates – Ernest Brothers
 - a. Dr. Ernest Brothers communicated the DGS Workshop on March 2 was a success. We had about 70 in attendance. The fall workshop will be in August or September.
 - b. A group from the University of Louisville visited campus today. The Graduate School hosts three to five visits a year through the TRIO program. The group today was very engaged and showed interest in UT.
 - c. PEER Program: Symposium with speaker Dr. Fatimah Williams-Castro on April 16.
 - d. Office of Research and Engagement Lunch and Learn series. This is a collaborative effort between the Office of Research and Engagement, the University Libraries and the Graduate School. We need faculty to encourage graduate students to attend. Our hope is that good training will prevent research misconduct. Research misconduct is a very serious offense and, if accused, is a long and tedious process.
3. New Business/Announcements
 - a. Yvonne Kilpatrick, from Graduate Admissions, reported they submitted a proposal to APC to revise the wording in the catalog for the ELI student placement exam. There is a parallel proposal going forward with the undergraduate APC. Both APC's will work together to bring this to the Councils as a topic of discussion.
 - b. Dr. Dixie Thompson communicated that she has met with folks at OIRA to discuss improved and better ways of collecting data for graduate students. Dr. Thompson reported that the Chancellor and the Provost are supporting this effort. This is going to be a long process and all the data will not come about at the same time.

Dr. Albrecht adjourned the meeting at 3:00p.m.

MA/cc