

**The University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Undergraduate Council  
Minutes of Meeting**

**March 6, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room – Andy Holt Tower**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Brown (student), Jeffrey Davis, Bob Glenn, Rob Heller, Norman Magden, Mark Moon, Johnnie Mozingo, Bill Park, Marshall Ramsey, Harold Roth, Casey Sams, Euridice Silva, Delores Smith, Matthew Theriot

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Bayer, Don Cox, Ruth Darling, Tom George, George Hoemann, Laura Jolly, Sally McMillan, Masood Parang, Fred Pierce, Max Robinson, Rita Smith

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Laura Jolly, Past Chair (substituting for John Romeiser, Chair).

The Minutes of the [January 30, 2007](#), meeting of the Undergraduate Council were approved with corrections. (See corrections on pages U1249-U1250.)

**Committee Reports**

- **Academic Policy Committee – Norman Magden**  
*The grading revision (see pages U1251-U1252) was tabled to allow time for discussion in each college.*

The Undergraduate Council requested that the charts prepared for the Academic Policy Committee regarding grading policies at THEC peer institutions be distributed to the Undergraduate Council membership for review. In addition, UGC members requested information on the impact of the grade change policy on GPA. Studies conducted at other institutions will be distributed to the UGC. Discussion of the proposed policy included the suggestion that descriptors be added for the grades of A, B, C, D, F, and WF as per the current grading policy.

- **General Education Committee – Laura Jolly**  
An ITC grant was received by Kirsten Benson and Emily Dzibun to develop Web-based resources for Communicating through Writing courses. A Web site will include instructional modules for students taking WC courses and faculty teaching WC courses.

The course review process is progressing and 72.5% of the course reviews have been returned. Data on course enrollment in General Education courses is being reviewed as part of the course review process. Preliminary analysis indicates that a majority of the General Education courses taught Fall 2006 had class sizes of fifty students or less. In classes with more than 50 students, a majority included lab or discussion sessions in addition to the larger lecture. There is university-wide involvement in teaching General Education courses. All colleges are teaching courses in the WC category, six colleges teach OC courses, three colleges teach courses in the QR, SS, and NS categories and two colleges teach courses in the AH and CC categories.

Subcommittees are reviewing data on General Education petition approvals and denials. Eighty-one percent of the petitions submitted have been

approved and 19% denied. The major reasons for petition denial are lack of information (syllabus, course description), not meeting the guidelines for the General Education category (especially in the WC and OC category), and the request is not a match for the category (i.e., better suited for another General Education category).

The committee is discussing the Provost's proposal regarding General Education and transfer students with an A.A. or A.S. from a Tennessee Board of Regents Community College.

**Announcements and Other Business**

- 2007-2008 Undergraduate Council Membership. (Page U1253)
- 2007-2008 Undergraduate Council Meeting Dates and Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates. (Page U1254)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

## CORRECTIONS TO JANUARY 30, 2007 UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

On page U1125, change the sentence under “Good Academic Standing” to

A student is in good standing when

- Both the student's term **and** cumulative GPAs are 2.00 or higher, or
- If, after two consecutive terms, the student's cumulative GPA is 2.00 or higher **and** at least one term GPA is also 2.00 or higher.

On page U1126, change last sentence in the fourth bullet to: Grades of D, F, I, NC, WP and WF are counted as one of the available attempts.

On page U1132, change the (RE) Prerequisite(s) for Wildlife and Fisheries Science 433 to Forestry 215 **or** Biology 250.

On page U1137, add 150 to footnote 6 (Food Science and Technology Major – Pre-Professional Concentration).

On page U1137, correct the showcase for Food Science and Technology Major – Science Concentration. First Year: Change Food Science and Technology 140 to 101.

On pages U1138-U1139, remove footnote 2 from Free Electives in showcase (Forestry Major – Forestry Resources Management Concentration).

On page U1139, insert the following correction for Forestry Major-Wildland Recreation Concentration — Remove footnote 2 from Electives in showcase and delete footnote 2 below showcase.

On page U1148, make the following change in the Interior Design showcase.  
Second Year – Natural Science\* should be Physics 161\*

On page U1148, insert the following corrections for Interior Design Progression into the third year.

Bullet 2 - Cumulative grade point average in the major of 3.0 or greater in the following interior design courses – 141, 171, 172, 200, 221, 261, 271, 272, with no grade below a C. (Interior Design 231 needs to be deleted and replaced by 172. Interior Design 231 was dropped Fall 2003. Interior Design 172 was added Fall 2004.)

Bullet 3 – Optional Portfolio Review. (Instead of Portfolio Review accepted by faculty.)

On page U1165, insert revision for Interdisciplinary Programs Major – Latin American Studies Concentration – Brazilian Studies Track. Change Portuguese 316 to 326; change Portuguese 431 to 430.

On page U1177 under Accounting Collateral Options – FINANCE, delete “or Accounting 414.”

On page U1179, under Economics Major Coursework Options – INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION, Economics 33 should be Economics 331.

On page U1179, Economics Major – Collateral Option – Third Year, change Economics 311 to Economics 312.

On page U1181, under Finance Collateral Options

ACCOUNTING - change (increase Finance Electives by 3) to (increase Finance Electives by 3 hours).

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – Change Information Management 341, 342, 442 or 443 to Information Management 341, 342, and either 442 or 443.

On page U1184, under Enterprise Management Collateral Options

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT - Change Information Management 341, 342, 442 or 443 to Information Management 341, 342, and either 442 or 443.

On page U1186, under Human Resource Management Collateral Options

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – Change Information Management 341, 342, 442 or 443 to Information Management 341, 342, and either 442 or 443.

On page U1186, Human Resource Management Major – Dual Concentration with International Business showcase – Second Year insert <sup>4</sup> before Social Sciences: Economics 201\*

On page U1187, under Logistics Collateral Options

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT - Change Information Management 341, 342, 442 or 443 to Information Management 341, 342, and either 442 or 443.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT – Change Operations and Management Science 341, 441, 410 or 421 to Operations and Management Science 341, 441, and either 410 or 421.

On page U1191, under Marketing Collateral Options

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT - Change Information Management 341, 342, 442 or 443 to Information Management 341, 342, and either 442 or 443.

On page U1194, under Marketing and Statistics Dual Concentration Options

OPTION 1 – Change from Statistics 320, 330, 471, 474 or 475 to Statistics 320, 330, 471, and either 474 or 475.

On page U1195, under Statistics Collateral Options

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT – Change Operations and Management Science 341, 410 or 421 to Operations and Management Science 341 and either 410 or 421.

On page U1198, under Statistics and Marketing Dual Concentration Options

OPTION 1 – Change from Statistics 320, 330, 471, 474 or 475 to Statistics 320, 330, 471, and either 474 or 475.

On page U1198, under Fifth Year Master of Science in Statistics - Statistics Collateral Options

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT – Change Operations and Management Science 341, 410 or 421 to Operations and Management Science 341 and either 410 or 421.

**ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE****Motion Tabled.**

## REVISE GRADING SYSTEM

**Effective: Fall 2008**

From:

**Undergraduate Grades**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Performance Level</b> | <b>Quality Points Per Semester Hours of Grade</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b>     | Superior                 | 4.0                                               |
| <b>B+</b>    | Very Good                | 3.5                                               |
| <b>B</b>     | Good                     | 3.0                                               |
| <b>C+</b>    | Fair                     | 2.5                                               |
| <b>C</b>     | Satisfactory             | 2.0                                               |
| <b>D</b>     | Unsatisfactory           | 1.0                                               |
| <b>F</b>     | Failure                  | 0.0                                               |
| <b>WF</b>    | Withdrawn Failing        | 0.0                                               |

Note: WP carries no quality points or credit hours.

To:

**Undergraduate Grades**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Performance Level</b> | <b>Quality Points Per Semester Hours of Grade</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b>     |                          | 4.0                                               |
| <b>A-</b>    |                          | 3.7                                               |
| <b>B+</b>    |                          | 3.3                                               |
| <b>B</b>     |                          | 3.0                                               |
| <b>B-</b>    |                          | 2.7                                               |
| <b>C+</b>    |                          | 2.3                                               |
| <b>C</b>     |                          | 2.0                                               |
| <b>C-</b>    |                          | 1.7                                               |
| <b>D+</b>    |                          | 1.3                                               |
| <b>D</b>     |                          | 1.0                                               |
| <b>D-</b>    |                          | .7                                                |
| <b>F</b>     |                          | 0.0                                               |
| <b>WF</b>    |                          | 0.0                                               |

Note: WP carries no quality points or credit hours.

**Incompletes and Grade Changes**

The final grade will be assigned according to the grading scale at the time the course was initiated for

- Incompletes (I) in courses begun prior to Fall 2008 and completed Fall 2008 or thereafter.
- Grade changes for courses completed prior to Fall 2008.

*Rationale*

This grading scale reflects better the grades professors give on course assignments (which often include minuses and pluses), and allows them to carry these grades over to the final course grade. Currently a student may have received several assignments graded as B-, and have finished the course with an 80 average, but for the final course grade the professor is forced to assign the higher grade of B. Looking at it from a different perspective, the absence of a minus grade often forces professors to make a difficult decision. A student, say, who finished the course with a 79 average, and with a strong final, might be raised to a B- to reflect this improvement, but a professor would be hesitant to raise the grade if it means increasing it to a full B. In other words, the absence of a minus grade robs the professor of grading flexibility that she/he has up until the time final grades are submitted. We have no overall grading policy at Tennessee; thus, grades are left up to the individual faculty member. As long as the grading policy is included in the syllabus, professors could choose not to issue minus grades (or plus grades, for that matter).

Using the minus grade with the above scale would put us in line both with peer universities and with those institutions whose ranks we wish to join (see attached sheet). Of the eight AAU universities surveyed (UT has as a primary goal admission into the American Association of Universities), six issue minus grades (only Missouri does not, and Wisconsin has a hybrid AB, BC system). Amongst our THEC peers, schools such as Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, UNC Chapel Hill, and Florida issue minus grades. Generally, with a few exceptions, universities that are not considered our peers, such as the University of Arkansas, the University of Mississippi, and Mississippi State University, do not issue minus grades. Finally, many of our newest faculty are graduates from AAU institutions, and arrive experienced with systems that issue the minus grade. Comments from these faculty, as gathered by department heads and at new faculty orientations, signal that they prefer the flexibility in grading provided by a system that includes not only plus grades, but the minus as well.

## UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL TERMS OF ELECTED MEMBERS 2007-2008

| <b>College</b>                                                                                              | <b><i>Term Begins<br/>August 1, 2005;<br/>Ends July 31, 2008</i></b>    | <b><i>Term Begins<br/>August 1, 2006;<br/>Ends July 31, 2009</i></b>                                   | <b><i>Term Begins<br/>August 1, 2007;<br/>Ends July 31, 2010</i></b>                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Agricultural Sciences<br/>and Natural Resources</b><br><i>*176 degrees granted=<br/>1 representative</i> |                                                                         | <b>BILL PARK</b>                                                                                       |                                                                                               |
| <b>Architecture and Design</b><br><i>*59 degrees granted=<br/>1 representative</i>                          | <b>MARK SCHIMMENTI</b>                                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |
| <b>Arts and Sciences</b><br><i>*1700 degrees granted=<br/>8 representatives</i>                             | <b>CASEY SAMS</b>                                                       | <b>JON LEVIN<br/>NORMAN MAGDEN<br/>PAVLOS TZERMIAS</b>                                                 | <b>Elect 4</b><br><i>(Terms expire 7/07: Batey, Koontz,<br/>Hirschfeld, Saudargas, Silva)</i> |
| <b>Business Administration</b><br><i>*703 degrees granted=<br/>4 representatives</i>                        |                                                                         | <b>GEORGE PHILIPPATOS</b>                                                                              | <b>Elect 3</b><br><i>(Terms expire 7/07: Moon, Roth)</i>                                      |
| <b>Communication<br/>and Information</b><br><i>*367 degrees granted=<br/>2 representatives</i>              | <b>ROBERT GLENN<br/>ROB HELLER</b>                                      |                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |
| <b>Education, Health, and<br/>Human Sciences</b><br><i>*280 degrees granted=<br/>1 representatives</i>      |                                                                         |                                                                                                        | <b>Elect 1</b><br><i>(Terms expire 7/07: Davis, Smith)</i>                                    |
| <b>Engineering</b><br><i>*265 degrees granted=<br/>1 representative</i>                                     |                                                                         | <b>PAUL CRILLY<br/>CHRIS PIONKE</b><br><i>(one to be removed due to fewer degrees granted in 2006)</i> |                                                                                               |
| <b>Nursing</b><br><i>*125 degrees granted=<br/>1 representative</i>                                         | <b>JOHNIE MOZINGO</b>                                                   |                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |
| <b>ROTC — AIR FORCE</b>                                                                                     | <b>OWEN RAGLAND</b><br><i>(Army and Air Force<br/>alternate years.)</i> |                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |
| <b>Social Work</b><br><i>*20 degrees granted=<br/>1 representative</i>                                      | <b>MATTHEW THERIOT</b>                                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |

*\*Degrees granted in 2006. (1-300 degrees granted = 1 representative; 301-500 degrees granted=2 representatives; 501-700 degrees granted=3 representatives; 701-900 degrees granted=4 representatives; 901-1,100 degrees granted=5 representatives; 1,101-1,300 degrees granted= 6 representatives; 1,301-1,500 degrees granted=7 representatives; 1,501-1,700 degrees granted=8 representatives; 1,701-1,900 degrees granted=9 representatives; 1,901-2000 degrees granted=10 representatives)*

See Faculty Senate Bylaws: <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/bylaws.shtml#32>

## **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2007-2008**

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room – Andy Holt Tower

- September 18, 2007
- October 30, 2007
- January 29, 2008
- March 4, 2008
- April 22, 2008

## **UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007-2008**

| <b>Meeting Date</b> | <b>Time and Location</b>                                             | <b>Deadline for curricular proposals</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| September 4, 2007   | 3:30 p.m.<br>Room 220 – University Center                            | August 21, 2007                          |
| October 16, 2007    | 3:30 p.m.<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room – Andy Holt Tower | October 2, 2007                          |
| January 15, 2008    | 2:00 p.m.<br>8 <sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room – Andy Holt Tower      | November 29, 2007                        |
| April 8, 2008       | 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room – Andy Holt Tower              | March 25, 2008                           |