ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 11, 2008, 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
218 University Center

Present: Vincent Anfara, Basil Antar, Ralph Brockett, Mark DeKay, Yanfei Gao, Robert Hatcher, Thomas Heffernan, Julie Lynch, Sandra McGuire, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Kay Reed.

The meeting was called to order by Stefanie Ohnesorg at 2:15 p.m.

1. Introduction of Members and Schedule of Meetings.

   Ohnesorg and Anfara welcomed the committee members, discussed the role of the committee, and led in introductions of the members present. Ohnesorg reviewed the schedule of meetings, noting that the committee had five one-hour meetings to accomplish many objectives related to reviewing academic policies for graduate education.

2. Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

   Ohnesorg noted that the bylaws for the committee had not been revised since 2003 and asked the committee members to review the document in conjunction with the Graduate Council Bylaws. She asked the committee to be ready to discuss changes to the bylaws at the October 16, 2008 meeting.

3. Policies to be Reviewed in Academic Year.

   Ohnesorg presented copies of the committee reports from 2007-2008 and noted the areas where policies had been discussed and acted upon. Policies, such as grading scale, proficiency in English, joint and dual degrees, and the dual BS/MS degree, will continue to be topics on the agenda for 2008-2009.

   Ohnesorg asked that the committee review the campus Strategic Planning Report from the Graduate Education Subcommittee and consider the priorities contained in that document as they relate to the academic policies in the Graduate Catalog with which the committee would be dealing. The entire Strategic Planning Report (a 432-page document) is posted at http://provost.utk.edu/strategic/docs/SPCfinalreportsv2.pdf , and committee members were informed that that the sections of this report that deal with graduate education can be found on pages 376 – 406 of this pdf-document. She requested that the committee incorporate the principles from the Strategic Plan into the graduate policies to improve the message contained in the Graduate Catalog about the nature of graduate education on campus.
   She further reminded committee members that the Office of Graduate Admissions became part of the Graduate School in July 2008 and that graduate policies referring to admission in the 2007-08 Graduate Catalog will need to be revised to reflect this change.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2008, 2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.
4th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, ANDY HOLT TOWER

Ohnesorg tentatively listed the following items for future agendas:

OCTOBER 16, 2008 (4th floor conference room, Andy Holt Tower):

- Five-Year BS/MS Program.
- "Graduate teaching associates are ineligible to teach courses approved for graduate credit." Social Work requests exception.
- Committee bylaws.

JANUARY 22, 2009 (4th floor conference room, Andy Holt Tower):

- Grading System.
- TOEFL Requirement/English Proficiency.

FEBRUARY 12, 2009 or MARCH 26, 2009 (both meetings 4th floor conference room, Andy Holt Tower)

- Non-degree Status for International Applicants.
- Joint Degree/International Dual Degrees.

Committee members were given the following list of web-pages for their reference:

- Graduate Council: http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/gcouncil.shtml
- Graduate Council Bylaws (adopted http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/GC%20bylaws.pdf
- Archive of Graduate Council Minutes: http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/gcouncilminutes.shtml
- Academic Policy Committee Webpage (including Archive of APC Minutes): http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/AcadPoliComm.shtml
- Academic Policy Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures (last revised in Oct. 2003) http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/AcadPoli/acacombylaws.pdf
- Graduate Council & Academic Policy Committee Calendar for 2008-09
- Academic Advising: Strategic Planning Sub-Committee Report (May 2008) [a 426 page document] http://provost.utk.edu/strategic/docs/SPCfinalreportsv2.pdf Sections related to Graduate Education can be found on pages 376-406.
- The "Three Themes" the guided the strategic planning process (Accessibility, Quality or Excellence, and Diversity and Inclusiveness) [Dec. 12, 2008] http://provost.utk.edu/strategic/threethemes.shtml

The contact information for the members of the Academic Policy Committee for 2008-09 is as follows:

- Stefanie Ohnesorg (ohnesorg@utk.edu) - Chair, College of Arts & Science
- Basil Antar (bantar@tennessee.edu), UTSI
- Ralph Brockett (brockett@utk.edu), College of Education, Health, & Human Sciences
- Mark DeKay (mdekay@utk.edu), College of Architecture & Design
- Yanfei Gao (ygao7@utk.edu), College of Engineering
- Robert Hatcher (bobmap@utk.edu), College of Arts & Sciences
- Thomas Heffernan (theff@utk.edu), College of Arts & Sciences
- Julie Lynch (jlynch6@utk.edu), Graduate Student Senate
- Sandra McGuire (smcguire@utk.edu), College of Nursing
- Michael Lane Morris (mmorris1@utk.edu), College of Business Administration
- Kay Reed (kayreed@utk.edu) - Graduate School Liaison

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.