

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

April 25, 2019 Minutes

Members present: Aydeniz, M., (Chair), Patterson, D., (Chair-Elect), Abedi, R., Alcocer, R., Alshibli, K., Anderson, K., Boder, E., Broemmel, A., Dzikus, L., Ekici, K., Fleming-May, R., Fouts, H., Gordon, K., Herron, F., Jackson, R., Larson, J., Latham, J., Meschke, L., Mohsin, M., Moir-McClean, T., Moyer, D., Preuss, N., Ryan, J. (GSS Vice-President), Schriver, R., Stehle, M., Sulyok, C. (GSS President), Wang, H.

Ex-Officio members present: Albrecht, M., Allard, S., Bradberry, S., Fairbrother, J., Kilpatrick, Y., Kirk, C., Moore, T., Morrow, J. (Past Chair), Parang, M., Thompson, D., Cox, C., Willis, D. (GSS President elect for 2019-20)

Welcome and call to Order: Mehmet Aydeniz

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Chair, Mehmet Aydeniz on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. in the Friesen Black Cultural Center, Multipurpose Room.

1. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The Graduate Council Minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting were approved electronically on April 16, 2019.

2. Committee Reports:

Academic Policy Committee (Maria Stehle, Chair)

No report - as no proposals submitted for review.

Appeals Committee (David Patterson)

There were no appeals submitted to the Appeals Committee for review.

Curriculum Committee

No scheduled meeting – no report

3. Administrative Reports and Announcements:

Deans Update: (Dixie Thompson)

- On-line programming. The Task Force will meet for a second time tomorrow. This Task Force is charged with helping to make recommendations for which programs go into the queue first. In addition, which programs might be working with Noodle Partners, working with OIT, and/or need other types of support. There are many considerations in the discussion. I hope I will have significant updates for you when we meet in the fall.
- There is a possibility we may get a million dollars for increased stipends for next year. Thus, the Graduate School issued an RFP for departments to ask for additional stipend support.
 - We received about 25 proposals totaling \$2.5M. Way beyond the \$500K that we can apply to that outcome. However, this process provided good information from the departments to determine what gaps we need to fill. This will be valuable data to forward to the Provost and others to give sound arguments to continue to provide funds for increased stipends. My thanks to all those that participated. We hope to know in the weeks ahead what our budgets will look like for next year.

- We had a very successful Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week.
- Today I sent to the Deans and Department Heads an RFP for nominations for students to be THEC Scholars. This opportunity is for students who are 1) in a PhD program, 2) Tennessee resident, and 3) from racial or ethnic minorities. These are THEC guidelines we have to abide by. Other requirements are the student must be on a 25% assistantship (above 25% not allowed) and the department has to provide the stipend. The Graduate School will provide the tuition waiver. The THEC Scholars Fellowship will receive 1) \$20,000 a year from THEC, 2) stipend for a 25 percent assistantship, 3) \$2,500 yearly academic support, and 4) a tuition waiver.
- Annual changes to the Office of Graduate Admissions Office are due May 1.
- The Graduate School is launching a search for the Associate Director of Graduate Admissions. We hope to have this person in place when the fall semester starts.
- The Graduate School hired a consultant to hold an all-day session concerning professional development for graduate and professional students. We have collaborated with the Library, Office of Research, Teaching and Learning Innovation, Career Development and others. We are going to brainstorm on how we can take professional development to a new and unique level. I hope by fall that I can share with you an exciting new initiative.
- The Chair, Chair-elect, and past Chair will meet in the next couple of weeks to set the dates for next year's Graduate Council meetings. Remember we set our meetings on Thursday afternoons from 3-5. We will also review our Operations Manual at that meeting.
- Graduate Hooding is Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., at Thompson Boling Arena.
- Congratulations to Dr. Suzie Allard and the others from the interdisciplinary research team from communications, anthropology, and political science on the \$1.6 million Minerva research grant awarded through the United States Department of Defense. UT researchers were one of only 12 academic groups nationwide selected for the prestigious Minerva Research initiative awards this year.

Graduate Student Senate: (Cara Sulyok)

- This is my final report as the GSS President. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Graduate Council for the learning experience I have gained this year.
- The Graduate and Professional Student Application Week was a big success.
 - Monday was trivia night at Pelancho's Mexican Grill, where we had over 70 in attendance.
 - Wednesday was Picnic in Circle Park. We expected and planned for 150 students. We had almost 250 show up.
 - Friday was the Third Annual GSS Awards Breakfast. We had a great time celebrating and honoring all our graduate and professional students, as well as those who support us daily. Please visit the GSS website for names of winners and pictures of all our events.
 - I am happy to report that our GSS Person of the Year was Dr. Dixie Thompson. Just to let you know, Dr. Thompson is a major advocate for graduate and professional students. She really helped Jack and I and the entire Graduate Student Senate accomplish our goals this year.
- I would like to introduce your new GSS President, Mr. David Willis. David is from Educational Psychology. Ms. Sue Choi, from landscape architecture, is your new vice-president. Jack and I know we are leaving the senate in good hands.

Graduate Council Chair (Mehmet Aydeniz)

- I want to take this time and opportunity to recognize Dr. Masood Parang. Dr. Parang is the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs in the Tickle College of Engineering. Dr. Parang is retiring in July with 42 years of service at UT. We appreciate your time, expertise, and support on the various committees you have served on and your time on Graduate Council. We appreciate the experience and knowledge you have shared with us.
- Our next order of business is to vote for our next Chair-Elect. Each member received a ballot when you signed in. Please mark your ballot at this time. Ballots were gathered and tallied. Dr. Aydeniz announced that Dr. Amy Broemmel from the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences is the new Chair-Elect.

- As your Chair, I want to thank each of you for your participation, time and work on Graduate Council this year.

4. Items from the floor:

Dr. Dixie Thompson thanked all the members for their service this year. As we look back over this year, we have accomplished a lot and passed and implemented good policies that will continue to lead us on a successful path for next year. I also want to thank and extend my appreciation to Jennifer Morrow for her three years of service on Graduate Council.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox
Graduate Council Liaison