

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 12, 2015, 2:15 – 3:30 P.M.
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Phuriwat Anusonti-Inthra (UTSI; via speaker phone), Mehmet Aydeniz, Shandra Forrest-Bank, Stephanie Galloway (ex officio, Asst. Dean of Graduate School), Paul Gellert, Carolyn Hodges (ex officio, Dean of Graduate School), Stefanie Ohnesorg (Chair, APC), Joan Rentsch, Marian Roman, Jessica Welch (Graduate Student Senate President)

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

There were only two items discussed at this meeting. Both were ongoing business from previous meeting.

1. Current grading scale for graduate students and possible alternatives

APC continued its discussion of the pros and cons of various possible alternative grading scales for graduate studies at UT. This discussion was informed by data collected from other institutions, including a spreadsheet detailing what grading scales are used at other institutions and studies that analyze the consequences of refining grading scales by adding PLUS and/or MINUS grades (see attachments).

Pros and cons were reviewed before APC voted whether the current grading scale for graduate studies at UT should be replaced by the current grading scale for undergraduate studies at UT. There was a unanimous vote in favor of adopting the grading scale currently used for undergraduate studies at UT for graduate studies. This would result in having identical grading scales for graduate and undergraduate studies at UT. This item will be presented as a voting item at the next Graduate Council meeting.

Documents reviewed and discussed:

- Evaluation of Effect of the Plus/Minus Grading System: A Computer Model
http://users.wfu.edu/matthews/plus_minus/plus_minus.html
- Spreadsheet on grading scales (attachment)

2. Current policy on Incompletes

Following some discussion in past APC meetings regarding any possible changes with regard to the one-year-deadline for removal of an "Incomplete" grade for students on a Leave of Absence, Dr. Hodges stated that it is essential to honor the policy on Incompletes as written, that is, the incomplete will convert to an F if no grade change is submitted within a year. The policy does not imply changes will be made after that point. She further stated that in cases where a student is on an approved Leave of Absence and unable to complete the work for courses for which s/he received the grade of Incomplete within the one-year-period during his/her approved LOA, the instructor must file a petition with justification and supporting documentation to request the Graduate School consider allowing a change of grade.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.