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Academic Policy Committee Report - February 21, 2008

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ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008, 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, ANDY HOLT TOWER
REPORT

Present: Ben Bates (Chair), Ralph Brockett, Vijay Chellaboina, Mark DeKay, Carolyn Hodges, Michael Ickowitz, Sandra McGuire, Mohanan M.K., Matthew Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Kay Reed.

The meeting was called to order by Ben Bates, Chair, at 2:00 p.m. The committee discussed the current policy on English certification for graduate students as published in the 2007-2008 Graduate Catalog, page 21. The policy states:

Any person whose native language is not English must submit results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A minimum score of 213 on the computer-based test, 550 on the paper test, or 80 on the internet-based test typically with a score of 20 on each of the sections of the test (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) is required for admission consideration. Some programs require higher scores.

The discussion was centered on how to operationally handle the scores when the total was at 80 or above yet a score on a particular section was below 20. Bates and Ohnesorg noted that at the time that the internet-based TOEFL (iBT-TOEFL) requirement was added, the intent of the policy was to add the section scores as a guideline and not as a policy requirement. The iBT-TOEFL is still relatively new and there is not enough information available about implementing stringent section scores as an admission policy to determine appropriate levels.

The committee confirmed that for future semesters, beginning with admission applications for Spring 2009, the overall score of 80 should be used as the minimum and section scores should be considered by the academic departments only for decision purposes.

The committee confirmed that academic departments should review their policies on iBT-TOEFL requirements for maximizing the information available for admission decisions on applicants whose native language is not English.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.