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Graduate Council Minutes

Graduate Council

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4-28-2016

## Graduate Council Minutes - April 28, 2016

Graduate Council

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

April 28, 2016

Members and Guests Present

Aydeniz, M.; Baek, S.; Bemis, D.; Boder, E.; Bonom, J.; Botzakis, S.; Broemmel, A.; Cox, C.; Desmidt, H.; Fairbrother, J.; Fouts, H.; Fuller, R.; Galloway, S.; Gregor, J.; Griffin, M.; Hatcher, B.; Kania, S. (Chair); Keny, J. (GSS President); Kilpatrick, Y.; Marshall, S.; Mee, R.; Moir-McClean, T.; Morrow, J.; Nebenfuehr, A.; Rentsch, J.; Roman, M.; Stehle, M.; Stier, J.; Sullivan, M.; Theriot, M.; Thompson, D.; Yerukala, S. (new GSS President)

1. The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Stephen Kania on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in the Panhellenic Building, room 201.
  - a. Dr. Kania thanked everyone for attending and noted this was the last meeting of this academic year.

2. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the March 3, 2016 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council.

3. Committee Reports

*Academic Policy Committee*

Maria Stehle, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee (APC), reported on the April 7, 2016 meeting. (*Attachment 1*)

- a. We will vote today to exempt the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine from the new grading policy. **Unanimous vote for approval.**
- b. The Graduate Catalog will be revised to indicate the two college's exemption from the grading scale.

The following sentences will be added to the catalog:

Under the heading "*Grades, Credit Hours, and Grade Point Average*" at the 4th and 5th bullets insert the following sentences (new text is in blue):

Veterinary Medicine courses are letter grade only except where noted Satisfactory/No Credit only. [For more information about the grades used in Veterinary Medicine, contact the Office of the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.](#)

Law courses are numeric except where noted otherwise. [For more information about the grades used in Law, contact the Office of the Dean of the College of Law.](#)

Also, insert new text before the list of the grades themselves.

Grades in graduate study have the following meanings. [These meanings do not apply to the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Contact the Offices of the Dean in Colleges of Law and Veterinary Medicine for more information regarding the grades used in these professional programs.](#)

The text below shows the approved new grading scale effective fall 2016.

Grades in graduate study have the following meanings.

- A** (4 quality points per semester hour) superior performance.  
**A-** (3.7 quality points per semester hour) intermediate grade performance.

<b>B+</b>	(3.3 quality points per semester hour) very good performance.
<b>B</b>	(3.0 quality points per semester hour) good performance.
<b>B-</b>	(2.7 quality points per semester hour) intermediate grade performance.
<b>C+</b>	(2.3 quality points per semester hour) fair performance.
<b>C</b>	(2.0 quality points per semester hour) performance well below the standard expected of graduate students.
<b>D</b>	(1.0 quality point per semester hour) clearly unsatisfactory performance and cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
<b>F</b>	(no quality points) extremely unsatisfactory performance and cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
<b>I</b>	(no quality points) a temporary grade indicating that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course but, due to unforeseen circumstances, has been unable to finish all requirements. An I is not given to enable a student to do additional work to raise a deficient grade. The instructor, in consultation with the student, decides the terms for the removal of the I, including the time limit for removal. If the I is not removed within one calendar year, the grade will be changed to an F. The course will not be counted in the cumulative grade point average until a final grade is assigned. No student may graduate with an I on the record.
<b>S/NC</b>	(carries credit hours, but no quality points) S is equivalent to a grade of B or better, and NC means no credit earned. A grade of Satisfactory/No Credit is allowed only where indicated in the course description in the <i>Graduate Catalog</i> . The number of Satisfactory/No Credit courses in a student's program is limited to one-fourth of the total credit hours required.
<b>P/NP</b>	(carries credit hours, but no quality points) P indicates progress toward completion of a thesis or dissertation. NP indicates no progress or inadequate progress.
<b>W</b>	(carries no credit hours or quality points) indicates that the student officially withdrew from the course.

- c. Request from Jens Gregor to allow graduate students to retake graduate courses for the purpose of raising the grade.
- i. We want to have a discussion on this request. We want feedback from the departments and faculty.
  - ii. Some concerns and questions include: (1) some programs have catalog text that indicates core and/or clinical courses cannot be repeated, (2) there will be ripple effects with this policy, (3) are we trying to graduate students at all costs, (4) how will this policy affect students on probation or make it possible to dismiss students who are not progressing, (5) some departments already find a way around the current policy.
  - iii. This will go back to APC for discussion.

#### *Credentials Committee*

Amy Broemmel, Chair, Credentials Committee, reported on the April 7 meeting ([Attachment 2](#))

Forty two applications were submitted. One was identified as being for one-time approval and was forwarded to Dean Dixie Thompson for review and approval (as described in the Bylaws); 2 were found to be on the agenda in error as they were approved at the last meeting, 1 was returned to the department with a request for additional required information, 11 were found to be automatically approved as a result of promotion and/or tenure, 27 were discussed and approved for doctoral directive status by the committee.

*Curriculum Committee* – No report, as there was no April meeting.

*Appeals Committee* – No appeals to report.

#### 4. New Business

No new business.

5. Administrative Reports and Announcements

*Dixie Thompson: Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School*

- a. This is the last week for the Graduate School Survey. I encourage everyone to go to the link and complete the survey. I will appoint a group to review the surveys and make recommendations for change.
- b. Vol Vision 2020. Graduate education is a key component in Vol Vision 2020. Provost Martin asked me to lead the implementation of the priorities for graduate education. I will start the process by organizing a committee and I ask for your help. I will send out an email for volunteers and some of you I will personally ask for help. I believe a year from now that we will see improvement.
- c. Probation status: We have set up a process to notify the student, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Department Head when a student, (1) goes on probation or (2) comes off probation. Before we dismiss a student, we will notify the department to verify the academic standing decision. The DGS and the department head have the responsibility to notify the advisors.

*John Keny: GSS President*

- a. We raised over \$1,000 for Smokey's Pantry at the 5K.
- b. I would like to introduce the new GSS President. Her name is Shalini Yerukala.

*Stephen Kania: Graduate Council Chair*

- a. Election: Jennifer Morrow was approved as chair-elect. Chair Elect, Marian Roman, to serve as Chair, was approved.
- b. The Minutes will be approved by Graduate Council before being posted on the Graduate School website.
- c. I encourage everyone to carefully read and know our Bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox  
Graduate School

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, April 7 2016, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Graduate School Conference Room**

Present: Eric Boder, Jeffrey Fairbrother (College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences), Stephanie Galloway, Stephen Kania, John Keny, Claudia Kirk, Dixie Thompson, Maria Stehle (Chair)

Meeting was called to order by Maria Stehle at 2:00 p.m., Welcome.

John Keny, GSS President, selected to take the Minutes.

1. College of Veterinary Medicine: new Grading Scale Exception

At the Graduate Council Meeting of March 31, 2016, Dr. Claudia Kirk, from the College of Veterinary Medicine presented documentation and explained their grading scale is in compliance with their accrediting agency and it's the grading scale they've used for years. Dr. Kirk gave several examples that to change their grading scale would have adverse effects on their students. After discussion, their request to be exempt seemed appropriate. Dr. Albrecht proposed a sentence be added to the Graduate Catalog to indicate the Professional Schools of the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine be exempt from the revised graduate grading scale.

Per the discussion and approval from the Graduate Council meeting, Dr. Albrecht suggested the following edits to the catalog (blue font is revised/added text)

- Veterinary Medicine courses are letter grade only except where noted Satisfactory/No Credit only. [For more information about the grades used in Veterinary Medicine, contact the Office of the Dean.](#)
- Law courses are numeric except where noted otherwise. [For more information about the grades used in Law, contact the Office of the Dean.](#)

Grades in graduate study have the following meanings. [Exemptions include the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Contact the Offices of the Dean in Colleges of Law and Veterinary Medicine for more information regarding the grades used in these professional schools.](#)

2. A proposal was submitted by Jens Gregor. The proposal is requesting to allow graduate students to retake courses for the purpose of raising the grade. I would like the following proposal be considered by the Academic Policy Committee in time for a vote by the Graduate Council before the end of the semester.

*Proposal: No graduate student may repeat a course for the purpose of raising a PASSING grade already received.*

Current catalog text: No graduate student may repeat a course for the purpose of raising a grade already received.

From our discussion, there was a consensus to bring this proposal up for discussion at the next Graduate Council meeting to get additional input and to see the policy from other graduate schools. At the Graduate Council meeting on March 31, 2016, we heard that veterinary medicine circumvents this policy by giving their students an incomplete until they pass a course. Programs that have required courses, such as computer science, must either

do something similar, bend their own rules, or dismiss students when they fail such courses regardless of the circumstances. This is neither satisfactory to anybody nor good policy.

3. The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures has a question about theses being written in a language other than English. The current policy allows for this with a written request by the thesis committee, with endorsement by the department head and dean of the college, prior to submission of the Admission to Candidacy application.

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures would like to add a paragraph in their section of the Graduate Catalog that would allow for abbreviated approval.

4. Priorities: getting organized for next academic year. What items might be coming forward?
  - a) Dr. Thompson sent a survey out to the campus community.
    - i. A task force will be established to work with the data.
    - ii. The survey closes on May 1.
  - b) Look at reorganizing the Graduate Catalog.
    - i. Ensure that statements don't conflict
    - ii. This may result in policy changes.
5. New Business
  - a. Students being allowed to apply to multiple programs. Currently students may only apply to one program at a time.
  - b. Graduation Fees
    - i. Students have to pay every time that they apply to graduate.
    - ii. Where does this money go to?

Dr. Stehle reported she will be taking leave spring 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**Credentials Committee Report**  
**April 7, 2016**  
**111 Student Services Building**

Present: Amy Broemmel (chair), Henri Grissino-Mayer, Georg Schaur, Jens Gregor, Joshua Fu, and Jim Larson

- 42 applications were submitted.
- 1 was identified as being for one-time approval and was forwarded to Dean Thompson for review, as prescribed in the bylaws.
- 2 were found to be on the agenda in error, as they were approved at the last meeting.
- 1 was returned to the department with a request for additional required information.
- 11 were found to be “automatically approved,” as a result of promotion and/or tenure.
- 27 were discussed and approved for doctoral direct status by the committee.

Employee Name	Title	Current Department	Type Of Request	Approval
Anovitz, Lawrence Michael	Professor/Research Scientist	Bredesen Center	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 5-1-2021
Armsworth, Paul	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Automatic with promotion	10 years* 5-1-2025
Bates, Gary	Professor	Plant Sciences	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Bhaduri, Budhendra (Budhu)	Professor/Research Scientist	Bredesen Center	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 5-1-2021
Biewer, Ted	Associate Professor	Bredesen Center	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 5-1-2021
Borole, Abhijeet	Professor/Research Scientist	Bredesen Center	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 5-1-2021
Bozell, Joseph J.	Professor	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	Automatic with promotion	10 years* 5-1-2019
Brown, Kathleen	Clinical Associate Professor	Public Health	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 5-1-2021
Buckley, David S.	Professor	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	Automatic with promotion	10 years* 5-1-2021

Caldwell, James Marcus	Assistant Professor	College of Veterinary Medicine	Probationary	Until Tenure
Craighead, Christopher	Professor	Marketing and Supply Chain Management	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
DeBruyn, Jennifer	Assistant Professor	Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science	Probationary	Until Tenure
Eda, Shigetoshi	Professor	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	Automatic with promotion	10 years* 5-1-2025
Fisher, Leslee	Associate Professor	Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Gray, Matthew J.	Professor	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	Automatic with promotion	10 years* 5-1-2024
Harper, Craig	Professor	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	Automatic with promotion	10 years* 5-1-2018
Hayes, Robert	Professor	Plant Sciences	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Jacobson, Dan	Professor/Research Scientist	Bredesen Center	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 5-1-2021
Jagadamma, Sindhu	Assistant Professor	Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science	Probationary	Until Tenure
McClure, Angela	Associate Professor	Plant Sciences	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Miller, Laura-Elizabeth	Associate Professor	Communication Studies	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Mohsin, Mohammed	Associate Professor	Economics	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Nave-Oakes, Renata	Assistant Professor	Plant Sciences	Probationary	Until Tenure
Neilson, William	Professor/ Department Head	Economics	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026

Okafor, Chika	Assistant Professor	College of Veterinary Medicine	Probationary	Until Tenure
O'Meara, Brian	Associate Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Automatic with Promotion	10 years* 5-1-2025
Raper, Tyson	Assistant Professor	Plant Sciences	Probationary	Until Tenure
Sams, Carl	Professor	Plant Sciences	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Schaeffer, Sean	Assistant Professor	Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science	Probationary	Until Tenure
Schilling, Edward	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Senseman, Scott	Professor	Plant Sciences	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Small, Randall	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Automatic with Promotion	10 years* 5-1-2025
Thompson, Dixie	Professor	Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies	Tenured Continuing	10 years 5-1-2026
Wang, Siquan	Professor	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	Automatic with Promotion	10 years* 5-1-2021
Weinhandl, Joshua	Assistant Professor	Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies	Probationary	Until Tenure
Weirschem, Nicholas	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering	Probationary	Until Tenure
Williams, Joseph	Professor	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Automatic with Promotion	10 years* 5-1-2025
Williams, Mark	Professor/Research Scientist	Bredesen Center	Non-Tenure Track, Initial	5 years 5-1-2021

\* From promotion year