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Graduate Council Minutes

Graduate Council

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4-13-2023

## Graduate Council Minutes - April 13, 2023

Graduate Council

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

April 13, 2023

**Members present:** Meschke, L. (Chair), Ayo, A., Cathey, A., Chaffin, K., Chappell, L. (Graduate Student Senate Vice President), Cho, M., Dickerson, A., Fields, G. (Graduate Student Senate President), Gao, Y., Gerhold, R., Guo, H., Hines, M., Jalata, A., Kaplan, G., Kite, R., Laursen, S., Lim, J., Love, A., Mannik, J., Marshall, S., Mohsin, M., Montgomery, K., Neal, A., Newkirk, K., Ostrowski, J., Palies, P. (UTSI), Sachs, A., Schmidt, H., Summers, J., Thompson, P. (Graduate Council Chair-elect), Uzonyi, G, Wang, T.

**Ex-Officio members present:** Anderson, D., Boulet, T., Brothers, E., Collins, C., Lane, I., McConville, B., Mercer, H., Odoi, A., Ohnesorg, S., Steele, J., Stier, J., Sullivan, M., Cox, C.

1. **Call to Order and Welcome** (Laurie Meschke)

The Graduate Council Zoom meeting was called to order by Graduate Council Chair, Laurie Meschke on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

2. **Minutes of the Preceding Meeting**

Meschke reported the March 9, 2023, Graduate Council Minutes were approved electronically on March 23, 2023.

3. **Committee Reports**

- **Academic Policy Committee** (Siris Laursen, chair) – no meeting, no report.
- **Appeals Committee** (Phyllis Thompson, chair) – no appeals to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** (Avigail Sachs, chair) – March 30, 2023 Curriculum meeting (**Attachment 1**)

At the March 30, Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting, the proposals were reviewed and discussed. All proposals were approved as reported and are recommended to Graduate Council for approval.

**Vote:** Graduate Council voted and unanimously approved the Curriculum Committee Report.

- **Student Faculty Research Awards** (Ernest Brothers, reporting for Dixie Thompson)

The SFRA committee completed reviews of the 52 applications submitted. Student/faculty pairs from 9 colleges or intercollegiate groups submitted applications. 18 applications were funded. Seven colleges or intercollegiate programs were recipients of awards. The 18 awards totaled more than \$84,000 in support for student research.

4. **Administrative Reports and Announcements:**

**Deans Update:** (Ernest Brothers, reporting for Dixie Thompson)

- Graduate Hooding – Saturday, May 20, 2023 – 7:00PM, Thompson-Boling Arena. Details on our website.
- Over 1400 graduate students are expected to graduate in spring 2023.
- Admission applications are up approximately 9% for fall 2023 compared to fall 2022.

- Departments should be meeting with the Office of Graduate Admissions to review their fall 2024 applications. This is an important opportunity to ensure that the content of the application is updated.
- New Graduate Student Orientation will be August 15, 2023. New GTA Orientation will be August 17, 2023. Both orientations will be virtual events. Newly admitted students are receiving information about how to register.
- August 18, 2023, will be a Community Fair for graduate students to learn about resources on campus and in the city of Knoxville. We hope to add a social event to the Community Fair. Details to come.
- To support the graduate enrollment goals set forth in UT's Strategic Vision, a strategic graduate enrollment management event will be held with Deans and Associate Deans on April 27, 2023. This will set the stage for departmental discussions in fall 2023.

**Graduate Student Senate Update** (George Fields, GSS President)

- The Graduate Student Senate concluded its annual cycle of providing travel awards for graduate students. This last cycle reviewed almost 200 travel award applications for travel during the remainder of the Spring semester and including the Summer. To date, we have awarded 468 travel awards to graduate students. We have also awarded 443 academic support awards to graduate students to offset the cost of being a student. In all, the GSS awarded 911 students (~14% of the graduate and professional student population) with one of these awards, totaling more than \$400,000.
- The GSS has been actively pursuing resolutions this year. On April 20, the Senate will vote on a resolution seeking increased transparency and proactive planning and communication regarding the relocation of campus units related to emergent situations and ongoing construction projects on campus. In May, the GSS will be voting on a resolution to address the need for increases in the stipends for graduate and professional students on assistantships. This resolution will be based on data provided by the Division for Finance and Administration in conjunction with the Graduate School.
- Regarding GSS events, the GSS Awards Banquet was a success. We recognized 27 award recipients across 9 award categories. We received a total of 119 nominations for this year's round of awards. Looking forward, the GSS is hosting the University Trivia Night fundraiser to bring the campus community together for a night of fun. More details regarding the event can be found on our website – [gss.utk.edu](http://gss.utk.edu).
- I'm very thankful for the opportunity to lead the GSS organization this year and thank you all for a great year of work on the Graduate Council.

**Graduate Council Chair** (Laurie Meschke)

- Meschke encouraged all members of the Graduate Council to attend the Graduate Hooding event on May 20 at 7 p.m. at Thompson-Boling Arena.
- Meschke thanked members of the Graduate Council for their prompt voting on and approving the March 9 Council Minutes. The Faculty Senate met on April 3rd and approved those Minutes.
- Meschke shared that Faculty Senate is in the process of updating their by-laws. They are proposing to add 1 or 2 Faculty Senate members as ex-officio members to the Graduate Council and request the member(s) attend the Curriculum Committee meetings and the Policy Committee meetings. The final draft of the proposal has not yet been shared. If passed, this would require another change to the Graduate Council by-laws that could be initiated in the Fall. Meschke opened the floor for discussion.
- Meschke thanked the Graduate Council members for their service during the 2022-23 academic year and highlighted the committee leadership (Dr. Avigail Sachs, Dr. Siris Laursen, Dr. Phyllis Thompson, and Dean Dixie Thompson). Meschke then shared great appreciation for the Bylaws Revision Committee, which included the aforementioned committee chairs, who served under the leadership of former council chair, Dr. Stefanie Ohnesorg.

**5. New Business**

Curriculum proposal: (**Attachment 2**)

Avigail Sachs, Curriculum Committee chair, presented the curriculum proposal to Graduate Council.

The transition from School of Music to College of Music was approved by THEC on March 8, 2023. With the THEC approval, the College of Music submitted a curriculum proposal to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to move their programs and courses from the College of Arts and Sciences to the new College of Music for effective term fall 2023. This proposal was approved by both the UG Curriculum Committee and the UG Graduate Council. With the undergraduate committee approvals, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Music are requesting a parallel proposal to the Graduate Council to move the Music programs and music courses from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Music for effective term fall 2023.

Are there any questions about this proposal?

With no questions, a motion was made and seconded to approve the curriculum proposal as presented.

**Vote:** Graduate Council voted and unanimously approved the Curriculum proposal.

Meschke: Are there any items from the floor for consideration?

With no items coming forward, may I have a motion to adjourn our meeting? Second? Thank you everyone for attending our last meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox  
Graduate Council Liaison

**Attachment 1****Graduate Curriculum Committee Meeting Report  
Zoom Meeting  
Thursday, March 30, 2023**

Members present: Avigail Sachs (Chair), Amy Cathey, Leighton Chappell (Graduate Student Senate Vice President), Moonhee Cho, Jennifer First, Sibyl Marshall, Kim Newkirk, Gary Uzonyi

Also in attendance: Herbert College of Agriculture, John Stier; College of Arts and Sciences, Brendan McConville; Graduate Council Chair, Laurie Meschke; VOLS Online, Josh Steele; Graduate School, Carl Collins, Dixie Thompson, and Catherine Cox

Avigail Sachs called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Curriculum proposals submitted for discussion and coming forward are for effective term fall 2024.**

**1) Herbert College of Agriculture**

- a) Program change: Department of Agricultural, Leadership, Education and Communications
- Revise program option, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications Major, MS

Proposal was discussed. The proposal came forward for a vote.

***Vote:*** *Unanimous vote to approve program changes for ALEC.*

**2) College of Arts and Sciences**

- a) Course changes: Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Geology (GEOL) courses
- added 1 course, revised 1 course

Proposal was discussed. The proposals came forward for a vote.

***Vote:*** *Unanimous vote to approve course changes for EPS.*

<p><b>Thursday March 30, 2023 3:30 P.M.</b></p>	<p><b>Graduate Curriculum Committee Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Zoom Meeting</b> <a href="https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/95584504507">https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/95584504507</a> Password: 822203</p>
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## **AGENDA**

**Herbert College of Agriculture**

**College of Arts and Sciences**

**HERBERT COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE****All Changes Effective Fall 2024****II. PROGRAM CHANGES****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS****REVISE AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR, MS**

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, revise the ALEC major, MS, as shown below.

1. Under Campus Code and Options Available, revise to drop Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exam and replace with: Coursework Only Without Comprehensive Exam, also remove/drop Project Option as shown below.

Knoxville Campus — Thesis Option, Coursework Only Without Comprehensive Exam Option  
Agricultural Education Focus Area  
General in Leadership, Extension or Communications Focus Area

Distance Education — Thesis Option, Coursework Only Without Comprehensive Exam Option  
Agricultural Education Focus Area  
General in Leadership, Extension or Communications Focus Area

*Formerly:*

*Knoxville Campus — Thesis Option, Project Option, Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exam Option  
Agricultural Education Focus Area  
General in Leadership, Extension or Communications Focus Area  
Distance Education — Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exam Option  
No concentration option available*

2. For heading: Distance Education (DE) - MS, revise to show new option as shown below.

Distance Education (DE) MS, Coursework Only Without Comprehensive Exam

and remove Non-Course Requirements heading and bullet, as shown below.

*Formerly:*

*Non-Course Requirements  
A final written examination.*

3. At heading: Thesis or Coursework Only With Comprehensive Exam, Agricultural Education Focus Area, revise heading to show new option.

Thesis or Coursework Only Without Comprehensive Exam, Agricultural Education Focus Area

4. Under the Non-Course Requirements heading, revise as follows:  
revise second bullet and  
remove third bullet referencing comprehensive exam

**Non-Course Requirements**

- Thesis Option: Preparation and defense of a thesis,
- An understanding of research ethics is also required for the thesis option. This departmentally-enforced requirement may be achieved through coursework (e.g., PLSC 525/ANSC 525/CEM 525; BCMB 614; PSYC 660) or via online (CITI RCR) training, as evidenced by presenting a valid CITI RCR certificate to the Graduate Director upon submission of the Admission to Candidacy form. For research involving human subjects, CITI IRB certification may also be required.

*Formerly:*

*An understanding of research ethics is also required. This departmentally-enforced requirement may be achieved through coursework (e.g., PLSC 525/ANSC 525/CEM 525; BCMB 614; PSYC 660) or via online (CITI RCR) training, as evidenced by presenting a valid CITI RCR certificate to the Graduate Director upon submission of the Application to Candidacy form. For research involving human subjects, CITI IRB certification may also be required.*

*Formerly:*

*Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exam: Successfully pass a department prepared final written examination, or the EdTPA*

5. At heading, Thesis or Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exam General in Leadership, Extension, or Communications Focus Area, revise heading to remove comp exam as shown below.

Thesis, General in Leadership, Extension, or Communication Focus Area

Students will complete graduate coursework in leadership, teaching and learning, extension program planning, and communications.

6. Under the Non-Course Requirements heading, revise to remove second bullet referencing comp exam and revise paragraph under the Additional Information heading as shown below.

Non-Course Requirements

- Preparation and defense of a thesis

Additional Information

- An understanding of research ethics is also required for the thesis option. This departmentally-enforced requirement may be achieved through coursework (e.g., PLSC 525/ANSC 525/CEM 525; BCMB 614; PSYC 660) or via online (CITI RCR) training, as evidenced by presenting a valid CITI RCR certificate to the Graduate Director upon submission of the Admission to Candidacy form. For research involving human subjects, CITI IRB certification may also be required.

*Formerly:*

*Additional Information*

*An understanding of research ethics is also required. This departmentally-enforced requirement may be achieved through coursework (e.g., PLSC 525/ANSC 525/CEM 525; BCMB 614; PSYC 660) or via online (CITI RCR) training, as evidenced by presenting a valid CITI RCR certificate to the Graduate Director upon submission of the Application to Candidacy form. For research involving human subjects, CITI IRB certification may also be required.*

*Rationale: The extensive growth in the online program can only be accommodated by eliminating the need to hold comprehensive exams. Impact on other units: None. Financial impact: None.*



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

All changes effective Fall 2024

### I. COURSE CHANGES

#### DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES

##### (GEOL) Geology

###### ADD

**GEOL 523 Paleocology (3)** Major concepts across paleocology, including diversity patterns, niche occupation, community structure, trophic interactions, and trace fossils. Instruction will be divided between discussions of methods and the primary literature, and hands-on activities, providing students with opportunities to practice introduced concepts.

*Contact Hour Distribution: 3 credit hours (2 hours lecture, 1 hour discussion).*

*Recommended Background: paleontology.*

*Rationale: New graduate course in Paleocology, to match the specialty area of a newly hired faculty member. An undergraduate paleocology course exists (GEOL 423), but a graduate course needs to be added. Financial impact: none.*

###### REVISE TITLE

##### **GEOL 543 Urban Ecology (3)**

*Formerly: GEOL 543 Sustainable Cities and Landscapes (3)*

*Rationale: Change requested by the Landscape Architecture School (which requires the course for their program) to better reflect the course content. Financial impact: none.*

**Attachment 2****Curriculum Proposal  
College of Arts and Sciences  
College of Music  
Effective fall 2023****MOVE THE MUSIC MAJOR, MASTER OF MUSIC DEGREE AND CONCENTRATIONS, THE CERTIFICATES,  
AND ALL MUSIC COURSES FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES TO THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC****MUSIC MAJOR, MMusic**

Concentrations: Choral Conducting, Collaborative Piano, Composition, Instrumental Conducting, Jazz, Music Education, Music Theory, Musicology, Performance (Organ, Percussion, Piano, Strings, Voice, or Winds)

**Certificates**

Music Theory Pedagogy Graduate Certificate  
Artist Certificate in Brass Performance (*Note: New to catalog for fall 2023; Cycle 4*)  
Artist Certificate in Keyboard Performance  
Artist Certificate in Percussion Performance  
Artist Certificate in String Performance  
Artist Certificate in Voice Performance (*Note: New to catalog for fall 2023; Cycle 4*)  
Artist Certificate in Woodwind Performance

**COURSES:**

All courses with prefixes MUED, MUEN, MUSC, MUIN, MUJZ, MUKB, MUPF, MUTC, MUTH, MUVC, MUCO

*Rationale:*

*The transition from School of Music to College of Music was approved by THEC on March 8, 2023.*

*This proposal is designed to revise the ownership of the Music graduate programs and courses from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to the newly approved College of Music (CoM). The new college was recently approved by both the Board of Trustees and THEC. As a new revenue-generating unit, it is important that these programs and courses are officially coded as College of Music.*

*Impact on other units: This decision has been formally agreed to by the leadership of CAS, the CoM and the Provost's office.*

*Financial impact: CAS has financially prepared for this move starting Fall 2023.*