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Graduate Council Minutes - August 25, 2016

Graduate Council

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

August 25, 2016 Minutes

Members and Guests Present

Roman, M. (Chair), Morrow, J., Larson, J., Moir McClean, T., Black, C., Cruz-Camara, N., Gordon, K., McConville, B., Ohnesorg, S., Stehle, M., Fuller, R., Mee, R., Santore, R., Botzakis, S., Broemmell, A., Fouts, H., Boder, E., Gregor, J., Alshibli, K., Ekici, K., Marshall, S., Wolitz, D., Bonom, J., Jackson, R., Patterson, D., Baek, S., Bemis, D., Rutenberg, A., Yerukala, S., Moore, T., Behn, B., Rentsch, J., Fairbrother, J., Nobles, R., Siopsis, G., Thompson, D., Brothers, E., Galloway, S., Cox, C., Kilpatrick, Y., Albrecht, M., Ownley, B., Kania, S.

1. Call to Order and Welcome (Marian Roman)

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Marian Roman on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in the Friesen Black Cultural Center, Multipurpose Room.

2. Welcome by Faculty Senate President (Bonnie Ownley)

- Bonnie Ownley provided an overview of the relationship between the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate.

3. Welcome by Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School (Dixie Thompson)

- Dr. Thompson thanked everyone for attending.
- There are many good things happening in the Graduate School:
 - We continue to improve our communication with the Directors of Graduate Studies and Graduate Associate Deans.
 - We awarded over 500 degrees in the summer semester.
 - We want to tell the good news and good stories about our graduate students and graduate faculty. Let us know when a student or faculty member has a story to share.
 - We are committed to help students and faculty. We are looking at our responses – our goal is to be more responsive.
 - We have held several meetings with Dr. Mary Albrecht and others about our new degree audit system, which will be implemented in the next few years. While this will not be an easy process, it will be very helpful to both students and faculty. We will continue to update and communicate about this process.
 - I am working closely with OIRA and the Provost's Office to create and generate good graduate student data.
- Trouble Spots/Problematic Issues
 - Concurrent Masters: I heard many complaints about this process. I am happy to report that beginning next week we will implement a new process so that students will not be penalized. The new process will make it easier on students and my staff.
- I look forward to the coming year and am excited for the opportunity of us working together.

4. Dr. Mary Albrecht – Update on the new Degree Audit System (U.achieve)

- We have over 200 graduate programs to review.
- We are working on guidelines as to how to clean up the graduate programs.
- The process will take 2 to 3 years and additional staff will need to be hired to assist.
- This will take a lot of hard work, but the end product will be well worth the effort.

5. Approval of the Minutes (Marian Roman)

The minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council.

6. Committee Assignments and Charges (Marian Roman and Dixie Thompson)Academic Policy Committee (Maria Stehle)

- Read Bylaws
- Catalog Cleanup – the new Degree Audit System will bring changes.

Appeals Committee (Jennifer Morrow)

- We review student appeals concerning policies, grades, and dismissals.

Credentials Committee (Amy Broemmel)

- We will send a letter to all those whose renewal will expire this year.
- **Council vote:** *it was suggested to change the ending date of credential approvals from a specific month and year to academic years. Council voted and approved this change.*

Curriculum Committee (Robert Fuller)

- We review, discuss, and approve the colleges' curricular course and program changes.

Professional Development Committee (Dixie Thompson)

- This committee is different in that it has members from different areas including the Office of Research and Engagement.
- Currently this committee receives approximately \$90,000 to allocate. With such limited resources, I would like to see the money received given out to help students. Proposing that we use the money in a way that will be a "win-win" for students and faculty by pairing them up to work together.
- Solicitations for proposals will be circulated soon.

7. Graduate School News

Ernest Brothers

- We had two successful orientations – the new student and new GTA.
- Prospect System with admissions: a new recruitment tool for the departments – providing a way to recruit and track potential students.
- Professional Development for Graduate Students: we are trying to develop a graduate and professional student matrix. To provide training in ethics, teaching and learning, research, and career development.

Yvonne Kilpatrick

- We admitted 1,558 students for fall. This number includes Law and Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Dixie Thompson

- We will fund 3 early-stage minority doctoral students (THEC Scholars) from Chemistry, Philosophy, and Engineering.
- We will host a reception on September 15 for graduate students that received Fellowships.

8. Brief Meeting of the Committees

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox
Graduate Council Liaison