

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

November 19, 2015 Minutes

Members Present

Albrecht, M.; Aydeniz, M.; Baek, S.; Behn, B.; Bemis, D.; Boder, E.; Bonom, J.; Botzakis, S.; Broemmel, A.; Brothers, E.; Cox, C.; Cummings, S.; Desmidt, H.; Forrest-Bank, S.; Fu, J.; Fuller, R.; Galloway, S.; Gellert, P.; Gregor, Jens; Grissino-Mayer, H.; Hatcher, B.; Hodges, C.; Kania, S. (Chair); Keny, J.; Kilpatrick, Y.; Marshall, S.; Mee, R.; Meek, N.; Nebenfuehr, A.; Ohnesorg, S.; Roman, M.; Rutenberg, A.; Sachs, A.; Schaur, G.; Spell, S.; Stehle, M.; Stier, John; Theriot, M.; Thompson, D.; Townsend, L; Wolitz, D.

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by chair, Dr. Stephen Kania, on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 3:05 p.m. in the Panhellenic Building Room 203.

1. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the September 24, 2015 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council.

2. Committee ReportsAcademic Policy Committee

The Graduate Council approved the October 8, 2015 Academic Policy Committee report.

Dr. Maria Stehle reported on the following:

- There will be ongoing discussion to determine what policy changes and wording needs to be added to the catalog regarding the graduate assistant grader policy. The Graduate Council agreed to continue discussion.
- Dr. Stehle briefly re-stated the 2014-2015 Academic Policy Committee's recommendation for the grading scale change. The only change in the recommendation is that the current Committee circulated the grades and meanings document. She stated that if the Council votes in favor of the grading scale, meanings will change slightly in the catalog. Dr. Stephanie Galloway said the changes will go into the catalog in fall 2016.

Dr. Stehle pointed out that faculty can still use whatever grades they want, and the plusses and minuses will just give them a slightly different meaning. Dr. Kania asked if there will be a C-. Dr. Stehle said no, that that there will be an A-, B-, and a C+.

- Dr. Stehle said some Council members got formal feedback, but the Committee doesn't have statistical formal feedback.
- Dr. Kania introduced the motion to use a ballot vote. Voting by ballot was approved.
- The Council voted on the grading scale change. Dr. Stehle and Catherine Cox counted ballots. Twenty-one voted in favor of the change, and seven voted against. Motion carried, and the grading scale will be changed.

Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee reports from the October 8 and November 5 meetings were approved.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met October 29. Dr. Robert Fuller said 13 changes were added to the catalog and 59 revisions were made. The Curriculum Committee report passed.

Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee will meet on November 23. There is one appeal on the table. Dr. Hodges said she is pleased there haven't been many appeals.

3. New Business

There was no new business.

4. Administrative Reports

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, presented the following information:

- Dr. Robert Nobles, who had been scheduled to address the Council, was unable to attend. Dr. Hodges said Dr. Nobles will send a written presentation to Council members. She said Dr. Nobles oversees compliance, ensuring students are compliant in terms of the research projects they are working on.

Dr. Hodges said the Graduate School and Office of Research are striving for academic integrity. If a grant is involved in the research, all documents should be scanned by special software to check plagiarism. She said it's the responsibility of the Council to ensure this happens, and doing so will protect faculty, students, and the university. Dr. Hodges said she believes it is a Graduate Council policy issue to decide if it will be in the catalog.

Dr. Nobles will address the Council at a later date.

- Dr. Hodges said the Chancellor gave \$250,000 to help write off tuition for NSF students. This allows the Graduate School to help other students with funding because in-state tuition is all that has to be covered now.

Dr. Hodges said one of the issues will be encouraging all students to apply for external grants. She said stipend levels vary across campus, but the Council may need to raise the minimum. She emphasized that in order to be Top 25, the university needs better recruitment numbers.

- Dr. Hodges said there needs to be clarifying language for students applying for academic standing. The language should indicate that students should be in good academic standing at the time of application.
- Dr. Hodges said clear policies need to be implemented regarding what graduate students can teach.
- Dr. Sean Hendricks, the Graduate School Information Specialist, is working on the Graduate School website. Dr. Hodges said the new site should be ready for launch by early next summer. Dr. Hendricks has already made improvements on the forms, and she expects the new website will help with recruitment.
- Dr. Hodges said a degree audit has been one in place for years for undergraduate students and an audit for graduate students would help in terms of efficiency and tracking degrees.

5. Graduate Associate Deans

- The Graduate Associate Deans meeting scheduled for November 12, 2015 was canceled.

6. Graduate Student Senate

- John Keny, President of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), said the GSS travel award deadline for Arts and Sciences and Education is December 14, and the deadline for all other colleges is December 21. He asked Council members to have students email applications to GSS@utk.edu or GSSTravel@utk.edu.
- The GSS hosted a Q&A session on November 18 and a graduate student social. There will be a welcome back social in January.
- The GSS has created a space for Veterans. It will be located on the 1st floor of Hodges Library beside One Stop. It will be for all students who are veterans, not just graduate students.
- The GSS website is being updated as well. Keny asked the Council to refer their students and departments to the site.

Dr. Kania expressed appreciation for all Dr. Hodges has done for the Graduate School and Graduate Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Missy Hodge
Graduate School