

Graduate Council Summary Report Faculty Senate Meeting – 10/16/17

Submitted by Jennifer Ann Morrow, chair & Mehmet Aydeniz, chair-elect

Summary report of the Graduate Council, August 24th, 2017

- The Graduate Council approved minutes of the meeting of April 27th, 2017.
- Committees did not meet prior to our first meeting of the Fall 2017 semester. Committee chairs were asked to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their committee's goals for the academic year:

Academic Policy – First meeting will be on 8/31 and then a joint meeting that same day with the Credentials committee.

Appeals – One appeal will be heard next week.

Credentials – We will have a joint meeting with APC on 8/31 and then our regular meeting directly after that. This year we will focus on reviewing the credentialing process to determine the most efficient and productive process for faculty to receive approval to direct dissertations.

Curriculum – First meeting is 9/21. Curriculum proposals are due on 9/7

- Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dixie Thompson, talked about the Student Faculty Research Awards
 - First meeting will be sometime in September
- No New Business
- Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dixie Thompson, gave an update regarding work done this past summer
 - This summer graduate degrees were certified and academic standing was set on all graduate students. Departments and programs were alerted of which students this impacts
 - Two searches in the Graduate School, Business Manager and Asst. Dean
 - Three successful events: New Graduate Student Orientation, New GTA Orientation, and GSS Social. She introduces the new leadership team for GSS
 - Discussed the launch of Ithenticate. Educational information and training is coming soon
 - Professional development opportunity for graduate students this semester, Best Practices in Publishing

- Question asked about in-state fees for distance ed programs. Dr. Thompson said a proposal was submitted to set fees for E-learning programs to in-state regardless of where the student resides
- Three working groups this summer: Credentials, ESL policies, and Catalog Review. All are still working on tasks and coordinating with APC and Credentials committees
- 1691 new first-time graduate students, up about 100 students, though 25 fewer international students
- Announced a recruiters' network available for departments. RFPs were announced last year for money. Hope to continue with this for this year
- Summer Working Groups Recap:
 - Dr. Brothers (Credentialing): reviewing bylaws and language in the catalog. Reviewing data from Top 25 institutions as well. Meeting with Credentials committee to discuss moving forward
 - Yvonne Kilpatrick (ESL policies): reviewed policies on English Language Proficiencies. Did an environmental scan of both peer and aspirational institutions as well as reviewing our own data on students' outcomes comparing those who take the ESL class and those who do not
 - Dr. Mary Albrecht (Graduate Catalog Review): discussing the organization of the catalog. Will bring sample revisions to APC soon
- The Graduate Student Senate President, Sergio Bedford, gave an update:
 - Redesigned website for GSS
 - Travel awards application is available
 - Monthly brown bag with the Center for Career Development. One event is with Karen Kelsky, the author of the Professor is In
 - 95 students attended our first GSS social
 - First meeting is 9/6
 - Want to do increased networking this year for our students
 - We want every department to be represented on GSS
- Graduate Council Chair, Jennifer Ann Morrow, discussed:
 - Stated she looked forward to working with the Council and the Working Groups this year
 - Reminded everyone of the next meeting on 9/28
 - No new business but encouraged committees to take a few minutes to meet with their groups

Link to 8/24/17 meeting minutes: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gcminutes/93/

Link to Graduate Council Website: <http://gradschool.utk.edu/faculty-staff/graduate-council/>