

Graduate Council Summary

Link to October 26, 2017 meeting minutes: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gcminutes/

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

Summary report of the Graduate Council meeting, October 26th 2017

- The Graduate Council approved minutes of the meeting of September 28th 2017.
- Committee Reports:

Academic Policy – APC received a proposal to revise the English Language Certification policy.

Two additional exceptions to submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores were added:

An applicant may be exempted from the English Certification requirement if:

1. English is an official language in the applicant's country of citizenship, according to standards published by the Graduate School.

or

2. English is the primary language of instruction at the institution in which the applicant received an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree.

Some graduate programs may have more rigorous requirements. Applicants are responsible for meeting the requirements of the graduate programs when the standards exceed those of the Graduate School.

This change was unanimously approved by APC.

APC received a proposal to change the option names for the master's program from Thesis, Problem in lieu of thesis, and non-thesis to Thesis, Project Option, and Examination Option. Students will only need to complete a comprehensive exam if their program requires it. They requested feedback from the Graduate Council. It will now go back to APC for final review before coming back to the Graduate Council. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the 10/19 APC report.

Appeals – No appeals to review. The committee revised the language in the Appeals procedures:

1. Added clarification to the language, mainly, making sure that the three-step process of appeal is clear to the students.
2. Added a new paragraph about summer appeals.
3. Added language to reflect the Board of Trustees Bylaws, Article V, Section 5. In the case of UT students, they may appeal the decision of the Dean of the Graduate School to the Provost and then to the Chancellor.

The Graduate Council unanimously approved the Appeals committee report.

Credentials – 10 applications were submitted for review. 5 were approved, 3 were missing vote counts (the depts. were contacted; these were approved after information was received), 1 was forwarded to Dean Thompson, and 1 was approved due to tenure. The GC unanimously approved the Credential committee report.

Curriculum – there was no October meeting. The next meeting is 11/2.

- Student Faculty Research Awards Committee – Dean Thompson reported that the applications are due on 11/6. They have approximately the same amount of money that they had last year to give out.

- New Business
 - Yvonne Kilpatrick: Provided information on the preparatory work for tracking eLearning admission and registration.
 - Jennifer Morrow: Update on Qualtrics Software Survey. The survey closed last Friday, October 20. The vendors were notified and will give demonstrations very soon. The demonstrations will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2:00 p.m. If you cannot attend, the demos will be recorded. After each demonstration they will send out a brief survey to obtain feedback to that specific vendor. After all the demos and they gather all the survey data they will begin the process to make their decision.
- Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dixie Thompson: We will be doing the 3-Minute Thesis competition again. First there will be college sponsored competitions that will lead up to a finals competition during the week of Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. Details will be announced before the December break.
- Graduate Student Senate President, Sergio Bedford:
 - Travel awards update. Applications will be submitted to the Graduate School.
 - Brown bag series update. 65 students attended. On 10/12 we had Karen Kelsky (the Professor is in) did a webinar. Very successful and insightful.
- Graduate Council Chair, Jennifer Ann Morrow:

Yvonne Kilpatrick and I met with the director of the Writing Center and the faculty that oversee English 121/122. We brainstormed on how to move forward and what data we need to collect to assess not just the needs for our international students but for all graduate students when it comes to improving their scholarly writing. There is currently no resources for graduate students. The Director is very eager to partner and work with us to gather data.