

Graduate Council Summary Report

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting – 3/19/18

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

Summary report of the Graduate Council, February 8, 2018

- The Graduate Council approved minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2017.
- Committee Reports:

Academic Policy:

- APC put forth a proposal to revise the policy to allow graduate students to repeat a course for the purpose of raising a grade.
- The new policy will allow students to repeat up to two courses in which they earned a grade of D or F. The original and repeat grades will be included in the GPA. Programs can prohibit students from repeated courses.
- The Graduate Council approved the proposal of repeating courses.
- APC put forth a proposal to create uniform policy regarding the requirements for accelerated combined bachelor's/master's programs.
- The new policy states that participation in one of these programs must be approved by the faculty members of the department offering the program and by the VP and Dean of the Graduate School. Students must have an overall GPA of at least 3.30 in the term prior to enrollment in the coursework that will apply to the Master's degree. Programs can require more rigorous standards.
- The Graduate Council approved the proposal to establish policy for accelerated combined bachelor's/master's programs.
- The Graduate Council unanimously approved the APC report.

Appeals:

- No appeals to report.
- Committee did receive an appeal. A sub-committee of the Appeals committee met to review the appeal. They determined there was no merit for the appeal to move forward.

Credentials:

- Twelve applications were submitted for review.
- One was for a one-time approval and that was forwarded to Dean Thompson.
- One was incomplete and was sent back to the department for more information.
- Ten were discussed and approved for doctoral directive status.
- The Credentials committee put forth a proposal for Guidelines for Ph.D. Committee service. They worked with the APC committee to create this proposal.
- The new policy states
 - Ph.D. committees at the University of Tennessee must be composed of at least four people. At least two committee members must be tenured or tenure track UT faculty. The chair of the committee is typically from the student's department/intercollegiate program. At least one member must be

from an academic unit other than that of the student's department; in interdisciplinary programs, one member shall be from outside that program.

- Those who may chair and/or serve on committees fall under one of the following categories. However, the Dean of the Graduate School may grant one-time approval outside the parameters of these categories, in specific cases as supported by the department and deemed in the best interest of the student.
 - **Category One:** University of Tennessee tenured or tenure-track faculty holding a doctoral degree or joint faculty holding a doctoral degree are automatically granted the approval to chair or be a member of any doctoral committee. University of Tennessee tenured or tenure-track faculty, without a doctoral degree, may serve on doctoral committees.
 - **Category Two:** Individuals who are not tenured/tenure track whose primary employer is the University of Tennessee and who hold the titles of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor can co-chair or be a member of dissertation committees. However, they may only co-chair committees if their appointment is within the student's major.
 - **Category Three:** Tenured or tenure-track faculty at other institutions may serve as the external member on a dissertation committee. The individual's CV must be attached to the Ph.D. committee form when it is submitted to the Graduate School.
 - **Category Four:** Others who are considered experts in the field may serve as an external member of the dissertation committee. The individual's CV must be attached to the Ph.D. committee form when it is submitted to the Graduate School.
 - **Category Five:** Emeritus faculty may continue to chair, or serve as a member of, existing committees. They may not be appointed to any new committees once retired, but they may continue to serve out their previously approved committee roles. In the case that a Ph.D. committee chair leaves the University of Tennessee prior to a student completing the degree, the chair may (1) resign from the committee, (2) serve as a co-chair of the committee; or (3) serve as a member of the committee. The student must submit a change of committee form documenting the appointment of a new chair or co-chair and updating the appointment status of the previous chair.
 - In cases when a department head believes an exception to the above categories is needed, the department head may appeal to the Dean of the Graduate School.
- The Graduate Council unanimously approved the new Guidelines for Ph.D. Committee Service

Curriculum:

- The Curriculum committee summarized the lengthy 1/25 meeting report and recommended to the Graduate Council the Committee's report for approval.
- The Graduate Council unanimously approved the Curriculum report.

- **Student Faculty Research Awards Committee:**
 - Spring applications were due on 2/8.
 - About 50,000 is available for awards.

- **New Business**
 - No new business.

- **Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dixie Thompson:**
 - Tennessee Fellowship awards have been made.
 - Students have until 4/15 to make a decision.
 - 3MT semi-finals are soon.
 - The week of 2/26 is Graduate Education Week.
 - We are in the process of creating a new format for approving Graduate Council minutes. We will be testing this process this month.
 - The new procedure is: Within a week of the Graduate Council Meeting, the Minutes will be sent electronically to all members of Graduate Council. They will be open for a week of discussion and feedback. One week after they are distributed, an electronic voting link for “approved” – “not approved” – or “abstained” and a section for comments will be sent to the voting members. They will have a week to submit their vote. This will expedite the Minutes to the Senate Executive Committee and to the Faculty Senate and prevent the current 3 to 4 month delay of approvals.
 - The Graduate Council unanimously approved the expedited procedure for approving the Graduate Council minutes.

- **Graduate Student Senate President, Sergio Bedford:**
 - Travel award applications are due in April.
 - The graduate and professional student appreciation week is the first week of April.

- **Graduate Council Chair, Jennifer Ann Morrow:**
 - We need to begin the process of nominating a chair-elect to Graduate Council. Marian Roman and I are heading a committee to solicit nominations.
 - Next week is Faculty Appreciation Week. I would like to say I appreciate all of you.
 - The next meeting is 3/22/18.

- **Items from the floor:** None

Link to 2/8/18 meeting minutes: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gcminutes/97/

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