

Graduate Council Minutes

Thursday 3:15 p.m., September 8, 2011

Foundation Room

Members Present: Nesli Alp, Monte Coulter, Chris Cunningham, Beth Dodd, David Edwards, Tammy Garland, Linda Johnston, Virginia Magnus, Brendon McDermott, Mike Owens, Valerie Rutledge, Gene Schlereth, Joey Shaw, Chris Smith, Joyce Smith, Kathleen Wheatley

Members Absent: Roger Briley, Stephen Craven, Diane Halstead, David Rausch, Shela Van Ness, Randy Walker, Li Yang

Ex Officio Members Present: Jerald Ainsworth, Theresa Liedtka

Guests: Elizabeth Bell

Summary

Gene Schlereth called the meeting to order and the minutes from the August 28, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted.

Standing committee reports:

Curriculum Committee – No Report

Graduate Faculty Committee – Chris Smith stated the committee had met with Jerald Ainsworth and discussed changing the process. The new process being considered would involve applications to be vetted by the department faculty committee and then reviewed by the department head, the college dean, and then approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. The committee will submit the process to the Best Practices Committee who will evaluate the procedure and bring it before the Council for their authorization. If approved, the new process will not be implemented until July 1, 2012. Smith continued by saying the committee was currently reviewing 23 applications which were submitted over the summer. She said the majority of the applications were from Nursing. The new DNP requires a transitional project and they need faculty to lead and serve on the committees.

Best Practices Committee –No report; the first scheduled meeting of the committee will be Thursday September 15th.

Old Business:

Graduate Coordinator Compensation Task Force - Schlereth stated the committee will continue to research the compensation graduate coordinators are given for their service. He said the limited information collected last year indicated a wide range of reparation. He asked members to encourage coordinators in their departments to respond to efforts to collect data so the task force will be able to formulate a statement in time for this year's budget hearings.

New Business:

PTE as an Additional Test for English Language – Ainsworth said that a Pearson representative made a presentation of their English proficiency test, PTE Academic (Pearson Test of English Academic) and that undergraduate is ready to move forward to offer PTE as a third option along with TOEFL and IELTS. He said that after researching, PTE appears to have a high level of security to verify the identity of the person taking the test. A motion was made for a vote to include PTE as a third option. A conversation ensued and it was asked if Jane Womack, the ESL Director's opinion had been sought. Ainsworth confirmed their conversation and said she was interested in learning more, so he gave her their website information. Additional discussion

included that while PTE may have better security and availability for students due to the on-line delivery method, there had been no concordance that it was higher in standards. Continued conversation with Pearson may be in order so Ainsworth and Chris Cunningham will pursue that discussion. It was also said that this is only an additional option; it is not replacing the TOEFL or IELTS. The first reading to offer PTE as a third alternative was approved by a vote of 14-1-0.

Ainsworth made the following announcements:

A Thesis and Dissertation Workshop will be held on Sept. 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lupton Library, room 209. These workshops will be offered at the beginning of each semester.

There are enough volunteers to evaluate the Graduate Student Recruiting Grants.

Council was reminded that curriculum proposals need to be submitted to the Graduate School by November 15 and that the first step in the process is a technical review by the Records office.

The new cover sheet is on the website at:

<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/GraduateSchool/GraduateCouncil/documents/CourseProposalFormFINALff3-2011.pdf>

Applications for Graduation are now submitted to the Graduate School rather than the Records office. It was stated that the form on the Records website needed to be updated to reflect the new procedure.

The Library has a license for Endnote (bibliography software) and a workshop will be held toward the end of September. This will be an additional workshop for thesis and dissertation students.

Without further business the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice I. Uhles, CPS
Administrative Assistant
The Graduate School

Minutes approved by Graduate Council on September 22, 2011