

**The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga**  
**Graduate Council Minutes**  
**February 28, 2002**

Members Present: P. Berry, D. Edwards, K. Gee, J. Henley, B. Lee, E. Meagher, G. Thibadoux, L. Tillman, J. Tucker, J. Wakim

Members Absent: G. Bartoo, M. Biderman, D. Cundiff, E. Foster, E. McMahon, P. Guess, T. Lease, J. Mies

Ex-Officio Members Present: D. Arfken

Ex-Officio Members Absent: S. Delacroix

Guests Present: J. Adams, A. Canaff, T. Bibler (substitute for Lease), L. Orth, M. Tanner, B. Warren -Kring,

**Actions Taken**

- Second Reading: Certificate in Urban Specialist, M. Ed. Elem. Education approved, 9-2-0.
- Second Reading: Concentration in Urban Specialist, M. Ed. Elem. Education approved, 9-2-0.
- First Reading: Change of Degree Name: Guidance & Counseling approved, 11-0-0.

**I. Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes**

Dr. Meagher called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Dr. Henley requested the minutes be changed to reflect that he was not in attendance at the meeting of 2-14-02. Dr. Meagher asked that on page one under *Review of General Graduate School Admission Requirements* in the second paragraph the sentence: "Dr. Arfken said that she would gather that information and present it to Graduate Council at its next meeting as well as the current GPA for average in individual UTC programs", be changed to read "current average GPA for individual UTC programs." Dr. Meagher asked for a correction on page two in the fourth paragraph within the first sentence to be corrected with an additional "that." The sentence should read, "Dr. Warren-Kring emphasized that the fact that Hamilton...." The minutes were unanimously approved with changes.

**II. Review of General Graduate School Admissions Requirements**

Dr. Arfken handed out information on the average cumulative undergraduate gpa in each program; in other words, the entering gpa for graduate students as of fall 2001. This gpa is listed on the program profiles that are given to all program coordinators, deans and department heads each fall. The average gpa does not exceed 2.5, and there is now a retention rate information report starting with fall 1993, 1994, and 1995. Dr. Arfken pointed out these reports were quite good comparatively. Dr. Tillman asked if the 50% was good on a national average for a seven-year period. Dr. Arfken replied that yes, seven years is a reasonable period of time. The computer center was unable to gather the information for the impact report that Graduate Council had requested. Dr. Arfken said that she would also get the information regarding other Tennessee Institutions' general admissions requirements by the next Graduate Council meeting. Further discussion was held, and Dr. Arfken assured Graduate Council this issue would be discussed at future meetings. Dr. Tillman asked specifically why Computer Science and Special Education have low numbers. Dr. Arfken deferred this question to Ms. Orth. Ms. Orth said that there she did not know why Computer Science numbers are so low because there are students graduating from the program each commencement. Dr. Tillman suggested that these numbers are a little off. Dr. Arfken said that this information provided by Dr. Gruetzemacher does not include non-degree seeking students. Other possibilities such as teaching part time were discussed as the factors of the results of the reports. Dr. Meagher asked Graduate Council members to keep this information for review for further discussion.

**III. Second Reading: Certificate in Urban Specialist, M. Ed. Elem. Education**

Dr. Thibadoux moved and Prof. Gee seconded the motion to approve the proposal on the second reading. Dr. Lee reiterated from the last meeting that he feels this proposal will meet a need in our community. However, after taking the proposal to other members in the art and theater department, people in the community involved in the arts, as well as inner city teachers, he was given a response from those individuals was in line with his own. Arts should play an essential role and not some marginalized or a political role, according to Dr. Lee.

Dr. Tillman thanked Dr. Lee for the research he sent out to Graduate Council members: he was able to have a better understanding of Dr. Lee's position on the Urban Specialist proposal. Dr. Tillman asked if it was unusual for an urban specialist certificate to be narrowed to certain areas, such as reading and math, as opposed to a global all-encompassing program. Dr. Meagher suggested that on page five Dr.

Warren-Kring could include faculty from the arts. Dr. Tillman recommended that the additional language include faculty from the arts be included in the proposal and Dr. Thibadoux seconded the recommendation. The proposal was approved on the second reading, 9-2-0.

**Second Reading: Concentration in Urban Specialist, M. Ed. Elem. Education**

Dr. Thibadoux moved and Prof. Gee seconded the motion to approve the proposal on the second reading. There was no further discussion. The proposal was approved on the second reading, 9-2-0.

**Addition of POLS 590 to Core MPA Requirements**

Dr. Tillman moved and Dr. Wakim seconded the motion to approve the proposal on the second reading. There was no further discussion. The proposal was approved on the second reading, 11-0-0.

**IV. First Reading: Change of Degree Name: M. Ed. Guidance & Counseling**

Dr. Thibadoux moved and Dr. Edwards seconded the motion to approve the proposal on the first reading. Dr. Adams presented to Graduate Council the proposal to implement a change of degree name to the Master's of Education: Guidance & Counseling program. The new name would simply be "Counseling." Dr. Adams said the primary reason for this change is that professional literature ceases to use the term "guidance" in connection with counseling activities within and outside of schools. The term "counseling" better reflects the description of what graduate students are trained to do, according to Dr. Adams. The name change would also eliminate the confusion students have when entering the program. The Counsel for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) is currently reviewing the M.Ed. Guidance & Counseling program for accreditation. The term "school counseling" is used by CACREP to describe programs dedicated to training school counselors. There are no accredited programs that have the term "guidance" within their program name. Dr. Adams said that the Guidance & Counseling program is currently seeking accreditation and would like to reflect current accreditation standards in the name of the program. In addition, all CACREP accredited programs in the Southeast region have dropped the use of the term "guidance."

The proposal was approved on the first reading, 11-0-0.

**V. Other Business/Adjournment**

The was no new business.

**VI. New Business**

Catalog Revision, p. 15: Thesis

Ms. Orth explained to Graduate Council that the current policy on thesis grading requires that, upon submission of the thesis, six hours of SP/NP grades be changed to a letter grade. Because a student can register for an uneven amount of thesis hours, the Records Office has a difficult time changing six hours without manipulating the actual enrollment and often times causing Accounts/Receivable to automatically bill a student when perhaps will pulled an hour from summer. Ms. Orth asked approval to formally change the language on page 15 of the *Graduate Catalog* to reflect the grading of "up to six hours." The catalog would read

A final grade for the thesis course will not be recorded until the thesis has been deposited in the library. At that time, up to six of the most recent semester hours of previously SP graded thesis credit will be recorded as A or B on the student's transcript. NP grades and SP grades for thesis in excess of the thesis hours required will remain on the transcript.

Dr. Meagher adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Walters  
Administrative Assistant  
The Graduate School