

**The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Graduate Council Minutes  
January 31, 2006**

Members Present: R. Anderson, V. Bumphus, S. Davidson, J. Dumas, E. Foster, J. Freeman, D. Halstead, L. Harris, B. O'Leary, V. Petzko, J. Smith for E. Meagher, J. Tucker, K. Turner

Members Absent: R. Briley, G. Heath, M. Long, C. Smith,

Ex-Officio Members Present: D. Arfken, S. Bellar, Y. Kilpatrick, T. Liedtka

Ex-Officio Members Absent: C. Arender

**Second Reading: Environmental Science, moving the degree from 36 to 38 hours: 13-0-0.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. Report from Curriculum Committee**

Dr. Dumas introduced Dean Theresa Liedtka. Dean Liedtka explained that the committee met for the first time on January 30. Prof. Turner, Dr. Bartoo, and Dr. Harris make up the committee. The committee talked about 7 proposals, but the only one approved without changes was the Environmental Science proposal. Dean Liedtka said Randy Walker was there to discuss the Physical Therapy proposal as an information session. She then opened the floor for Graduate Council to vote on the Environmental Science proposal.

Dr. Tucker said that the proposal was to clarify the hours. Most students in the major graduate with 38 hours, but the Graduate Catalog only requires 36. Dr. Dumas asked where the two hours come from. Dr. Tucker explained that there is a lot of individual coursework which makes the "odd number." Dr. Bartoo asked what is the reasoning for not allowing students to graduate with 36 hours, was wondering if it is simply it justice? Dr. Tucker said there was no direct reason. Dr. Arfken said that standards are 30 hours, so this program clearly exceeds the requirements. Dr. Arfken said this is a heavy research degree with a thesis option. Dr. Petzko made the comment if the professors support the need for more hours she believes the Graduate Council should approve. Professor Turner moved to accept the proposal. Dr. Petzko seconded the motion. The proposal passed on second reading, 13-0-0.

Dean Liedtka said that Counseling and Math are working on minor changes and when she receives the revised copy, she will bring the proposals to Graduate Council for the second reading.

The Physical Therapy (PT) proposal was introduced by Randy Walker. He said there are five sub-sets of proposal try to decide if you want to take all together or one at a time.

Dr. Walker said currently the PT program is a “three plus three” program which means there are three years of prerequisites and three years of program requirements and when they finish their six years they receive the Doctorate of Physical Therapy. He said what PT is proposing is that the entire professional program be totally graduate level. Dr. Walker says PT wants to maintain the 3+3 program but wants to convert the first year to graduate level coursework. Undergraduate students would be required to enroll in 36 hrs of graduate level coursework. All PT courses will be changed to graduate level. They would remove all 400 level courses and renumber to graduate level. To be able to do this would vary from a university standard which says that graduate level credit can't be counted toward a bachelor's degree. PT is proposing that all courses be raised to graduate level. Under this proposal, students finish their core courses their first year of graduate school and then receive the Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Sciences. Then after two more years of successful course work they receive their Doctorate of Physical Therapy. Continuation standards will be added to the Graduate Catalog. Dr. Bartoo said that some of what PT is trying to do should be with the undergraduate curriculum committee and that the standards committee mentioned is undergraduate standards. Dr. Walker said that PT also has a proposal going through undergraduate curriculum committee as well. PT wants to implement this next year. In order for it to be in time for the UG catalog would have to be in place by next Thursday.

The question was asked “Can work that has been taken at the graduate level be used for both degrees?” Dr. Arfken stated that the undergraduate catalog has pre-professional programs (pg 35); it outlines Dentistry, Pre-Veterinary, etc. It was asked if their three years of prerequisites transfer to UT health sciences. It was said that the first year they apply the prerequisites and then UTC awards a BS degree. Yvonne Kilpatrick made the point that the core courses will be required, but would not be put on the candidacy. Dr. Bartoo asked why does PT want to change. Dr. Walker said because PT should be a graduate level program. PT wants it to be a seamless program. Right now PT admits 28 students; ½ graduates and ½ undergraduate. The graduate students are upset because have to pay graduate fees that the undergraduates don't pay, but they get the same degree in the end. Dr. Halstead asked that other than tuition, academically what's the problem because it seems as though they're holding the students to a higher level if they're all graduate level and she said she can't see a problem going higher. Dr. Arfken said the problem comes in because of the UTC policy that says undergraduates can only take nine hours of graduate credit. Yvonne Kilpatrick said that one piece concerns her with the course numbering. How do we take students from 100-200 level coursework and throw them into 500-600 work. Dr. Walker said that technically they are the same courses they would just be numbered more accurately.

Dr. Dumas then closed the discussion by saying he is sending the proposal back to the curriculum committee for further review.

**III. Other Business**

Next meeting will be February 9, 2006.

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pier, CPS  
Executive Secretary  
The Graduate School