

**Minutes
Graduate Council
February 28, 2008**

Members Present: Neslihan Alp, Boris Belinskiy, Hinsdale Bernard, Nicholas Boer, Joe Dumas, David Edwards, Ahmed Eltom, John Freeman, Kristi Gibbs, Pamela Guess, Gale Iles, Jonathan McNair, Brian O’Leary, Mike Owens for Kim Turner, Vicki Petzko, Mark Schorr, Chris Smith, Joyce Smith, Greg Thibadoux

Members Absent: Roger Briley, Tom Buggiey, Linda Fletcher, Cathie Smith

Ex-officio Members Present: Deborah Arfken, Stephanie Bellar, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Theresa Liedtka, Craig Reddock

Guests Present: Sandy Zitkus

Summary of Actions

The following motions were made and actions taken:

- 1) To remove the last paragraph and the word “program” in the fourth bullet of transfer credit policy in the 2007 catalog passed; 11-6-0.
 - 2) To add the word “minimum” criteria to the transfer credit policy in the 2007 catalog passed; 17-0-0.
 - 3) To defer change in GPA requirements until more information can be obtained passed; 16-0-0.
 - 4) To change catalog language of Credit by Special Examination Policy*; passed 15-0-0.
- *Request was made to the Records Office to revise Credit by Special Exam form to make a section for the Graduate School and to make it align with the policy.

Opening of the Meeting and Approval of the Minutes:

Vicki Petzko opened the meeting at 3:17 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to accept the February 14 minutes, which were approved unanimously. Greg Thibadoux, was recognized and welcomed by the Council as a new member taking the place vacated by Mike Long.

Transfer Credit Policy:

Yvonne Kilpatrick brought forward the transfer credit policy explaining that Administrative Computing Services had deemed the reprogramming changes, which would permit the counting of hours earned without computing the grade, could not be completed in the time allotted. Until the necessary computer programming can be implemented, all approved graduate transfer credit will count toward the cumulative GPA. Therefore, the last paragraph in the approved catalog language effective Fall 2008 needs to be deleted. Following a lengthy discussion, two motions were made; the first, to remove the last paragraph of the transfer credit policy and the word “program” in the fourth bullet (passed 11-6-0); the second, to add the word “minimum” to the first sentence of the second paragraph to read “must meet the following minimum criteria” (carried 17-0-0).

Continuation of Discussion of GPA Required for Admission to the Graduate School:

Deborah Arfken brought forward the discussion to determine whether to raise the GPA requirement for the first level of admission into the Graduate School. She distributed a handout that indicated in almost all UTC graduate programs the admission GPA was at the 3.0 level. She continued by saying that, if a decision were made to change the admission requirement, there would need to be

time to give proper notification and reminded the Council that the process also involved approval by Faculty Senate, the Deans and the Board of Trustees, who may ask for an impact study. She also stated that UT Martin and UT Knoxville's admission GPA had been at 2.7 for a while.

Vicki Petzko reminded the Council that at the previous meeting a motion had passed to raise the admission GPA to the Graduate School to 2.75 and that this would be considered the second reading. During the conversation that followed, questions regarding what would happen if the Board of Trustees did not approve the increase, how many students would be eliminated at the higher GPA level and the possible negative impact on international students were discussed. It was decided that more information was needed and to request the Office of Institutional Research to gather data on the number of students whose admission GPA was at the intervals between 2.5 and 2.74. It was further decided to request Mike Biderman to come to the next meeting to discuss when the standard was raised for admission into Psychology and what affect it had on the program. A motion was made to defer the vote to the next meeting, and that motion passed 16-0-0.

Credit by Special Examination

Yvonne Kilpatrick asked for clarification of the Credit by Special Examination policy and for revision of the form to include an area for Graduate School information. She requested that all "S" or "N/C" be eliminated with the understanding that "S" is equal to "B." The discussion that followed included questions regarding how it would be listed on the transcript: whether "S" would be equal to "B" or better, if the "B" is included in the calculation of the GPA and the process for the payment of the fee for credit by examination. A motion was made to edit the policy as follows: insert "non-refundable" fee of \$102/semester hour will be paid "in advance of testing", in the fourth paragraph, make the sentence read "credit grades earned by special examinations will not be used in computing the grade point average" and delete the last two lines; the motion passed 15-0-0. The Records Office was also asked to revise the Credit by Special Examination form to make it align with the policy and to include a section for the Graduate School.

Report from the Certificates Committee

Joyce Smith reported the Certificate Committee reviewed certificate programs and has asked the individual programs to look at the certificates offered to determine if they are still viable or if new certificate programs are needed. She said that the certificate programs need more visibility that they provide many non-degree seeking students opportunities.

Due to the shortage of time, the next agenda item, Discussion of Candidacy Timeframe for Doctoral Students, will be moved to the next meeting on March 27.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice I. Uhles
Administrative Assistant
The Graduate School