

**Minutes
Graduate Council
March 27, 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 Bugey, Linda Fletcher, Cathie Smith

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

Guests Present: Linda Orth, Mike Biderman

Summary of Actions

The following actions were taken:

- 1) Revise page 28 of the Graduate Catalog to read “All credit applied toward a master or specialist degree must be earned within a six-year period beginning with the registration for the earliest course counted,” passed; 16-0-0.
- 2)
- 3) Affirmed Graduate Faculty recommendations; 16-0-0.

Opening of the Meeting and Approval of the Minutes:

Vicki Petzko opened the meeting and the minutes were approved as amended: “all ABC letter grades will be eliminated in favor of S or N/C” and “that S is equal to B or better.”

Discussion of GPA Required for Admission to the Graduate School:

Deborah Arfken opened the discussion of whether to raise the GPA requirement for admission to the Graduate School. She distributed a handout showing what is currently in the catalog and what had been discussed. She reminded the Council that if the decision were made to change the GPA, it would need to be circulated at UTC, then the Board of Trustees would need to review, therefore any change would not go into effect until Fall 2009 and possibly not until Fall 2010. She also distributed a chart which showed how many students would be denied if the GPA was raised to different intervals. She stated Nancy Amberson had a conflict and could not attend the meeting but said that Nancy had indicated she felt that raising the GPA above 2.5 would negatively impact international students. Dean Arfken also said that Mike Biderman would attend the meeting but would not be able to come until 4:00 p.m. There was a discussion regarding whether it would be appropriate to have a double standard admission policy for international students, if it was economically feasible for international students to be accepted conditionally, and whether UT Knoxville had a policy on conditional admission. The Council decided to delay the discussion until later in the meeting when Mike Biderman would be available to discuss his thoughts regarding the experience of I/O Psychology when their admission standards were increased.

Discussion of Candidacy Timeframe for Doctoral Students:

John Freeman opened the discussion of the candidacy time limit for doctoral students stating that many schools have a longer time limit for a student to complete their doctoral work than for a

master's degree. The ensuing discussion examined when the clock would begin for doctoral students, and if the current catalog language was sufficient. It was decided that clarifying the wording in the catalog would be a good solution. A motion by Joe Dumas was made and seconded to revise page 28 of the Graduate Catalog to read "All credit applied toward a master's or specialist degree must be earned within a six-year period beginning with the registration for the earliest course counted," The Council passed the motion by a vote of 16-0-0.

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

Vicki Petzko introduced Mike Biderman and thanked him for coming to discuss what he remembered about the affect raising the GPA had on the number of students that applied to the Psychology program. He qualified his statements by saying that when the GPA was raised, he was new to the department and at that time other changes were also made so it was difficult to know the specific impact. He said one change he felt made an impact was that the department started using a formula to determine if a student qualified for admittance into the program and the formula was also published in the catalog so the student could determine if they were qualified before they applied, therefore the program really did not have to turn down students. He also said the Psychology program's retention rate is very high, there had been 13 admitted to the program last year and 21 this year and of that number, they would only loose one, possibly two, which would be very rare. After listening to Mike Biderman and having further discussion, the Council voted to postpone a decision until after they could hear Nancy Amberson's thoughts on the possible impact raising the GPA might have on international students. Deborah Arfken said she would contact Nancy to invite her to the next meeting on April 10 as well as check on whether UT Knoxville had a conditional admittance policy for international students.

Report from the Certificates Committee:

Joyce Smith distributed a worksheet showing the Certificate Committee's findings. She stated that the committee looked at information from a couple of sources and it was unclear whether the figures were accurate. It was suggested that to get better information Institutional Research should be asked to run a query by major codes, which Joyce Smith said she would do and report to the Council. Vicki Petzko thanked the committee saying it had done what it had been asked and that each program needed to review the certificates they offer and market the viable ones and purge the rest.

Report from the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee:

Stephanie Bellar distributed a list graduate faculty applications showing the recommendations of the Graduate School Dean and the Provost and asked the council for affirmation of their decisions. After a motion to affirm was made and seconded, it passed 16-0-0.

Other Matters:

Vicki Petzko asked all the committee chairpersons to report on their findings at the next meeting on April 10. She also said there was a possibility that another meeting on April 24 would be necessary and to please put on their calendars. She told the Council that she had the opportunity to have lunch with the Provost and that during the meeting she asked the Provost how the restructuring would affect the Graduate Council and he said, "I think the Graduate Council needs to do what they are doing."

Stephanie Bellar said that Friday April 11 is Research and Scholars Day which has been scheduled to start later in the afternoon, 3:30-4:00. She also said that the awards receipt was scheduled on

April 18 and asked each program to make sure that the GSA has the correct spelling and pronunciations.

Yvonne Kilpatrick announced the Graduate School had selected a person for the program liaison position and that they are in the permission to hire process. She said that Mark Fairchild has done a very good job during this time and hoped everyone would remember to let him know.

Ms. Kilpatrick also announced on May 7 there will be a program coordinators workshop from 10:00-3:00 p.m. and hoped that everyone would be able to attend.

Deborah Arfken announced that Governor Bredesen had proclaimed the week of March 31 as Graduate Education Week.

Joe Dumas announced he has decided to run for the position of the District 2 Representative for the Hamilton County School Board.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice I. Uhles
Administrative Assistant
The Graduate School

Approved April 10, 2008