

**Minutes
Graduate Council
April 10, 2008**

Members Present: Neslihan Alp, Hinsdale Bernard, Roger Briley, Tom Buggey, Joe Dumas, David Edwards, John Freeman, Kristi Gibbs, Pamela Guess, Gale Iles, Vicki Petzko, Mark Schorr, Cathie Smith, Joyce Smith, Kim Turner

Members Absent: Boris Belinskiy, Nicholas Boer, Ahmed Eltom, Linda Fletcher, Jonathan McNair, Brian O’Leary, Chris Smith, Greg Thibadoux

Ex-officio Members Present: Stephanie Bellar, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Theresa Liedtka

Ex-officio Members Absent: Deborah Arfken, Craig Reddock

Guests Present: Nancy Amberson, Phil Oldham

Summary of Actions

- 1) Streamlined the process for graduate faculty membership, first reading; 14-0-1.
- 2) Increased the candidacy timeframe to 10 years for the Ed.D. Learning and Leadership program and revised page 71 of catalog language, first reading; 15-0-0.
- 3) A friendly amendment was accepted to change the proposed GPA from 2.75 to 2.70.
- 4) Voted to change the entry level GPA to the Graduate School from 2.75 to 2.70; 11-1-2.

Opening of the Meeting and Approval of the Minutes:

Vicki Petzko opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 27 meeting. The minutes were approved with the following corrections: under Candidacy Timeframe, change Master degree to Master’s degree; under Other Matters, change finds to findings, and clarify it was the program liaison position that had been filled.

Process for Approval of Graduate Faculty:

Provost Phil Oldham asked the Council to consider streamlining the process to allow final approval of graduate faculty membership to rest with the Dean of the Graduate School; the appeal process would be to the Provost and the Chancellor. He outlined the current review and recommendation process: the faculty’s instructional unit, the Department Head, the College Dean, Graduate Council membership committee, Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School and then the Provost with appeal process to the Chancellor. He said he had seen the revised process work well in the past and that one advantage would be having two appeals, the first to the provost then to the chancellor. The Council accepted the provost’s request to streamline the process by a vote of 14-0-1 and will check with Gavin Townsend to determine if the new process needs to be approved by Faculty Senate.

John Freeman stated he would like to revisit the criteria to determine the basis for designation of graduate faculty status. After a discussion, it was decided that a sub-committee headed by Nesli Alp with members Hinsdale Bernard, Mike Long, Gale Iles, Pam Guess, Roger Briley, and

Stephanie Bellar would review the criteria. Stephanie Bellar was assigned to convene the first meeting.

Proposal for Changes to the Doctoral Candidacy Timeframe:

John Freeman brought forward a proposal asking to increase the candidacy timeframe in the Ed.D. Learning and Leadership program to 10 years and revising the graduate catalog language on page 71 to reflect the change. He explained the program would start with the earliest transfer credit. A motion was made and seconded to allow 10 years for completion of the doctorate and to revise the catalog language. Mark Schorr asked if 10 years was an average, and John Freeman said that most students completed in 6-7 years. After a discussion, it was decided that the first cohort's candidacy timeframe would be extended to 10 years but that each candidacy form would need to be revised to reflect the change. The Council passed the first reading of the motion, 15-0-0. John Freeman said he would send out a copy of the language so all the council members would have a copy before the second reading.

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

Vicki Petzko opened the discussion by stating that a motion had passed the first reading to raise the entry level GPA to 2.75 for admission to the Graduate School. She introduced Nancy Amberson, international student adviser, who had been invited to address the Council to provide information on how she felt the increased standard would affect international students. Ms. Amberson distributed a chart showing GPAs for international students who had been admitted over the last two years and explained the process of how an equivalent GPA was established. She also stated that conditional admission was not the norm because international students must be fully admitted to the school before they are allowed into the country. She said it was difficult to say for sure but that overall she did not think raising the standard would limit the number of students who would qualify to come to UTC. A discussion followed, which covered the impact of the recent increase in TOEFL scores and the acceptance of the Bologna degrees from Europe. A friendly amendment made by Kristy Gibbs, which John Freeman accepted, to amend the original proposal changing the entry level GPA to 2.70 rather than 2.75. Then a motion changing the entry level GPA to the Graduate School to 2.70 passed, 11-1-2.

Report from Certificate Committee:

Joe Dumas distributed a new version of the certificate report and said the information the committee had gathered was for the individual programs to use to determine if the certificate programs being offered were viable. It was discussed that many times students would start a certificate program and then move to a degree program, so to that end offering the certificates could be a good recruiting tool. Vicki Petzko thanked the committee for their work and the time and effort in researching the certificate programs. She also asked each program to review their certificate programs to ensure they are viable and encouraged them to recommend deleting any that were not.

Report from other Committees:

Due to time constraints, reports from other committees were postponed until the next meeting on April 24.

Graduate Faculty Committee:

Stephanie Bellar presented the recommendations for graduate faculty membership, which were approved, 13-0-0.

Other Matters:

Stephanie Bellar announced Graduate Research Day would be on Friday, April 11, in the University Center at 4:00 and invited everyone to attend. She also announced the Graduate Student Association Awards Reception would be at the SimCenter on Friday, April 18, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice I. Uhles
Administrative Assistant
The Graduate School

Minutes were approved by the Graduate Council on April 24, 2008.