

Graduate Council
September 24, 2009

Members Present: Neslihan Alp, Nicholas Boer, Roger Briley, Tom Buggey, Monte Coulter, Stephen Craven, David Edwards, John Freeman, Diane Halstead, George Helton, Gale Iles, Brian O’Leary, Virginia Magnus, Elizabeth Bell for Mike Owens, Vicki Petzko, Gene Schlereth, Joey Shaw, Joyce Smith, Randy Walker, Dana Wertenberger, Li Yang

Members Absent: Pedro Campa, Kristi Gibbs, Greg Thibadoux

Ex-officio Members Present: Joe Dumas, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Raven Worthy

Ex-officio Members Absent: Stephanie Bellar, Theresa Liedtka

Guests: Sandy Zitkus

Summary of Actions

1. Passed revised “Proposed Changes to *Graduate Catalog* Language Regarding Use of Satisfactory Credit Toward Graduate Degrees;” 21-0-0
2. Graduate Faculty application recommendations were approved; 20-0-1.

Opening: Vicki Petzko called the meeting to order asking if there were corrections to the September 10 minutes. The Council accepted the minutes as presented.

Timelines for Theses and Dissertations: Vicki Petzko stated the dean of the Graduate School had asked that this discussion be postponed until the October 8 meeting. Petzko continued by stating the council could review the current timeline on pages 16, 17, and 23, of the graduate catalog to prepare for the conversation at the next meeting.

Proposed Changes to *Graduate Catalog* Language Regarding Use of Satisfactory Credit Toward Graduate Degrees: On behalf of The Graduate Council Doctoral Programs Task Force, Joe Dumas of the Graduate School presented the following handout and opened the conversation:

Currently, the *Graduate Catalog* only allows a maximum of six hours of “Satisfactory” graded work to be applied to any graduate degree (master’s specialist’s, or doctoral) per the language on page 22 under the “Grades” heading. A specific exception to this policy is articulated on the following page, allowing students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program to use the following three courses, graded Satisfactory/No Credit (S/NC), toward their degree: PHYT 527 (4 hours); PHTY 732 (4hours); and PHYT 734 (5 hours).

The Computational Engineering faculty have submitted a curriculum proposal to allow students in the Doctor of Philosophy program to use up to 12 hours of a proposed new “Doctoral Research” course in place of up to 12 of the 24 currently required hours of ENCM 799 Dissertation, which is graded on an SP/NP basis. The University Registrar has informed the author of the proposal that the proposed new course cannot be graded SP/NP because it is not actually Dissertation. Therefore, the ENCM faculty would like to use S/NC grading for the proposed course. However, since students would use of to 12

hours earned in this course toward their Ph.D. degrees, it would require an exception to the general policy similar to that already granted to the D.P.T. program.

Rather than create another special exception to the general policy, and in light of our observation that six hours is much less significant fraction of a doctoral program (72+ hours) than of a master's program (typically 30-36 hours), the Doctoral Programs Task Force recommends to the Graduate Council that the general limit on S/NC credit be adjusted for all doctoral programs. (Discussion revealed that the Learning and Leadership Ed.D. program faculty, like the Computational Engineering Ph.D. program faculty, would like to make increased use of S/NC credit for some courses that are not regular, classroom-based academic work.) Both of these programs would like the limit increased to at least 12 hours of satisfactory work, and since it is the desire of the Task Force to have a uniform limit for all doctoral programs, we propose that the limit for doctoral programs be increased to 13 semester hours.

Accordingly, we recommend that language in the *Graduate Catalog* relating to the use of "Satisfactory" graded work (earned in courses that are approved for S/NC grading) be changed as follows (text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~; text to be added is underlined :)

On page 22, under **Grades**:

S – is given for courses completed on a satisfactory/no credit basis. The hours are not computed in the grade point average. Satisfactory grades are limited to research, internships, practica, and elective courses and must be designated as such by course and not by individual student. No more than six hours of satisfactory credit may be applied toward a ~~graduate~~ master's or specialist's degree, and no more than thirteen hours of satisfactory credit may be applied toward a doctoral degree.

On page 23, under **Grades**, delete the following paragraph in its entirety since, when the previous change is made, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program will no longer need an exception from the general policy:

~~The UTC Graduate Council has a policy that states that students may take only six hours of graduate credit utilizing satisfactory/no credit grading. However, students enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy may be allowed to earn 13 credits of clinical education: PHYT 527 (4 hours); PHYT 732 (4 hours); and PHYT 734 (5 hours).~~

After discussion the Council requested the following revision to the language:

"S – is given for courses completed on a satisfactory/no credit basis. The hours are not computed in the grade point average. Satisfactory grades are limited to research, internships, practica, and elective courses and must be designated as such by course and not by individual student. No more than six hours of satisfactory credit may be applied toward a ~~graduate~~ master's degree; no more than six hours of satisfactory credit may be applied toward a specialist's degree and no more than thirteen hours of satisfactory credit may be applied toward a doctoral degree."

Brian O'Leary motioned the first reading with the revised language be approved with Joey Shaw seconded, and The Council approved with a vote of 21-0-0.

Provisional Letters: During Yvonne Kilpatrick's opening, it was discovered the information from the Banner Task Committee regarding the new provisional letter had not been received, therefore not incorporated; the review was postponed until the October 8 meeting.

Curriculum Items: Vicki Petzko stated the curriculum committee was still without a chair and asked for a volunteer. Discussion regarding whether it could be co-chaired and exactly how much extra work was involved for the chair person followed. Petzko asked the committee to meet following the Council's adjournment to find a solution which would allow the committee to move forward with their important work.

Graduate Faculty Committee: On behalf of the graduate faculty committee, Joe Dumas presented the recommendations for the graduate faculty applications which were received over the spring and summer. After reviewing the application and vetting processes, he asked if there were any questions. After a short discussion, Randy Walker moved to accept the recommendations which were seconded by Diane Halstead. The recommendations were approved by a council vote of 20-0-1. Dumas stated he would forward the recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate School who would review and if in agreement, make the appointments.

Other Matters: No additional issues were presented.

Vicki Petzko asked the curriculum committee meet following the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Uhles, CPS
Administrative Specialist
The Graduate School

On

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Uhles, CPS
Administrative Specialist
The Graduate School