

**MTSU Admissions and Standards Committee**  
**Monday, October 22, 2012 – COE 202**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

**Members in Attendance:** Charles Milligan (Chair), Kelly Bloom (Sec), Deb Sells, Jeanne Fain, Teresa Thomas, Sheila Otto, Ginny Vesper, Vivian Alley, Elvira Casal, Melinda Thomas, John Harms, Martha Balachandran

**I. Opening Comments**

All departments now have a charge to do a retention plan, so this could impact our workload in the spring. We are trying to clarify and streamline the process in anticipation of this, and will also set regularly scheduled meetings and deadlines.

**II. Approval of minutes from September 11, 2012, meeting**

- Minutes approved with no discussion

**III. Update on discussion with Curriculum Committee(CC) re: roles and responsibilities**

- Dr. Sells has created a test web site to mirror the Curriculum Committee's website. It starts with an opening page to help people clarify where their proposals need to go. It should be ready for view at our next meeting.
- The only overlap we identified between A&S and CC is related to admissions and standards for admission into and retention in majors. Something should be sent to A&S if it is a change that will affect a student's path to graduation, ie. changing GPA for graduation above and beyond graduation requirements for the University as a whole.
- A question was asked about changes in class prerequisites for admission to a major or program. This is something that needs to be explored.
- It was noted that proposals that come to A&S are all cases in which the proposal exceeds university standards already in place.
- Based on discussion today, Dr. Sells will work to place some examples of cases that come to A&S on the website to help clarify.
- Question asked: Are there comparable TBR forms in the system that we could use? This will keep us from reinventing the wheel. Dr. Sells will look into this, as well as into CC forms that can be adapted.
- Sheila and Elvira will work with Charles on adapting or developing necessary forms – due by mid-November.
- Update on website  
Included in notes above.

**IV. Old Business**

- No other old business.

**V. New Business**

- MTSU Admission Policy changed based on TBR Admissions Policy Revision
  - TBR has changed a policy related to checking for high school deficiencies.

- Currently MTSU checks for 14 units, looking for specific courses such as foreign languages. This could impact a student's acceptance or requirements at MTSU.
- The new TBR policy checks for 16 units, but specific courses are not singled out as requirements.
- TBR believes removing restrictions on which specific courses should be taken opens the door for more non-traditional students.
- Proposed revision to MTSU policy would place us in line with TBR policy and with other TBR institutions. Our new policy would be that students would be required to have met the graduation requirements of their home states.
- Dr. Sells pointed out that ACT and high school GPA are better predictors of retention and graduation rates than specific courses taken, and that adopting this policy will make us more competitive with other TN schools.
- This policy will take effect for students entering spring 2013 or after.
- Question was asked: *How would current students be affected?* Dr. Sells replied that a separate process, through the president's office, would be needed in order to make the policy retroactive for current students.
- Since students can now satisfy deficiencies along with general education requirements, the only area that will be affected would be foreign languages.
- Concern was expressed about the impact on foreign language programs and preparation of students.
- We were reassured that since TN high schools still require the foreign language as part of their 16 units, most of our students will still have taken two years of foreign language.
- GED students may not have had foreign language, but other TN graduates will.
- Students from other states will have as much foreign language as required for graduation from their states.
- Question was posed: *How well-known is this proposal? Have departments had a chance to weigh in?* It was admitted that the proposal had not been shared with foreign language departments. However, based on numbers currently enrolled in courses to satisfy FL deficiencies, Teresa Thomas does not feel it will make a significant impact on programs
- A motion was called for, and a motion was made to accept the proposal under the TBR policy. All those present voted in favor, with one abstention.

#### VI. 2012-2013 Admissions Catalog Revision

- Catalog changes are necessitated by acceptance of changes to align with TBR policy. These were made available for review. There was no discussion, and these changes were determined to be encompassed in the vote to adopt the TBR policy above.

#### VII. Others?

- No other items were presented.

#### VIII. Items for the good of the order

- Next meeting set for Monday, December 10th at 2 PM in COE 202.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.