

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 28, 2011

The Graduate Council met at 1:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Sam Ingram Building. Chair Clare Bratten presided.

I. Call to Order

Members present:

Kathy Burriss, Michael Chappell, Cosette Collier, Clay Cotham, John DiVincenzo, Kevin Donovan, Donald Lester, Bren Martin, Jason Reineke, Craig Rice, and Vince Smith

Ex-Officio members present:

Michael Allen, Dean, College of Graduate Studies
Peter Cunningham, Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies

II. Announcements

A. Dr. Clare Bratten, Chair

Dr. Bratten opened the meeting.

B. Dr. Michael Allen, Dean, College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Allen reported that MTSU has been ranked as a Doctoral Research University in the most recent Carnegie classification.

C. Dr. Peter Cunningham, Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Cunningham noted that Scholars Week will be held the week of April 4th-8th.

Dr. Cunningham is working on a Thesis and Dissertation Manual.

The College of Graduate Studies has a graduate assistant, Ashley Ellis, working with us to help the departments complete their graduate program brochures. She will be working with us through the month of July.

The next GRE Workshop will be February 4th-6th.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting—December 10, 2010

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2010. The motion was seconded and passed.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Graduate Faculty and Curriculum Review Dr. John DiVincenzo, Chair

- Consent calendar attached
- *A motion was made to accept the consent calendar. The motion was seconded and passed.*

B. Student Affairs and Travel Dr. Vicky MacLean, Chair

- No report

C. Policies and Procedures Dr. Vince Smith, Chair

- Dr. Smith presented a Proposal for Graduate Academic Fresh Start (attached). A motion was made to accept the proposal for Graduate Academic Fresh Start with a minor revision in wording on bullet point #2. *The motion was seconded and passed.*
- Dr. Smith presented a Proposal for the Policy on Required Competency in English for Graduate Teaching Assistants (attached). A motion was made to accept the proposal. *The motion was seconded and passed.*

D. Graduate Program Review Dr. Kevin Donovan, Chair

- No report

V. Old Business

- Dr. Kevin Donovan has scheduled an organizational meeting for the Graduate Student Association. The meeting will be held on Friday, February 11 @ 3:00 pm in the Faculty Senate Room, JUB 100.

VI. New Business

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Hawkins, Recording Secretary

Proposal for Graduate Academic Fresh Start MTSU College of Graduate Studies

Graduate Academic Fresh Start

Graduate Academic Fresh Start is a plan of academic forgiveness provided for graduate students who have gained maturity through extended experience outside higher education institutions. If granted, the Graduate Academic Fresh Start allows the calculation of the quality point average and credit hours toward graduation to be based only on work done after returning to graduate work.

The terms of the Graduate Academic Fresh Start are:

- Once the student has satisfied the described requirements below, the institution may grant the Academic Fresh Start. A student may be granted Academic Fresh Start only once.
- The student's permanent record will remain a record of all work; however, ~~none of the previously earned graduate credits may be used for degree or certificate purposes. the student will forfeit the use for degree or certification purposes all previous graduate college and university degree credit earned.~~
- An applicant for graduate academic fresh start must not have been a student at MTSU for a period of at least three (3) calendar years.
- The student must provide written justification for the request.
- The student must submit an application for readmission and any required admission documents for the program of study.
- The student's application for readmission and academic fresh start will be evaluated by the program. The program may recommend re-admission, re-admission with conditions, or may recommend denial of re-admission.
- Re-admission and fresh start is contingent upon approval by the graduate program and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.
- The student must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in all coursework (3.25 in doctoral programs) and must adhere to all policies and procedures of the College of Graduate Studies.
- All previous attempted courses taken as a graduate student at MTSU will be marked as Fresh Start. None of these courses may be used in the calculation of the GPA or for completion of another degree at MTSU.

- As an exception to the current course repeat rule (two courses maximum) additional courses may be repeated as appropriate.

Proposed Policy on Required Competency in English for Graduate Teaching Assistants

Pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 211 adopted by the 1984 General Assembly, the accreditation standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (4.4.1), and the Tennessee Board of Regents (Policy No. 5:02:01:03) MTSU requires all graduate teaching assistants (GTA) to demonstrate competency in spoken English.

Specifically, Graduate Teaching Assistants whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fluency in one of the following manners.

- Submission of a minimum score of 21 on the Speaking subscale of the iBT TOEFL for appointment where the GTA has direct verbal interactions with students.
- Submission of a minimum score of 26 on the Speaking subscale of the iBT TOEFL for appointment where the GTA presents lectures in the class or laboratory (A GTA presenting a score of 25 may be assigned to instructional duties on a probationary status for one semester.¹)
- Submission of a minimum score of 6.5 on the Speaking subscale of the academic version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test.
- Submission of a minimum score of 40 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit (SPEAK) for appointment where the GTA has direct verbal interactions with students.
- Submission of a minimum score of 50 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit (SPEAK) for appointment where the GTA presents lectures in the class or laboratory. (GTA presenting a score of 45 may be assigned to instructional duties on a probationary status for one semester.¹)

¹ *GTAs assigned instructional duties on a probationary status must be observed by a member of their department and a faculty member from another department to establish that they are successful in the performance of their teaching duties. Written verification of agreement among the two observers that the GTA is sufficiently fluent in English must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies before the GTA may be assigned teaching duties in a subsequent term.*

Note -Date of test score must be no more than two years prior to first semester at MTSU.

**Graduate Council – Consent Calendar
January 28, 2011**

Graduate Faculty Membership

Adjunct

Regina J. Boulware-Gooden / Dyslexic Studies

Associate

Cathy A. Cooper / Nursing

Full – Initial

Lynn Rice-See / Music

Doctoral – Initial

Scott H. Colclough / Health and Human Performance