

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 26, 2016

The Graduate Council met at 2:00 p.m. in Ingram 101. Chair Jennifer Vannatta-Hall presided.

I. Call to Order

Members present:

Jennifer Vannatta-Hall, Vishwas Bedekar, William Crabtree, Chris Quarto (for Virginia Dansby), Barbara Turnage, Bichaka Fayissa, Amy Harris, Robert Kalwinsky, Steve Livingston, Richard Meeks, Pamela Morris, Lynn Nelson, Brian Robertson, Monica Wallace, Jeremy Winters, Erynn Murray, and Kolby McGee Wright.

Ex-Officio/ Guests present:

Jackie Eller, Interim Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Vice Provost for Research
Scott Handy, Interim Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies

II. Announcements

a. Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall, Chair

- Dr. Vannatta-Hall opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

b. Dr. Scott Handy, Interim Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies

- Update about the Focus Bill: at the time there are more questions than answers. It is unclear how the bill will affect program development. Dr. Eller suspects that it will at least speed up the process. The relationship that TBR will maintain with universities is unclear but TBR will still manage Banner until a date in 2017. Updates will be provided when more information is known.

III. Approval of Minutes from last meeting – January 29th, 2016

The minutes were distributed to the Graduate Council for review. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 26th, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Graduate Faculty and Curriculum Review

Dr. Cliff Welborn, Chair

- The February Consent Calendar is attached.
- The Consent Calendar comes in the form of a motion. It was seconded and passed.

b. Student Affairs and Travel

Dr. Kathleen Darby, Chair

- Differential Assistantship pay update: no real consistency has been found as far as dollar amount goes for stipends in other universities but it is clear that there is a distinct difference between stipends for science students and other students. The exact dollar amount difference has been difficult to find as universities don't generally list their stipend amounts publicly. Additional measures are being taken to gather this data. Overall, no consistency is seen between the two brackets.
- The student travel fund is officially spent for this academic year. Dr. Eller encourages departments to have their students submit applications anyways so that we can develop a total that would have been needed to fund all students traveling for this academic year.

c. Policies and Procedures

Dr. Jeremy Winters, Chair

- Dr. Handy suggested that the policy regarding approval to chair a doctoral thesis be eliminated. This is due to conversations with other higher education administrators who indicate that their institutions do not implement an approval process outside of the individual departments and they have had no trouble with it.
- A new policy needs to be put into effect for managing the approval of graduate faculty applications that fall under the ambiguous category 'C' on the graduate faculty requirements list. It has been emphasized in the past to the departments that they can approve their graduate faculty from within (as long as the minimum standards of the College of Graduate Studies are met) and then simply forward the applications along to the Graduate Council for final review and approval but this suggestion has not been well received. This causes difficulty for the Faculty and Curriculum Sub-committee when applicants supporting evidence places them in category 'C'. Dr. Eller suggests possibly keeping requirements 'A' and 'B' solid and then requiring any departments who wish for their faculty to be able to make a case under 'C' to come up with a list of criteria that would be acceptable in their field. Criteria is necessary to avoid messy politics.
- A motion was made to mandate a timeline for departments to submit criteria for option 'C' and if a department does not submit criteria for option 'C' then their faculty may apply exclusively under 'A' and 'B'. This to be completed after proper verbiage and procedure is established. The sub-committee will submit suggestions for this at the March meeting of the Graduate Council. The motion was seconded and passed.

d. Graduate Program Review

Dr. Bichaka Fayissa, Chair

- Invitations and files through dropbox have been sent to those expected to attend the review for the mathematics program.
- Dr. Handy will send the program review report as soon as he has it

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

a. Dr. Scott Handy, Interim Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies

- Dr. Handy brought to the council the idea of a potential modification to the policy regarding suspension and probation for students. Currently, there is no input from the department during the appeals process when it could actually be extraordinarily helpful in assessing what a student really needs to do to graduate successfully. The department/program coordinator would be able to give a better recommendation about the things that a student should be required to complete in order to earn their degree. Dr. Handy suggested that the process be placed in the hands of the department initially. A first appeal would go through the program coordinator who would inform graduate studies if the appeal was accepted and then graduate studies would handle the logistics. If the appeal was not accepted, students would be allowed to make a second appeal to the college of graduate studies to examine further.
- In conjunction with this, Dr. Handy also brought to the matter of a 3 semester delay for Ph.D. students councils attention. Currently, Ph.D. students are not held accountable (as far as suspension is concerned) until after 3 semesters. Often by this point and problems that they student has encountered at too far advanced to be remedied. Dr. Handy suggested a possible revision of this policy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

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Graduate Council – Consent Calendar February 26, 2016

Graduate Faculty Membership

Full

Ngee Sing Chong / Chemistry / PhD
Scott Colclough / Health and Human Performance / DA
Louis Kyriakoudes / History / PhD
Patrick McCarthy / Psychology / PhD
Joan McRae / Foreign Language and Literature / PhD

Adjunct

Donna Baker / Albert Gore Research Center / MSLS
Victoria Counts / Psychology / MA
Leesa Harmon / Education Leadership / MSLS
LaDonna McFall / Education Leadership / EdD
Paula Van Regenmorter-Goes / Music / DMA

Graduate Curriculum Changes

Agriscience

Proposed New Course

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

- ABAS 6010 History and Philosophy of Agricultural Education, 3 credit hours
This will be a required core course for the M.Ed. Ad and Sup, Concentration in Agricultural Ed Leadership
- ABAS 6020 Principles of Agricultural Leadership, 3 credit hours
This will be a required core course for the M.Ed. Ad and Sup, Concentration in Agricultural Ed Leadership

Elementary and Special Education

Other

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

- YOED 6030 Delete from the Initial Licensure program

Require both ELED 6370 and SPED 6800 for the Initial Licensure program rather than either/or.

History

Inactivations

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

- Inactivate the Certificate in Archival Management
Inactivate the Certificate in Heritage Studies
Inactivate the Certificate in Historic Preservation

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Media and Entertainment

New Courses

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

- MC 6240 Social Media, 3 credit hours
This course will be a core course in the program
- MC 6500 Public Relations Research, 3 credit hours
This course will be a core course in the program
- MC 6210 Public Relations Management, 3 credit hours

Molecular Biosciences

Substantive Curriculum Revision and Change in Degree Requirements

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

Decrease in the number of credit hours with increased flexibility in course selection in addition to revision of 4 courses and 2 new courses

New Courses

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

- MOBI 7105 Experimental Techniques in Molecular Biosciences, 3 credit hours
- MOBI 7205 Dissertation Proposal Prep in Molecular Biosciences, 1 credit hour

Course Number/Title Change/Change in Credit Hours

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

- MOBI 7010 Change name to add 'in Molecular Biosciences' at the end and reduce credit hours from 4 to 1
- MOBI 7100 Change name from 'Research Ethics' to 'Experimental Design in Molecular Biosciences'
- MOBI 7300 Change name from 'Special Topics in Molecular Biosciences' to 'Current Topics in Scientific Literature and Communication in Molecular Biosciences'
- MOBI 7400 Change name from 'Seminar in Molecular Biosciences' to 'Current Topics in Scientific Literature and Communication in Molecular Biosciences II'

Nursing

Other

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

Change requirements for all concentration of the MSN program to read 'Complete 36 hours of graduate nursing courses with a 'B' or better in all courses'.

Change one admission requirement for the MSN program to read 'Applicant must possess and maintain an unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse in Tennessee or the state in which the clinical assignments are completed'.

Changes in Credit Hours/ Course Description

Changes to be effective Summer 2016

- NURS 6505 Change the course description to reflect contemporary content changes in the course

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Recording Arts

Change in Course Descriptions

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

MRAT 6010, MRAT 6030, MRAT 6040, MRAT 6050, MRAT 6070, MRAT 6090, MRAT 6110, MRAT 6120, MRAT 6130, MRAT 6140, MRAT 6145, MRAT 6210

New Course

Changes to be effective Fall 2016

MRAT 6300 Advanced Studio Production, 3 credit hours

MRAT 6275 Sound System Design and Optimization, 3 credit hours

MRAT 6175 Seminar in Sound Reinforcement, 3 credit hours