

University Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Richards Hall, VPAA Conference Room
November 11, 2016 – 12:05 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Dr. Margie Yates, Chair (COEHP)
Dr. A. Jauregui (TCOB)
Dr. Nicholas Bolden (COLS)
Dr. John Ellisor (COLS)
Dr. Tamara Condrey (COEHP)
Dr. Scott Harris (COA)
Dr. Kevin Burgess (COLS)

Dr. Clayton Nicks – rep. Dr. G. Blalock (COEHP)
Dr. Sumanth Yenduri- rep. Dr. Shamim Khan
(COB)
Dr. Ellen Roberts (AA)
Dr. Tina Butcher (AA), Ex Officio
Ms. Kristin Williams (EM), Ex Officio

Topics

Item 1. Approval of Minutes.

The council approved the October, 2016 meeting minutes with minor corrections.

Item 2. Report from Associate Provost for Graduate Studies.

Graduate Conference: Thanks were expressed to members of the Graduate Council for their help with the conference. There were a total of 59 presenters with regional representation, and there were 19 competitors for the 3MT competition. This was the largest attendance at the conference, with 171 attendees. The Graduate Conference Advisory Committee is reviewing aspects of the conference for changes to next year's event.

Graduate Enrollment: A handout showing year-to-year program enrollment and total graduate enrollment was reviewed. There is an increase in overall enrollment with 458 new students and increased retention. Dr. Roberts reminded the Council that there is still money available for recruitment grants and the application is on the Graduate School website.

Graduate Students Advisory Board: There will be a planned meeting on December 5, 2016 which will include a focus group on strategic planning.

Item 3: Old Business.

Approval of Graduate Faculty: The council approved membership at the full level for three applicants and provisional level for one applicant. One application was returned to the respective Department Chair for a statement on teaching effectiveness and one application was returned due to being incomplete (needed Department Chair's statement).

Review of New Standards for Graduate Faculty, effective 2017: Tabled until next meeting due to time constraints.

Item 4: New Business.

Proposal for Program Change for the MS in Exercise Science: The council discussed the proposal from the HPEX department for a change from 36 hours to 30 hours required for the degree. Change based on the potential to boost enrollment and decrease faculty workload with reduced hours required; degree is based primarily on core classes (18 hours) with electives reduced from 18 to 12 hours. This is compliant with BOR and has been approved by the COEHP curriculum committee. A motion was passed to approve it with consideration of suggestions made for changes to the revised program of study. Proposal will move forward to the next stage.

Deactivation of MM Music Education Degree: The council discussed the deactivation of the degree due to minimal enrollment and lack of sustainability with the determination by the COA of a decreased regional need. A motion was passed to approve the deactivation and the proposal will move forward to the next stage.

Transfer Credit Policy: The policy for transfer credits was discussed due to a request to accept transfer credits from a non-accredited institution. According to SACS policy, credit hours must be reviewed and considered with a syllabus and faculty member's vita supplied by the student. Committee discussed whether this applied to international students and foreign universities and these transcripts would still be evaluated by a 3rd party. There will still be a limit of 9 credit hours that can be transferred for the graduate program. A motion was passed to approve this change to policy.

Degree Program Tracks: Council discussion on students who want to take two tracks with the same degree program and how this can be listed on the transcript to indicate two different degrees- at this time, the one track is the student's major. Council members agreed with the concept to take additional tracks to enhance the student's resume. Concern voiced regarding the overlap of courses between each track and that students are utilizing the shortcuts of these to have multiple degrees. All graduate faculty council members to review tracks within their College to determine how many instances of overlap exist. Discussion tabled at this time until further review can be completed.

Item 5: Announcements.

No new announcements- meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Next meeting: December 9, 2016 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Tamara Condrey