

**Graduate Council Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**Mendenhall Student Center 221**  
**September 24, 2012**  
**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Present: Atkinson, Terry; Cox, Kathy; Decker, Jim; Eble, Michelle; Franklin, Richard; Gares, Paul; Gemperline, Paul; Griffin, Linner; Harer, John; Keiper, Brett; Lamson, Angela; McConnell, Tom; McFadden, Cheryl; Morehead, Andrew; Mott, Vivian; Ozan, Erol; Patterson, Belinda; Pokorny, Marie; Prividera, Laura; Quinn, Robert (for Cynthia Bickley-Green); Reisch, John; Ries, Heather; Russoniello, Carmen; Schwager, Paul; Sprague, Mark; Thompson, Bob; Vogelsong, Hans; Walker, Mariana; and Terry West.

1. Call meeting to order  
2:07 PM
2. Approval of the August 27, 2012 Graduate Council Minutes  
Approved
3. Approval of the September 5, 2012 Graduate Curriculum Minutes  
Action Items:
  - Proposal of new courses: SUTO 6600, 6620, 6700, 6710, 6900
  - Editorial revision of program text: MS Sustainable Tourism
  - Revision of existing degree: MS in Sustainable Tourism
  - Proposal of new courses: SCIE 6005, 6030, 6320
  - Revision of existing courses: SCIE 6003, 6004, 6020, 6310, 6500, 6600
  - Deletion of existing course: SCIE 5010
  - Revision of existing course: MAEd in Science Education
  - Proposal of new course: ONCO 7200
  - New Departmental Text: Department of Oncology
  - Proposal of new course: BIOC 7365
  - Editorial revision of departmental text: Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
  - Proposal of new course: ANAT 7365
  - Approved
4. GCC Membership Drive Update
  - New members: Linda Mayne, Amy Carr-Richardson, [Rich](#) Franklin
  - member needed from the College of Allied Health Sciences
5. Election of Graduate Council Officers and Graduate Council Executive Committee Members
  - Graduate Council Officers:
    - Chair: Terry West
    - **Vice-Chair**: Cheryl McFadden

- Executive Committee Members: Paul Schwager, Heather Ries, Terry Atkinson, and Kathy Cox

6. Report on the ad hoc committee on the plus/minus grading system

- Survey results show a split between those in favor and those not in favor
  - Support – provides a clear delineation of grades within a range
  - Do not support - Great emphasis should be placed on learning instead of GPA
- Solicited feedback from peer institutions (telephone calls and emailing a list-serv for deans and associate deans)
  - Feedback mixed with different variations of grading systems being used
- Feedback from the Graduate Council is mixed
  - Fundamental question of what is an A, B, C, etc.
  - Differences in rigor greater concern
  - Question raised if funding for graduate students would be contingent on the plus/minus system
- Plus/minus system would present no SACS issues
- Committee did not make any recommendations and solicited feedback from the Graduate Council as to whether or not to proceed
  - Consensus by the Graduate Council to wait a year and examine the issue after observing how the plus/minus systems works with undergraduates

7. Report on graduate enrollment: Fall 2011 versus Fall 2012

- 5 year enrollment data from the Graduate School (doesn't exactly match IPAR numbers)
  - Grand totals follow with the trends of numbers reported by IPAR
- This is preliminary data that can gauge how enrollment has changed in the last 6 years
  - Declining graduate enrollment is a national trend
  - The Graduate School is working on retention, degree completion, and attrition data to share with graduate program directors and college deans
- A primary concern of the chancellor is declining graduate enrollment
- Enrollment management entails recruitment, admission, and retention
  - Graduate School will continue to work with University Marketing and Publications on development of Google advertisements for the graduate school
  - Gradschools.com has been a helpful recruiting tool for several program directors
  - Dr. Gemperline suggested following up with prospective students in order to keep their interest level high
  - It will take a multi-faceted team effort to combat external threats to graduate enrollment such as for-profit colleges
- Dr. Gemperline requested Council members to review relevant data and initiate discussions with those in their college and departments regarding specific changes they would like to see made

8. Update on Graduate Assistantship RFP

- 3 workshops held
- Supporting details on server

9. Revised Graduate School Appeals Policy

- Recommended changes incorporated
  - *Policy revision provides for appeals for reasons of unsatisfactory performance on comprehensive assessments, academic probation for reasons of unsatisfactory progress, or dismissal from the graduate program except for reasons of insufficient GPA. Students cannot appeal for insufficient grade point average.*
- Approved as amended

10. Follow up report Graduate Student Orientation

- Modules were developed on the Blackboard platform for the graduate student orientation
  - 1500 students enrolled in the course (non-degree and certificate students were included)
  - Modules on academic regulations, professional and research conduct, clinical information, teaching, non-degree, distance education, and library resources
  - Each module developed by different members of working committee
  - Assignments are a mix of agreements and quizzes to determine completion
  - Suggestion to embed the checklist with the signature of completion
- Request for new volunteers for help making improvements to the courses for next year
- A new on-campus orientation format was also successfully implemented with requested suggestions (weekday, bus service, drop- in sessions etc.)

11. Adjourn:

3:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy E. Tripp