

**Graduate Council Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Mendenhall Student Center**  
**October 22, 2012**  
**2:00-4:00 PM**

Present: Armstrong, Robin; Atkinson, Terry; Bickley-Green, Cynthia; Decker, Jim; Eble, Michelle; Franklin, Richard; Gares, Paul; Griffin, Linner; Harer, John; Keiper, Brett; Lamson, Angela; McConnell, Tom; McFadden, Cheryl; Patterson, Belinda; Pokorny, Marie; Pressler, Jana; Preston, Ron; Ries, Heather; Schwager, Paul; Terjanian, Anoush; Thompson, Bob; Vogelsong, Hans; and Terry West

1. Call to order:

- 2:05 PM
- New Graduate Council members from the College of Education announced: Ron Preston, Terry Atkinson (term renewed), and Carol Brown (alternate)

2. Approval of the 9/24/2012 GC minutes  
Approved

3. Approval of the 9/19/12 GCC minutes

- Action Items
  - Proposal of New Courses: SUTO 6600, 660, 6700, 6710, 6900
  - Editorial Revision of Program Text: MS in Sustainable Tourism
  - Revision of Existing Degree: MS in Sustainable Tourism
  - Deletion of Existing Courses: PATH 6840, 6841, 6842, 6843
- Approved

4. Approval of the 10/3/12

- Action Items
  - Proposal of New Certificate: Certificate in Teaching English in the Two-Year College
- Approved

5. Statement of academic freedom – for approval

- Identical to the academic freedom statement in the undergraduate catalog
- Question on the parameters of the academic freedom statement (ex: pornography at the library)
- Tabled to allow time to investigate current policies which may directly impact this policy (using state resources to view pornography, sexual harassment, racism etc.)

6. Discussion: Faculty mentor awards

- Faculty mentor awards are established at other universities
- Recipients can receive national recognition
- Request for volunteers to serve on an ad-hoc committee to research what other schools are doing regarding criteria for mentorship
  - Cheryl McFadden, Ron Preston, and Terry Atkinson will form ad-hoc committee
  - There will also be student representation on the ad-hoc committee
  - Dr. West will ask 2 PhD students to serve on the committee

- Aim to have the first faculty mentor recipient in time for this year's Research and Creative Achievement week
- Concern that smaller programs may have difficulty nominating faculty mentors
- Committee will discuss criteria for nomination, the nomination process, and other issues such as discernment between master's and doctoral students
- Committee will report to the Graduate Council at the next meeting

#### 7. Discussion: Advancement to Doctoral Candidacy

- Process of advancing to candidacy is not addressed in the Graduate Catalog
  - Comprehensive assessment/examination which also can be called a qualifying exam
  - Include a timeline and set of goals to be met by students/mentors
- The text to be considered for inclusion into the Graduate Catalog should be general
  - Students are made aware of this step in the process towards degree completion and candidacy will be defined in general terms
  - Programs will define criteria for advancing to candidacy with greater specificity and detail
  - Concern that if statement is too general, conflict and confusion will be created for administrators and students
- Valuable to include a statement in the Graduate Catalog because by describing the process for advancing to candidacy it will assist in operationalizing benchmarks for tracking progress towards graduation (retention factor) and allowing students to understand what is expected of them
- Terry West will send a draft of general statement to graduate program directors for feedback and bring back to next Graduate Council meeting for further discussion.

#### 8. Call to adjourn

3:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy E. Tripp