

GRADUATE DEANS' GROUP  
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.  
4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, ANDY HOLT TOWER

Attending

Mary E. Papke (Chair), Tammy Barnhart, Mary Albrecht, Bill Dunne, Jerry Faria, Jim Gehlhar, Tom George, Alan Hollis, Anne Mayhew, Sally McMillan, Buddy Moore, Matthew Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Masood Parang, Linda Phillips, K.C. Reddy, Kay Reed.

1. Call to Order – Dr. Mary E. Papke, Chair.
2. Faculty Senate Student Concerns Committee – Proposal for Graduate Student Resource Center – Dr. Anne Mayhew

At the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year the Faculty Senate Student Concerns Committee met with representatives from the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) and the Student Government Association (SGA) to discuss concerns and ideas regarding student affairs. From this meeting, the committee proposed the establishment of a Graduate Student Resource Center to the Graduate School. Mayhew reported that the Office of Graduate Student Services welcomes the suggestion of a Graduate Student Resource Center and after review of this proposal (Attachment 1) the Graduate School will proceed as stated (Attachment 2).

3. NRC Survey of Doctoral Programs – Update – Dr. Anne Mayhew

Mayhew distributed the proposed timeline for the NRC Data Collection. This timeline and taxonomy info can be obtained from the website below:

[http://www7nationalacademies.org/resdoc/study\\_timetable.html](http://www7nationalacademies.org/resdoc/study_timetable.html)

4. Announcement of Graduate Studies Fellowships 2006-2007 – Dr. Anne Mayhew

Mayhew announced the 2006-2007 Graduate Studies Fellowship Award Offers (Attachment 3). The overall number of applicants nominated for these fellowships was considerably lower than expected.

5. Departmental Graduate Student Handbooks – Dr. Mary E. Papke

Papke announced that all departments must submit updated Graduate Handbooks for Fall 2006 to the Associate Dean for review by August 15.

6. Announcements – Dr. Mary E. Papke

- The announcement was made that Dr. Anne Mayhew will be retiring in August 2006.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Committee Members:**

**Kathryn Elam (SGA Senator), Brett Giordano (SGA Senator), J.J. Brown (Assoc. Dean of Students), Louis Gross, Andrew Haddow (GSS President), Deseriee Kennedy, Catherine Luther (Chair), Peggy Pierce, Tim Rogers (ex-officio)**

As a student-driven committee, UTK's Faculty Senate Student Concerns Committee met with representatives from GSS and SGA at the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year in order to discuss their concerns and ideas regarding student affairs. From this discussion, the committee was able to agree that one of our charges would be to assist in the design and creation of a graduate student resource center that would provide students with information regarding external and internal funding opportunities. The center would also provide workshops and/or training sessions on carrying out successful interviews in the scholarship/fellowship application process. Although primarily designed for graduate students, undergraduate students would also be able to take advantage of the center.

In order to help carry out the objective of creating such a center, the following steps were taken:

- The committee researched the type of assistance graduate students were now being provided by the University of Tennessee in terms of the type of support mentioned above.

**Major Conclusions from Research:**

*UT Career Services* – The office tends to focus more on undergraduate students. It generally does not handle grant and scholarship opportunities.

*Graduate Studies Office* – The office does offer information regarding internal fellowships and other internal funding sources; however, a centralized system offering information regarding external scholarship/fellowship and grant opportunities does not exist. Such information is left to the individual academic units on campus. Interview training sessions designed to help students successfully gain scholarships and fellowships does not exist.

*Student Success Center* – The center currently refers students to appropriate contact persons within academic units for different grants, scholarships, and fellowships. The center primarily serves undergraduate students.

*Center for International Education* – CIE's unit, The Study Abroad Program, does handle student inquiries into study abroad programs and scholarships and holds general informational meetings. The program, however, is designed for programs abroad and no training is provided in terms of the interview process.

- The committee examined the type of grant/fellowship support systems that exist at other academic institutions in the United States. A GSS committee under the direction of GSS President Andrew Haddow researched such existence. The Faculty Senate Student Concerns Committee was presented with the information. Institutions such as the University of California Berkeley, Cornell University, North Carolina State University, and the University of California Los Angeles were among the institutions that had impressive graduate student support systems in place. The information helped the committee better conceptualize what is needed here at the University of Tennessee.

**Faculty Senate Student Concerns Committee  
Proposal for Graduate Student Resource Center**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

The Faculty Senate Student Concerns Committee would now like to request that the University of Tennessee consider establishing the following for its graduate students:

- ❖ Create a Graduate Student Resource Center as a part of the University of Tennessee's Graduate Studies to assist graduate students in attaining knowledge about external funding opportunities and provide workshops designed to train students to be successful in the interview process often accompanying fellowship applications.
- ❖ As part of this center, create and maintain a database that would allow students to easily access information and applications to various grants, scholarships, and fellowships. It would also list all graduate student assistantships that are not directly associated with any school or department (e.g., assistantships offered by digital media services).
- ❖ As part of this center, create and maintain a Web site that would have a link to the funding opportunity database. The Web site would also be a site that would publicize major graduate student accomplishments such as prestigious awards and publications.

Rationale for Proposed Graduate Student Resource Center/Web site:

- ❖ The goal of moving UTK to AAU status requires an emphasis on improving a number of metrics of student success. The efforts to date have focused on undergraduate performance, yet top-rated research institutions with which UTK would like to be viewed as competitive make significant efforts to encourage their graduate students as well to apply for, and be successful at obtaining, prestigious fellowships and awards. While faculty and individual departments have a major role in this, student success and faculty assistance can be greatly enhanced through a centralized resource such as suggested here. The routes to success for many prestigious fellowship opportunities are similar (e.g. NSF doctoral dissertation improvement, EPA STAR Fellowships, etc.) and workshops on what leads to success in these competitions would benefit students across many departments.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### Graduate Studies Response to Proposal for Graduate Student Resource Center

The Office of Graduate Student Services welcomes the suggestion to establish a Graduate Student Resource Center. Taking each part of the recommendation separately here are the actions that we suggest.

(1) The Dean of Graduate Studies should consult with the Office of Research, the Advising Committee of the Undergraduate Council, and the staff of the Office of Graduate Student Services to determine the best way to collect information on external funding opportunities, grants, scholarships and fellowships and to determine the best way to make this information available to graduate students. As space to create a new office to house the Center is unlikely to be available, it would be best to consider both a web site (see#3) and use of existing space, perhaps in the UC in the Graduate Student Senate office.

(2) Discuss with the Graduate Deans group the best way to provide training for interviews. Should this be done centrally or at the college or departmental level? Who would be involved in the training? If the Faculty Senate Student Concerns Committee has models from other universities this information could be valuable for this discussion.

(3) The Office of Graduate Student Services will consider a linkage of the web site in #2 with the current Graduate Studies web site.

Prestigious awards are currently announced through departmental and college, and in some cases university publications, and through press releases. It would be very time consuming and would require appointment of new staff to maintain a site with all such information and publications as well. This recommendation will be taken to the Graduate Deans and to the Graduate Council for discussion of the benefits and the additional funds that would be required.

April 6, 2006

**ATTACHMENT 3  
GRADUATE STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS  
2006-2007 AWARD OFFERS**

**BLACK GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP 2006-2007**

**\$20,000 Stipend plus Tuition**

Branch, Eli	Civil Engineering, M.S.	Engineering	(Accepted)
Ducking, Johnny	Economics, Ph.D.	Business Administration	
Jean-Philippe, Sharon	Natural Resources, Ph.D.	Agric. Sci., & Nat.'l Res.	(Accepted)
Jones, Patricia	Sports Studies, M.S.	Educ., Hlth, & Human Sci.	(Accepted)
Moore, Lakesha	Art, M.F.A.	Arts & Sciences	
Relford, Charlane	Public Administration, M.P.A.	Arts & Sciences	(Accepted)
Sanders, LaRonda	English, M.A.	Arts & Sciences	
Upton, Rachel	Statistics, M.S.	Business Administration	

**J. WALLACE & KATIE DEAN FELLOWSHIP 2006-2007**

**\$15,000 Stipend**

Engbers, John	Mathematics, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	
Krause, Diane	Nutrition, M.S.	Educ., Hlth, & Human Sci.	(Accepted)
Munnich, Elizabeth	Economics, M.A.	Business Administration	
Orth, Julia	Psychology, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	
Ruark, Sarah	Entomology & Plant Pathology, M.S.	Agric. Sci., & Nat.'l Res.	(Rejected)
Sheats, Emily	Materials Science & Engineering, M.S.	Engineering	

**LORI MAYER FELLOWSHIP 2006-2007**

**\$7,000 Stipend**

Borsari, Clare	Architecture, M.Arch.	Architecture and Design	(Accepted)
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**SPIVEY FELLOWSHIP 2006-2007**

**\$15,000 Stipend**

Beck, Biana	Art, M.F.A.	Arts & Sciences	
Clapper, Daniel	History, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	
Gacs, Adam	German, M.A.	Arts & Sciences	
Haschemeyer, Andrew	English, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	
Hooper, Teresa	English, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	(Accepted)
Plavnieks, Richard	History, M.A.	Arts & Sciences	

**YATES FELLOWSHIP 2006-2007**

**\$15,000 Stipend**

Aldridge, Mathew	Computer Science, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	
Douglass, Kimberly	Political Science, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	(Accepted)
Hess, Tanya	Psychology, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	(Accepted)
Kuznetsova, Valentina	Physics, Ph.D.	Arts & Sciences	(Accepted)

**BRUCE PAINTER & EVA WOODY SEATON FELLOWSHIP 2006-2007**

**\$3,000 Stipend**

Powell, Ann Marie	Information Sciences, M.S.	Communication & Information	(Accepted)
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