

GRADUATE DEANS' GROUP
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2007, 2:00–3:30 P.M.
4th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, ANDY HOLT TOWER

Attending:

Mary Albrecht (Chair), Bruce Bomar, William Dunne, Jerry Faria, Sarah Gardial, Thomas George, Carolyn Hodges, George Hoemann, Barbara Klinkhammer, , Jan Lee, Mohanan M. K., Sally McMillan, Buddy Moore, Matthew Murray, Joann Ng Hartmann, Masood Parang, Linda Phillips, Kay Reed.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mary Albrecht, Chair. Albrecht reviewed the bylaws of the group. She noted that the bylaws call for the Associate Dean of the Graduate School to serve as Chair of the group. Since Mary Papke has become an Associate to the Chancellor full-time and a search will be conducted this semester to replace her as Associate Dean, a member of the group was asked to serve as Chair. The bylaws may be found at

<http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/GradDean/GradDeanOperatingGuidelines.pdf>

1. Carolyn R. Hodges, Dean of the Graduate School, reported on the following Graduate Council and Graduate School activities:
 - Meeting with Chairs of the Graduate Council Committees to review the roles of each committee in the process of policy development for graduate education at UTK.
 - Reviewing curriculum process to analyze ways to streamline the steps. Provost Holub has asked that this review be done.
 - Changing the Appeals Committee to have appointed members and a Chair rather than an ad hoc group.
 - Working with the Professional Development Committee to actively solicit a broader participation across campus in the proposal competition.
 - Developing bylaws for the Graduate Council. Matthew Murray, Chair of the Graduate Council, noted that each of the standing committees has a set of bylaws but that the Council needs much more definition and structure than what is currently in place.
 - Reviewing alternatives to the current English language test for admission.
 - Discussing the possibility of instituting plus/minus grading along with the Undergraduate Council.

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- Developing joint degree programs. Hodges reported that she and Masood Parang are putting together a committee to study joint degree programs.
 - Launching two task forces. One task force will review the structure of the Graduate School and develop some recommendations that can be presented to the Graduate Council and to the central administration. The second task force will review the policies and administration of graduate assistantships to develop recommendations for Graduate Council and central administration.
 - Developing a Diversity Plan for the Graduate School with the assistance of the Graduate Deans' Group.
 - Continuing the production of the Best Practices in Teaching Program designed to assist graduate teaching assistants/associates, post doctoral fellows, and new faculty.
 - Creating a workshop for doctoral students beginning their dissertations. Linda Phillips announced that the University Libraries and the Graduate School are collaborating on the workshop to be offered on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. Phillips asked the group to help identify students who could be targeted for attendance of the workshop.
2. Albrecht asked the group for input on the agenda for the group's meetings during the year. Members suggested discussion of the following items:
- The Bologna Agreement and possible changes in admission policy related to that European development of standardized 3-year bachelor's degrees.
 - Academic honesty related to graduate education.
 - Non-degree admission status for international graduate students.
 - Review of an article entitled "University Publishing in the Electronic Age." (<http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/index.jsp>) Phillips reported that UTK has a scholarly archive that serves as an institutional repository.
 - Plan to update the information that was developed for the National Research Council (NRC) Doctoral Degree Survey. William Dunne reported that the process involved a verification of data that is helpful in creating valid program information.

Albrecht asked the group to propose possible guests to invite to the meetings during the year. Brad Fenwick, the new Vice Chancellor for Research, was discussed. Hodges will extend an invitation to him to attend a meeting soon to speak with the group. Other

possible future guests mentioned were the new Director for the Center for International Education, the new Director of Institutional Research, and Linda Painter, Special Assistant to the UT President on Banner Software Implementation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.