

**Graduate Council**  
**September 14, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present**

Irene Pintado	Sheila Adams
Brian Anderson	Marty Brock
Kendall Dunkelberg	Scott Tollison
David Carter	Dee Dee Larson
Teresa Hamill	Lorraine Gaddis
Carey McCarter	Peppy Bidy
Marty Hatton	Lynn Dobbs
Royal Toy (by phone)	

The Graduate Council met on September 14, 2017, in Cochran. The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

**Faculty Credentials**

The credentials for the following proposed graduate faculty members were reviewed and unanimously approved for their respective programs:

- Brandi Jo Lambert – Graduate Nursing
- Sally Pearson – Graduate Nursing
- Michael Smith – Creative Writing
- Chanley Rainey – Women’s Leadership
- Hortencia Kayser – Speech Language Pathology

**Old Business**

- Review of 2016-2017 GC Changes for Bulletin Update

Please review all pages and web pages and verify that all links are working. Please notify the Graduate Office of any issues or changes to be made to programs or graduate studies as soon as possible.

## **Creative Writing**

Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg presented the following proposal for review:

- Modify EN 599 -- Thesis  
Change from 3-6 credit hours to 1-6 credit hours

This modification will allow students to choose how they complete their thesis and be able to customize their course schedule. If approved, the change would take effect in spring 2018. David Carter made the motion to accept the change to the credit hours for EN 599. Peppy Bidy seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **New Business**

- Repeated Grade GPA Calculation  
Marty Hatton reviewed the issues related to the GPA calculation for repeated courses. The current language in the graduate bulletin:

### Repeated Courses

A graduate student may repeat a course only once during his or her graduate career. Student may not repeat a course for which they received an A (including transfer courses). The second grade will stand as the official grade, and both grades will be calculated into the student's grade point average. However, credit hours for the course will be counted only once in the total number of hours earned. This policy does not apply to courses designated as repeatable in the bulletin (see individual course descriptions). Students may audit a course in which they previously received a grade of A.

Part of the issue is that banner is actually overwriting the first grade with the second grade which makes the first grade unavailable for calculating the GPA. At the moment, it is a manual process for graduate studies, the Registrar, and the colleges for GPA.

Peppy Bidy made the motion to reword the bulletin to read “may repeat only one course once during...” and changing “Student” to “Students” as the first word of the second sentence. Sheila Adams seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The proposed revised language should read:

#### Repeated Courses

A graduate student may repeat only one course only once during his or her graduate career. Students may not repeat a course for which they received an A (including transfer courses). The second grade will stand as the official grade, and both grades will be calculated into the student’s grade point average. However, credit hours for the course will be counted only once in the total number of hours earned. This policy does not apply to courses designated as repeatable in the bulletin (see individual course descriptions). Students may audit a course in which they previously received a grade of A.

- MBA Tuition and Fee Reduction Proposal – Scott Tollison

The Master of Business Administration is in a very competitive market. Some graduate and undergraduate programs have lowered the tuition and fees in response to the increased competition of online degree programs. In order to attract more students to their program, Dr. Tollison proposed a new fee structure that would allow students to complete the MBA for \$10,000. This represents a savings of \$4,128.

Dr. Adams sees this problem all over the state where programs are undercutting public universities. She would like to have Noel- Levitz address this and help decide what to do.

Dr. Dunkelberg was concerned with the impact this might cause with students in other programs that would see different levels of costs.

Royal Toy made the motion to support the proposal for redesign. David Carter seconded and the motion was approved with one dissenting vote. Dr. Adams opposed on the basis that it’s a problem for other programs and needs to be reviewed.

- Research Outcome Results Report

The Graduate Council has been tasked with evaluation of the Research Outcomes for graduate programs. The summary will be used to verify that the research portion of our SACSCOC institutional effectiveness (to comply with comprehensive standard 3.3.1.4) has been vetted in an appropriate review process.

Dr. Adams described what they had to do for accreditation, which is repeated on a yearly basis, and which makes their three-year report much easier to pull together. Dr. Brock said that they conduct a similar review for program-specific accreditation.

The Council reviewed the report as presented and agreed there were no recommendations to make at this time pending the Council's verification that each program uses their results for continuous improvement. Dr. Hatton agreed to request a revised version of the report that included use of results for additional review and also asked that each program devise a program-specific definition of research to be reviewed by the Council. Approved definitions would be forwarded to Institutional Research and Assessment.

David Carter made the motion to support the Council's vote of "no additional recommendations at this time" for the Research Outcomes report as presented. Brian Anderson seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Additionally, the Council agreed to review a revision of the report that included use of results and to develop program-specific definitions of research.

## **Homework**

- The Council will review the revised Research Outcomes report that includes use of results for discussion in the October Graduate Council meeting.
- Programs will identify and define both conceptually and operationally what is meant by research. Each program-specific definition of research should be operationalized to address what we can measure or assess and be appropriately aligned with each program's student learning outcomes, or the academic objectives each program is designed to achieve.

Our next meeting will be October 12, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. Proposals and agenda items will be due by noon October 4, 2017.