

Graduate Council Meeting
Minutes
October 10, 2011

Present: Tayebi, Ashorn, Bilhartz, Gaillard, Irby, Lane, Lesesne, Vaughn

- I. Approve Minutes
The minutes from the September 12, 2011 Graduate Council meeting were approved.
- II. Graduate Faculty Recommendations
Graduate Faculty Recommendations were voted on by the Council.
- III. ATGS Meeting
Dr. Tayebi attended the annual meeting of the Association of Texas Graduate Schools. She met with other Texas deans and administrators and attended sessions regarding new and innovative ideas and procedures for the future success of graduate studies throughout the state of Texas. The Commissioner spoke with the attendees and stated that graduate education needs to be overhauled. One suggestion is to move to competency degrees. For example, someone who has business background would receive credit for the knowledge and experience he/she already has. He said this is the way of the future. Additionally, when applying for doctoral degrees, universities will have to prove more than just student demand. Universities will have to show why a student would choose to attend their university over UT or A&M.
- IV. Continuous Enrollment – CAD (Council of Academic Deans)
The deans (members of CAD) suggested that graduate students should enroll in dissertation/thesis hours until they have completed the required amount for the degree and then shouldn't enroll again until they are ready to graduate. In this way, students would lower the expense for the program. If a student continues to work on the dissertation/thesis after the required hours are completed, the departments should be in charge of ensuring that students meet certain benchmarks to continue in the program and keeping track of the students throughout the program. The Council does not agree with this. They believe that it will result in fewer students completing the degree and in loss of funds. The Council has provided information showing the amount of money lost under the current CAD proposal. The Council suggests that students enroll for one hour continuously after the program requirements for dissertation/thesis hours are met.
- V. Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
Sommer Franklin has been named Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. This year, she will take on the responsibility of major reporting to the Board of Regents and will in the future take on assessment (SACS).

VI. Dissertations and Theses

In mid-Spring, Dr. Tayebi will bring in samples of dissertations and theses to review using a rubric. These will be random samples to ensure the quality of dissertations and theses.

Council was asked to think of issues that students are having completing dissertations or theses.

VII. Miscellaneous

In CAD, the graduate deans discussed moving to hooding MFA students at graduation because they are receiving their terminal degree in their field. There appeared to be no disagreement to this by the Council.