Minutes of the 1st meeting of
The Graduate Council
2011-2012

Date and Time: Thursday, September 1, 2011
Place: Room 244, Administration Building

Attendance: Dr. Hansel Burley, Dr. Donna Davis, Dr. Gary Elbow, Dr. Ann Hawkins,
Dr. Ram Iyer, Dr. Priyantha Jayawickrama, Dr. Eileen Johnson, Dr. Johnny
Sparks, Dr. Michael Stoune, Dr. Betty Stout, Dr. Carrye Syma

Ex-officio: Ms. Earnstein Dukes, Dr. Duane Crawford, Dr. Clifford Fedler,
Dr. Ralph Ferguson, Ms. Pam Johnson, Dr. Peggy Miller, Dr. Rob Stewart

Visitors: Dr. Melanie Hart, Dr. Eric Hequet, Dr. Cal Lewis, Dr. Jorge
Ramirez

I. The Graduate Council minutes are available in the Graduate School office and on the Graduate
School website at www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool.

II. A motion was made by Michael Stoune and seconded by Eileen Johnson to approve the minutes
from the 9th meeting of the Graduate Council held on Thursday, June 23, 2011. The Graduate
Council approved these minutes.

III. Students admitted to Doctoral Candidacy.

The following students were admitted to candidacy for the doctorate on the recommendation of
their departments. A motion was made by Michael Stoune and seconded by Betty Stout. The
Graduate Council approved these candidates.

Sam Al-Hashmi................................................................................................. Mechanical Engineering
Abdullah Al-Najem............................................................................................Petroleum Engineering
Ghazi Alqahtani ...............................................................................................Petroleum Engineering
Brittany Baker....................................................................................................Physics
Swastika Bithi....................................................................................................Chemical Engineering
G. David Clark ....................................................................................................English
Jeff Day ...............................................................................................................Fine Arts Theatre
Jesus Gamez.....................................................................................................Curriculum and Instruction
Ching Gu ................................................................. Business Administration
Rajat Gupta ................................................................. Biology
R. Doug Holt ................................................................. Wildlife Science and Aquatic Wildlands
Tiffany Hopper ................................................................. Biology
Lance Hunter ................................................................. Political Science
Keertisa Kappagantula ................................................................. Mechanical Engineering
Charles Klein ................................................................. Agricultural Education
Carie Lambert ................................................................. Technical Communication and Rhetoric
Jae Lee ................................................................. Performance
Cui Liu ................................................................. Civil Engineering
Alejandra Melo ................................................................. Business Administration
Ruben Quesada ................................................................. English
Sara Richardson ................................................................. English
Alime Sadikova ................................................................. Educational Leadership
Dara Schneiderjans ................................................................. Business Administration
Tracy Taylor ................................................................. Educational Leadership
Deois Ua Cearnaigh ................................................................. Chemistry
Yang Yu ................................................................. Business Administration

IV. Graduate Faculty.

After discussion and changes of a motion presented by Gary Elbow, the following motion was made by Gary Elbow, seconded by Michael Stoune and passed by the Graduate Council.

**Proposal for revising Graduate Faculty Status**

**Current Procedure**

Graduate Faculty review calls for evaluation of the credentials of all new applicants for Graduate Faculty Status at TTU and for a similar review of current members of the Graduate Faculty every six years as part of the Graduate Program Review cycle. Faculty members who received their terminal degree six years or less before they apply for Graduate Faculty Status are automatically granted a six-year probationary Graduate Faculty appointment. Review of credentials is conducted by the Faculty Committee of the Graduate Council.

**Issues**

The Faculty Committee is comprised of five Graduate Council members. These members represent only a small portion of the disciplines of TTU Faculty. They are not qualified to evaluate the quality of faculty scholarly production in many fields of study outside of their area of specialization. This means that the evaluation performed by this committee often can only be superficial and largely based on the vote of the faculty in the home department of the candidate for appointment or reappointment.

Reasons for negative votes are not given on the Graduate Faculty applications. It is difficult for Faculty Committee members to determine why candidates who appear to have similar scholarly performance on the application form receive different votes from colleagues. The Faculty
Committee may request an explanation for such discrepancies from the department chair or dean, but the explanations are not always satisfactory.

Very few Graduate faculty applicants receive a negative vote from their colleagues and it is quite common for faculty within a department all to receive a 100% positive vote. Determination of the quality of a candidate’s scholarship under such circumstances is difficult, if not impossible.

Regardless of the vote on an individual application, the Faculty Committee is placed in the position of second-guessing the department faculty evaluation of the candidate. Under these circumstances it is unlikely that the committee will make a decision contrary to the department.

The preparation of the application for appointment or reappointment requires considerable expenditure of time and effort on the part of the candidate, but it does not lead to comparable level of evaluation at the Faculty Committee level. The most careful scrutiny of a candidate’s scholarship occurs at the department and/or college level where colleagues are best prepared to evaluate the candidates’ contributions to graduate education, research/creative activity and service.

Proposal

We propose the following changes to the Graduate Faculty review process:

1) That a departmental or college recommendation for appointment to the Graduate Faculty membership no longer be subject to review in the Graduate School except as indicated below.

2) That the Graduate Faculty Committee be abolished and faculty review responsibilities specified below be assigned to the Academic Program Committee, which could be enlarged to accommodate new responsibilities.

3) Review of faculty credential for admission to the Graduate Faculty by the Academic Program Committee or a subcommittee thereof will be restricted to the following:

   A) Adjunct or Visiting Faculty, especially with respect to service on thesis and dissertation committees as member or chairperson.

   B) When Requested, cases where the outcome of the departmental evaluation is unclear, such as in a split vote on Graduate Faculty membership.

   C) Appeals by faculty who have received a negative vote in their department or college and who wish to appeal the decision.

4) That a department chairperson or dean may request that a faculty member or members may be placed in indefinite suspension from the Graduate Faculty. Such requests will be reviewed by the Academic Program Committee or a subcommittee thereof. The suspension will remain in effect until such time as the dean or department chair requests that the faculty member be reinstated as a member of the Graduate Faculty.
V. Academic Requests

The Graduate Council approved the following Graduate Proposals.

**SCHOOL OF LAW**
*Master of Laws in United States Legal Studies (L.L.M.)*

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
*Master of Science in Plant and Soil Science*

A motion was made by Gary Elbow and seconded by Hansel Burley to approve the following course applications. The Graduate Council approved the motion.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

IE 5308: Risk Assessment of Human Behaviors (3:3:0) (*Addition*)
IE 6304: Control Theory for Humans (3:3:0) (*Addition*)

A motion was made by Hansel Burley and seconded by Eileen Johnson to approve the following course applications. The Graduate Council approved the motion.

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

NRM 5201: Foundations of Ecology and Conservation Biology (2:2:0) (*Addition*)
NRM 5336: Field Ichthyology (3:2:1) (*Addition*)

A motion was made by Gary Elbow and seconded by Michael Stoune to table the approval and send back the following course applications to the Academic Program Committee for their review. The Graduate Council approved the motion.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

SOC 5101: Professional Socialization (1:1:0) (*Addition*)

**GRADUATE SCHOOL**

BTEC 5100: Scientific Communication (1:1:0) (*Addition*)

VI. Other Business

Dr. Miller announced the 1st Annual Arts and Humanities Conference to be held in October and encourages faculty to have students submit their paper. The festivities will be held on October 21st and 22nd.

Dr. Munoz has agreed to fund a Graduate Coordinator for Life position. The Graduate School is in the process of filling that position.

Dr. Miller announced that the Graduate School enrollment is still down 400 Graduate Students and mentioned that we will be working diligently to raise our enrollment.
VII. Announcements

Dr. Miller extended an invitation to everyone for the New Graduate Student Orientation this evening to be held at the Merket Alumni Center.

The next Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011.

The Graduate Council meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.