

Undergraduate Council
Summary Report for Academic Year 2009-2010
Submitted by Dixie L. Thompson, Chair UG Council

The Undergraduate Council met on September 8, 2009, October 20, 2009, February 2, 2010, March 2, 2010, and April 13, 2010. The minutes for these meetings can be found at: <http://web.utk.edu/~ugcouncil/minutes.shtml>. Below is a summary of the major changes resulting from the work of the UG Council and its committees during academic year 2009-2010.

Council Initiatives:

- Operating Procedures were changed regarding how the number of representatives from Colleges is determined. This change requires the use of the 3-year average number of degrees granted rather the yearly average. This will lead to more stability in the number of representatives from Colleges (i.e., it will not be as subject to change year-to-year). See minutes 9/8/2009.
- A procedure was put into place to correct errors found in the UG Catalog. See minutes 9/8/2009.

Curriculum Committee

- Curricular changes from Colleges were examined and approved throughout the year. Most changes were minor, but others were more substantial. The complete listing of these changes can be found in the Undergraduate Council minutes. See minutes 9/8/2009; 10/20/2009; 2/2/2010; 3/2/2010 and 4/13/2010.
- The Curriculum Committee reviewed and approved pre-requisites and other registration restrictions that will be enforced in the Banner system for classes across campus. See minutes 4/13/2010.

Policy Committee

- Wording was clarified on advising for students who have earned fewer than 30 hours at UTK, are on academic probation, or have not declared a major. These students must meet with an advisor each term in order to be cleared to register for classes. See minutes 2/2/2010.
- Approval was given for 5-year BS/MS programs in Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science. These join 7 other approved BS/MS programs in the College of Engineering. See minutes 2/2/2010.
- Clarification of course attendance for students called to military service was approved. Students are responsible for communicating to the faculty in a timely manner the obligations for military service. The language calls for the faculty member in conjunction with the student to determine if remaining enrolled is a viable alternative. See minutes 2/2/2010.
- Approval of policy to allow credits earned to remove a high school deficiency can count toward the total hours needed for graduation. See minutes 2/2/2010.

General Education Committee

- New classes were added to the approved General Education list. See minutes 10/20/2009 and 2/2/2010.
- Changes were made to bring UTK's policy in line with the state legislature's mandate on transferability among Tennessee's schools were approved. See minutes 2/2/2010. To summarize:
 1. Students transferring with a AA or AS degree from a TBR school will be given credit for General Education at UTK and those students will be allowed to transfer in grades of D or higher. Students must still meet all specific college and department requirements including GPA requirements and specific courses for the major.
 2. Students without an AA or AS degree transferring from a UT system or TBR school can receive credit for some or all of General Education based on certification from the institution from which they are transferring. Institutions will certify which General Education requirements have been met and UTK will accept those credits. Students must still meet all specific college and department requirements including GPA requirements and specific courses for the major.
- The General Education committee recommended and the Council approved a correction to a statement in the catalog about the "60-hour rule." See minutes 3/2/2010.

Advising Committee

- The Advising Committee was quite active keeping the membership informed about issues related to student success. See minutes 9/8/2009; 2/2/2010; 3/2/2010 and 4/13/2010 for details. Some examples of information shared:
 - UTK is continuing to gather data on student retention such as why students are leaving, common predictors of non-retention, etc.
 - A large number of students on academic probation are taking advantage of student success seminars.
 - The First Year Intervention program identified 570 students earning below a C in a course and invited them to get assistance from the Student Success Center.
 - Information about the implementation of Banner was provided.
 - Summer orientation sessions are being modified to give students opportunities to gain a more in-depth knowledge of academic policies, procedures, and requirements
 - Information was provided about the implementation of AdvisorTrac.
 - One disturbing trend that is seen is the issue of non-retention of students with SAT scores over 26. It is unclear at this point why we are losing these high quality students.
 - Discussion about the selection of campus-wide advising awards is on going.

Appeals Committee

- The Appeals Committee report on the number of cases reviewed for academic year 2008-2009 can be found in the 10/20/2009 minutes. The summary report for academic year 2009-2010 will be provided in fall 2010.