THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

ACTION MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Location - TEAMS

2/6/2024

3:30-5:00

1. Call to order and taking of attendance
   * The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.
   * Quorum met.

Present: Nancy Membrez, Elaine Sanders, Arkangel Cordero, Zachary Tonzetich, Rita Mitra, Gabriela Romero Uribe, Roberto Silva Villatoro, Allison Veach, Andrea Aleman, Ying Huang, Min Wang, Richard J Harris, Victor Villarreal, Byongook Moon, Ovidio Giberga, Eunho Park, Natasha Burns, Tansu Demir, Guadalupe Carmona, Judy Haschenburger, Priya Prasad, Victoria Kim, Michael Cepek, Kathryn Henderson, Shamshad Khan, Dakai Zhu, Stephanie Westney, Jeffrey Howard, Fathali Firoozi, Joe Houpt, Xiaodu Wang, Wei-Ming Lin, Michael Newell, Alfonso Apicella, Elizabeth Sooby

Absent: Kenneth Walker, Christopher Stratman, William Land

Guest: Keying Ye, Anthony Rios, Anastasia Zervou

1. Consent Agenda – *Approved with no objections.*
   * Meeting Minutes
   * Special Membership
2. Reports
3. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses
   * Accelerated MA in Economics.
     + Proposal was approved by Committee.
     + Dr. Anastasia Zervou was present to answer questions on behalf of the program.
     + No questions or comments were put forward.
     + Proposed program put to a vote.
     + *Approved 28:1*
   * Accelerated MS in Data Analytics.
     + Proposal was approved by Committee.
     + Dr. Anthony Rios was present to answer questions on behalf of the program.
     + No questions or comments were put forward.
     + Proposed program put to a vote.
     + *Approved 27:1*
   * Accelerated MS in Statistics and Data Science.
     + Proposal was approved by Committee.
     + Dr. Keying Ye was present to answer questions on behalf of the program.
     + No questions or comments were put forward.
     + Proposed program put to a vote.
     + *Approved 28:1*
   * PhD in Physics with Concentration in Materials Science
     + Proposal was approved by Committee.
     + Dr. Elizabeth Sooby was present to answer questions on behalf of the program.
     + Dr. Tonzetich asked about relation to proposed Ph.D. program in Materials Science. – Dr. Sooby clarified that this was a necessary first step in pursuit of that program.
     + Dr. Wong asked about the existing M.S. in ECE and the relation to the proposed concentration. – Dr. Sooby clarified that this is the agreed upon route to an advanced Materials Science degree program between both COS and KCEID.
     + Proposed concentration put to a vote.
     + *Approved 28:1*
4. Council Chair
   * No faculty senate update
   * By-law revision update – Updated documents sent to GC in early January.
     + The Chair shared feedback and walked the GC through the most recent updates.
     + Dr. Prasad asked for clarification on the eligibility on Assistant Department Chairs serving on GC. The Chair clarified that they will not be eligible according to the updated by-laws. Changes will go into effect in September 2024.
     + Dr. Mitra asked if the eligibility applied to alternates as well. The Chair clarified that it does; Assistant Chairs may not serve as alternates.
     + Still soliciting additional feedback. Vote on changes likely coming in March.
5. Dean of Graduate School

* The Dean updated the GC on meetings and planned meetings with stakeholders to solicit feedback on the graduate programs. A report will be forthcoming.
  + Doctoral Students – Has met with students from all colleges. An advisory group and ambassador group will be assembled from students to advise the Graduate School. M.S. student conversations will begin next semesters.
  + GARs from the different colleges – One meeting has taken place. Regular meetings are planned for the future.
  + Academic Deans – Planned for the future.
* The Dean informed the GC that professional development events are now posted on a Monthly Calendar through the Graduate School. Events will also be listed by semester to allow students to plan accordingly.
  + Dr. Cepek asked that the calendar also be shared with faculty in charge of graduate programs to encourage attendance. The Dean indicated they will be added to the listeserve.

1. Secretary
   * Update on the Doctoral Mentoring Committee.
     + The EC has decided that those who have volunteered will be supplemented with members of the EC to work on the mentoring program.
   * In March departments will begin nominating GC members for Fall 2024. Members should check with their department chairs to see if they need to hold elections.
   * Call for EC officer nomination (Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian and at-large positions).
2. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation
   * No report
3. Unfinished Business

* Update on the 9/9/3 requirement and 100 SCH limit for Ph.D. students.
  + Dr. Tonzetich updated the GC that additional limited exceptions to the 9/9/3 requirement will be considered and granted moving forward. Faculty should consult with their Associate Deans for Graduate Study when they need to request additional exemptions.

1. New Business
   * Dr. Tonzetich informed the GC of a policy by the Graduate School to extend the maximum time duration for acceptance of course credit transfer for the Master’s degree from 7 to 10 years.
     + The Dean clarified that the policy is a minimum requirement by the Graduate School. Individual programs can elect to have more stringent policies if they wish.
   * Dr. Cepek raised the idea of decreasing the faculty requirement on M.A. committees from three to two members. UT Austin already has a policy allowing M.A. committees of only two faculty members. Item will be discussed at greater length by the EC and in future meetings. Any change will need to go into a new Graduate Catalog.
2. Adjournment
   * The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:18 PM.