

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO
DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
ACTION MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Location: TEAMS 12/6/2022 3:30-5:00
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I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Elaine Sanders, Terrence Hill, Min Wang, Kathryn Henderson, Nancy Membrez, William Land, Zachary Tonzetich, Judy Haschenburger, Andrea Aleman, Corey Sparks, Richard J Harris, Jianwei Niu, Ovidio Giberga, Stephanie Westney, Jeffrey Howard, Victor Villarreal, Jeff Ragsdale, Joshua Thurow, Allison Veach, Brian Davies, Fathali Firoozi, Ginger Hernandez, Michael Cepek, James McDonald, Wei-Ming Lin, Priya Prasad, Richard Gretz, Denver Brown, Nicolas Large, Juan Nino, Glenn Dietrich, Dakai Zhu, Alfonso Apicella, Arkangel Cordero, HungDa Wan, Natasha Burns

Absent: Heather Trepal, Guadalupe Carmona, Angela Lombardi, Samer Dessouky, Amina Qutub, Byongook Moon, Kenneth Walker, Abraham Gibson, Pablo Requena, Andrea Aleman, Byongook Moon, Patricia Jaramillo, Alicia Swan

Visitor: Lynn Barnes, Rebecca Schroeder

II. Consent Agenda

- November 2022 Minutes approved with no discussion
- Special Membership approved with no discussion

III. Reports

A. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- MS in Multidisciplinary Studies
 - Jianwei Niu described the program and highlighted the demand for degree programs that fall outside of typical degree programs and allow for increased program flexibility; the new 30 hour program allows students to pair any two graduate certificates as part of the master's degree; the committee provided feedback and recommendations to improve the program proposal, and Dr. Niu indicated that the updated proposal addressed the committee's comments
 - Graduate Council voted to approve the program
- MA in Multidisciplinary Studies
 - Jianwei Niu described the program and highlighted the demand for degree programs that fall outside of typical degree programs and allow for increased program flexibility; the new 30 hour program allows students to pair any two graduate certificates as part of the master's degree; the committee provided feedback and recommendations to improve the program proposal, and Dr. Niu indicated that the updated proposal addressed the committee's comments
 - Graduate Council voted to approve the program

B. Council Chair

- No report

C. Dean of Graduate School

- No report

D. Secretary

- No report

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation

- Committee members are invited to attend program evaluation meetings in the Spring 2023 semester

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

- Lynn Barnes (Senior Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment) discussed efforts to improve graduate admission decision process
 - Lynne Barnes will share presentation information/slides with Graduate Council
 - Summarized recent graduate application changes (launching UniCas application, admissions processing staff and operations moved to Strategic enrollment, and graduate recruitment staff and marketing moved to Strategic Enrollment) and initiatives
 - Summarized activities/data related to the master's decision process
 - Activities based in part on student survey responses (2021 Plexuss graduate student recruitment report). Findings:
 - Preferred class format is hybrid, followed by online, followed by classroom
 - Graduate applicants expect immediate engagement, with most expecting inquiry/contact response within one day
 - Greater than 80% of students will enroll at the first university that admits them
 - Majority of students expect notification of acceptance within 13 days
 - At UTSA:
 - The average of days in college review is 30 (range of 40 to 24 days across colleges)
 - Goal is to minimize decisions (to enroll in graduate programs at UTSA) away from summer months
 - ~66% of master's students admitted are enrolling
 - Majority of denials (not enrolling) have GPAs >3.0
 - Moving forward, Strategic enrollment would like to work with programs to determine were Admissions staff can make decisions without sending them to reviewers, suggesting that with a well-defined rubric, we could reduce the time from application to decision to less than one week
 - Comments/questions regarding admissions from Graduate Council:
 - UTSA can do a better job of integrating information about funding into the application process, including funding opportunities for master's students
 - It would be helpful to get survey data from doctoral applications/admissions
 - Regarding the automated decision-making process, for the programs that have provided criteria, automated decisions processes will be implemented immediately
 - There are concerns about the flexibility in implementing automated decision making processes and concerns that having an automated decision making process does not allow for a holistic review approach
 - Additional discussion regarding MS and MA in Multidisciplinary Studies
 - The committee viewed the programs as useful and practical, depending on coursework/certificates that students select

2. Some concern about lack of thesis requirements, but this requirement is highly dependent on degree and field
- At the next Graduate Council meeting, we will have a discussion about unfunded doctoral students

VI. Adjournment