

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

TEAMS 3:30pm-5:00pm 09/01/20

I. Call to order and taking of attendance – 33 in attendance

Present: Ambika Mathur, Arkangel Cordero, Billy Land, Corey Sparks, Catherine Clinton, Drew Stephen, Doug Frantz, Elaine Sanders, Elisha Reynolds, Heather Trepal, Hung-Da Wan, Jorge Solis, Jurgen Engelberth, Kenneth Walker, Lupita (Guadalupe) Carmona, Matthew Brogdon, Megan Augustyn, Melissa Wallace, Michael Baumann, Nicholas Large, Patricia Akello, Patricia Jaramillo, Page Smith, Ram Tripathi, Rohit Valencha, Richard Harris, Shamshad Khan, Suagata Data, Terence Hill, Victor Villarreal, Wei-Ming Lin, Zijun Wang

Absent: Abtin Shahrokh Hamedani, Liang Tang, Michael Cepek

Visitors: Chad Mahood, Jeff Ragsdale

II. Reports

A. Council Chair

- Consent Agenda
 - May minutes – approved without opposition
 - Special memberships – approved without opposition
- Senate Report
 - Elaine Sanders – MS in Facility Management passed; no other Senate business related directly to GC responsibilities.

B. Dean of Graduate School

- Enrollment Update: Enrollment has increased over last fall; Grad enrollment represents only 12.5% of student body; UTS R1 is characteristically 20-28%
- Admission requirements suspended: suspension of standardized test scores, TOEFL, and reliance on unofficial transcripts are temporary measures; they are not permanent
- CARES Act funding: 174 grad students received awards totaling \$348k
- Covid-19 grant challenge: promoted opportunities for students to work with others across disciplines; another challenge is planned for Fall 2020
- Ph.D. Completions (115 -> 140) – Carnegie 1 Status
- Task Force report and implementation
(funding/recruitment/admissions/GA appointments/GAR expectations)
 - Task force report available on UTSA strategic plan website
 - Recruitment Recommendations:
 - Aggressively recruit Hispanic students to achieve 50% enrollment commensurate with undergraduate enrollment
 - Reduce reliance on standardized test scores and establish holistic

- review
 - Substantially improve recruitment efforts to broaden the “funnel” and achieve higher enrollment yields
 - Increase partnerships across units to develop robust marketing and outreach
 - Funding Priorities:
 - Need to increase funding for doctoral students for stipend, tuition, and health care subsidy; need to dedicate NRUF funds to increase doctoral student numbers and to increase funding packages
 - Need for graduate student housing
 - Increase collaboration to obtain training grants and help students win fellowships
 - Graduate Assistantships: Area for GC input
 - Need for uniform definitions of graduate assistantship categories (GRA/GTA/GAA) with defined rights and responsibilities; need for a GA handbook; uniformity in appointment practices
 - GARs: need for GC input on workload and compensation of GARs
 - Keep running with us! (90 for fall and 10 for spring) 60% Hispanic (Can we directly recruit into doctoral programs);
 - Student services: continued to provide consistent service through conversion to remote/online workplace
 - Launch of GPS (Graduate and Postdoctoral Success): Career and job-seeking support for graduate students
 - Noted in response to question that ideas about 4+1 and 3+2 programs are welcome, as well as dual PhD programs.
 - Matters for special attention from GC include the standardization of GA rights and responsibilities and GAR workload and compensation
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- C. Secretary
 - Positions available (Matthew)
 - Secretary nominations– Victor Villarreal; moved and seconded; approved without objection; no abstentions
 - Parliamentarian nominations – Michael Baumann; moved and seconded; approved without objection; no abstentions
 - Chair of Program Evaluation Committee – will be taken up by committee
 - One At-Large Member for Administrative and Agenda Committee – solicited nominations
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- D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (Matthew Brogdon)
 - No report
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- E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation
 - No report
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- F. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (Elaine Sanders)
 - Bylaws and Committees: documents detailing proposed changes to committee structure; the A&A committee, Academic Policy & Req Committee, and Nomination Committee would be combined to form an Executive Committee; discussion and a vote will be on the agenda for the October meeting; passage of revisions will require a two-thirds majority. Changes will need to be approved by FS and provost before taking effect.

- Graduate Catalog revisions will come up for GC review in coming months
 - Summary of Changes: provisionally plan to use summaries of changes from colleges
 - Policy Changes

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business

V. Adjournment: moved and seconded to adjourn; adjourned without objection