

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

TEAMS 12/7/2021 3:30-5:00
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I. Call to order and taking of attendance

- Present: Alexis Godet, Ambika Mathur, Amina Qutub, Andrea Aleman, Angela Lombardi, Arkangel Cordero, Corey Sparks, Elaine Sanders, Glenn Dietrich, Guadalupe Carmona, Heather Trepal, Hung-Da Wan, James McDonald, Jeff Ragsdale, Jorge Solis, Juan Manuel Nino, Jurgen Engelberth, Megan Augustyn, Melissa Wallace, Michael Cepek, Ovidio Giberga, Patricia Jaramillo, Ram Tripathi, Richard J Harris, Samer Dessouky, Terrance Hill, Victor Villarreal, William Land, Zachary Tonzetich, Kenneth Walker, Michael Baumann, Elisa Reynolds
- Absent: Ritu Mathur, Drew Stephan, Matthew Troia, Natasha Burns, Shamshad Khan, Angelinque Arroyo, Nicolas Large, Zijun Wang, Saugata Datta, Xiaoyin Wang, Wei-Ming Lin
- Visitor: Ginger Hernandez, Jake Sullivan, Ann Marie Ryan, Christopher Combs, Lupita Carmona, Richard Boon, Chad Mahood, Anson Ong, Jose Lopez-Ribot, Stephanie Westney, Rob Tillyer

II. Consent Agenda

- November 2021 minutes approved with no discussion
- Special Membership approved with no discussion

III. Reports

A. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- Committee reviews:
 - Closing the E-STEM certificate
 - Closing the Special Education Advocacy certificate
 - Proposal for a new graduate certificate in Aerospace Engineering
 - Christopher Combs summarized program background, and interest and support for the program; responded to questions regarding related programs, benefits of the program versus similar programs, goals for the program, and benefit to students
 - Certificate program is intended to serve education needs (e.g., post graduate training and skill development) and to funnel students into master's program, depending on student interest
 - Proposal for a new master's in Aerospace Engineering
 - Christopher Combs summarized program background, and interest and support for the program; responded to questions regarding related programs, benefits of the program versus similar programs, goal for the program, and benefit to students
 - Master's program is intended to provide an opportunity for students to continue education in aerospace engineering and have a path for additional graduate opportunities
 - Graduate Council members voted to approve all proposals reviewed by the Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- B. Council Chair
 - No report from the Council Chair on behalf of the Executive Committee
 - Faculty Senate update
 - Presentation regarding vision (2030) for future of the university, enrollment, and funding
 - Discussion included issues of faculty governance and plans for drafting more specific language in the HOP regarding faculty governance

- C. Dean of Graduate School
 - Dean's update
 - NRUF reviews are ongoing, with reviews likely continuing into February 2022
 - Mini-grant professional development program
 - Awarded to faculty and students working together as a group to provide professional development activities designed for acquiring transferable skills sets (announcement was sent via email and is available on the graduate school website)

- D. Secretary
 - Seeking nominations for Officers for the Graduate Council Executive Committee
 - At-Large Member (one position)
 - Student member (one position)
 - Chairs of standing committees should notify the Secretary if business is delayed

- E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation
 - No report

IV. Unfinished Business

- Resolution regarding NRUF
 - i. A resolution, to be sent to the Provost through Faculty Senate, has been drafted that requests that NRUF fund be used to support graduate students (e.g., for increasing and sustaining enrollment, for support program completion)
 - ii. The resolution is in the Graduate Council Teams folder; comments from Graduate Council members will be accepted for one week, with an electronic vote to be held and the resolution to be presented to Faculty Senate on January 20, 2022

V. New Business

- Graduate Council members discussed the ongoing, potential restructuring of COLFA
 - Formal proposals for restructuring have not been made, but this issue will likely be discussed at upcoming Faculty Senate meetings
 - Some members discussed possible implications of restructuring, as well as their own experiences
- Graduate Faculty should be discussing this issue and as this is potentially a faculty governance issue. Questions to consider include:
 - How does restructuring affect graduate programs, recruitment, and retention?
 - Should we invite the Provost to discuss this with the Graduate Faculty? How are the Provost and leadership envisioning reorganization of COLFA and the University?

VI. Adjournment