

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

TEAMS 3:30pm-5:00pm 5/4/2021

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Ambika Mathur, Arkangel Cordero, Billy Land, Catherine Clinton, Chad Mahood, Corey Sparks, Dhireesha Kudithipudi, Doug Frantz, Drew Stephen, Elaine Sanders, Elisha Reynolds, Heather Trepal, Hung-Da Wan, Jeff Ragsdale, Jorge Solis, Jurgen Engelberth, Liang Tang, Libby Rowe, Lupita Carmona, Matthew Brogdon, Melissa Wallace, Michael Baumann, Michael Cepek, Nicolas Large, Patricia Jaramillo, Ram Tripathi, Richard Harris, Selina Angel, Shamshad Khan, Suagata Data, Terence Hill, Victor Villarreal, Wei-Ming Lin, Xiaoyin Wang, Zijun Wang.

Absent: Kenneth Walker, Page Smith, Patricia Akello

Excused: Abtin Shahrokh Hamedani, Ana Loreto Narro Laborin, Angela Lombardi, Anna Penna, Megan Augustyn, Rohit Valencha,

II. Reports

A. Council Chair

- Consent Agenda
 - April minutes – approved with no discussion
 - Special memberships – approved
 - Discussion indicated that retirees must apply for special membership
- Senate Report
 - No report
- GAR responsibilities and support
 - To provide an example of current policies, E. Sanders described related positions in the College of Business
 - Program Director (receives course release and stipend), GAR (receives course release and summer stipend), and Committee Chair (receives service credit)
 - Graduate Council members' discussion: there is significant variability across colleges (many members noted that GARs in other colleges do the work of multiple positions described for the College of Business); stipends are contingent on the availability of funds; implications of differences in program sizes (e.g., some colleges making stipend contingent on program size, program size is not necessarily indicative of work involved); different colleges have different models for distributing work to faculty members
 - Next steps: J. Engelberth will ask Associate Deans from each college to provide a compensation plan for all colleges; will also request similar information from Department Chairs

B. Dean of Graduate School

- Graduate Student Appreciation Week and Graduate School Awards
 - A. Mathur described activities and awards related to graduate student appreciation week; 13 events hosted in a virtual format
 - 3MT finals competition winners presented
 - College award winners presented (dissertation award, thesis award, mentor award, GAR award);
 - Program Excellence Awards: innovation in admissions awards (PhD and Master's Degrees), Outstanding Growth in Master's Program
 - Website: <https://graduateschool.utsa.edu/gps/gsaw>

C. Secretary

- Seeking nominations for Parliamentarian

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- MS in Artificial Intelligence
 - Representatives (D. Kudithipudi and A. Mathur) described program background, objectives, concentrations, and student demand for this multidisciplinary program
 - Described plan to create related new program (e.g., combined with MD program)
 - Committee recommended approval of the program; Graduate Council voted to approve the program

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation

- Report on Department of Mathematics
 - T. Hill presented summary of programs, student learning outcomes improvement needed, and funding needs; career placement seems to be a strength of the programs in Mathematics; PhD program is in development
- Report on Department of Computer Science
 - T. Hill presented summary of programs, student learning outcomes improvement needed, funding needs (greater funding for PhD and MS students to match peer institutions), and career preparation; concerns were not regarding faculty retention; applications to graduate program are waning
 - X. Wang (Computer Science) provided additional context and information regarding report, including plans to address some current concerns

F. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements

- No report

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business

- Vote to approve business and electronic voting during summer
 - Graduate Council voted to approve business and electronic voting during the summer

V. Adjournment