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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Location: JPL
5/13/2025
3:30-5:00

I. Call to order and taking of attendance
   - The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM
   - Quorum met.
     i. Present: Faithali Firoozi, Onu Bayer, Rita Mitra, Arkangel Cordero, Eunho Park, Hannah MacNaul, Mariela Rodriguez, Tulio Sulbaran, Gabriela Romero-Uribe, David Restrepo, Michael Cepek, Ovidio Giberga, Nancy Membrez, Stephanie Westney, Xunwu Chen, Andrea Aleman, Ying Huang, Tansu Demir, William Land, Joe Houpt, Jurgen Engelberth, Zach Tonzetich, Michael Newell, Ashley Newton, Stephen Wirkus
     ii. Absent: Elaine Sanders, Min Wang, Kathryn Henderson, John Harrichand, Guadalupe Carmona, Angela Lombardi, Wei-Ming Lin, Shamshad Kahn, Kenneth Walker, Andrew Konove, Byongook Moon, Jeff Howard, Amy Chanmugam, Alfonso Apicella, Xiaoyin Wang, Judy Haschenburger, Eduardo Duenez, Elizabeth Sooby
     iii. Guest: Suzana Rosencrans, Alberto Mestas, Felcia Castro-Villarreal, Tina Martinez

II. Consent Agenda – *Approved with no objections*
   - Meeting Minutes
   - Special Membership

III. Online programs – Suzana Diaz Rosencrans (Academic Innovations) and Tina Garza (Enrollment Marketing)
   Summary of the presentation by Suzana Diaz Rosencrans (Academic Innovations)
   o Clarification of Online program options:
      o Option 1: Hybrid – Residential programs delivered 51–91% online.
      o Option 2: Hybrid Online (formerly Hybrid) – Residential programs delivered 99% online but still classified as hybrid, with standard tuition and fees.
      o Option 3: Fully Online (UTSA Online) – New modality aimed at reaching a broader, often non-traditional student population. Separate tuition model, different revenue structure.
   o Modality Definitions:
      o New classifications include Hybrid, Hybrid Online, and Fully Online.
      o Hybrid and Hybrid Online programs, even at 99% online, require a face-to-face component at the professors' discretion.
      o Modalities apply at the program level, not the course level.
   o UTSA Online Overview:
      o Targets local students with transfer credits (64 SCH) and currently supports only four graduate programs.
      o Designed to support, not compete with, residential programs.
      o Developed in response to market analysis showing a lack of online programs in Texas.
   o Student Experience & Policies:
      o Students in residential and fully online programs can enroll in the same online asynchronous courses.

- Switching between Option 3 and other options is allowed term-to-term, but students cannot be enrolled in multiple modalities simultaneously.
- Revenue from fully online programs (Option 3) follows a prescribed split.
  - Additional Notes:
    - There is an effort to migrate 100% online residential programs to Option 3.
    - A handout summarizing these points was distributed during the meeting.
    - UTSA Online program presentation will be added to the Teams folder.
    -

IV. Reports
A. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses – Dr. Tonzetich
- MS in Chemical Engineering – *Approved unanimously*
- MFA in Community Arts – *Approved unanimously*
- MFA in Film and Media – *Needs further clarification (tabled for the Fall)*
  - Concern over lack of a full-time faculty member to teach advanced, specialized courses; currently only one full-time faculty member in the field.
  - The proposal is considered promising but premature.
  - A distinction was made between film studies and film production, with concerns centered on the latter due to its specialized nature and where faculty expertise is missing.
  - Noted that MFA programs in film typically require 60+ SCH, which may not be reflected in the current proposal.
  - Recommendation to table the program discussion and vote until Fall to allow time for clarification and revisions. One abstention was recorded in the voting to table this proposal.
  - It was noted that the program may require SACSCOC approval.
- Graduate Certificate in Art History and Visual Culture – *Approved unanimously*

B. Council Chair – Dr. Tonzetich
- Graduate Academic Program Working Group update
- Faculty Senate update

  - The Graduate Academic Program Working Group is working on the final summary after exploring potential joint graduate studies opportunities following the integration with UT Health.
  - The Faculty Senate is engaging with the Provost, President, and legal advisors regarding a Texas bill that may impact the structure of the Senate and Graduate Council.
  - Documents supporting academic freedom have been developed by UTSA Senate representatives, with a request for upper administration support for faculty.
  - A token of appreciation was given to Dr. Mathur for her contributions as the Dean of the Graduate School.

C. Dean of Graduate School – Dr. Mathur
  - Integration update
  - Hooding ceremony reminder
    - Dr. Mathur shared words of thanks and appreciation during the meeting.

- o Dr. Mathur informed that there will be the formation of new committees focused on the merging of graduate programs and schools.

D. Secretary – Dr. Romero Uribe
   - o Present the slate of nominees for next academic year graduate council's leadership
   - o The executive committee nominated a new leadership slate since no other nominations were received:

     Chair: Gabriela Romero Uribe
     Secretary: Jeffrey Howard
     Parliamentarian: Jurgen Engelberth (continue)
     Chair of Memberships Committee: Michael Cepek (continue)
     Chair of Graduate Evaluation Committee: Joe Houpt (continue)
   - o The new leadership was approved unanimously

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation – Dr. Tonzetich
   - MA in Bicultural-Bilingual Education
   - MS in Biotechnology
   - PhD in Educational Leadership

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business
   - Global Initiatives Immigration Update – Dr. Tonzetich
     https://global.utsa.edu/news/2025/04/story/immigration-update.html

     - o International Graduate Students:
       - Concerns were raised regarding the current challenges facing international students, including recent cases of visa revocations.
       - Dr. Cepek inquired about appropriate messaging to prospective international students.
       - Dr. Mathur noted that while some students have had their visas reinstated, the university should not make guarantees, but can state that there is no reason to believe visas will be denied at this time. However, it is important to stay alert to any changes in federal policy or visa processes.
     - o 4+1 Programs:
       - Dr. Mathur clarified that UTSA currently offers a limited number of 4+1 programs. These are more feasible in fields like Engineering and Business, where MS programs require over 30 semester credit hours (SCH)—typically around 42 SCH.
       - For programs with only 30 SCH, 4+1 structures are more difficult to implement.
       - All 4+1 programs require SACSCOC approval before proceeding.

VII. Adjournment 4:41 PM