

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Location
3:30pm-5:00pm
12/01/2020

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Abtin Shahrokh Hamedani, Ana Loreto Narro Laborin, Anna Penna, Arkangel Cordero, Billy Land, Catherine Clinton, Corey Sparks, Doug Frantz, Drew Stephen, Elisha Reynolds, Heather Trepal, Hung-Da Wan, Jorge Solis, Jurgen Engelberth, Liang Tang, Libby Rowe, Lupita (Guadalupe) Carmona, Matthew Brogdon, Megan Augustyn, Melissa Wallace, Michael Baumann, Michael Cepek, Nicholas Large, Page Smith, Patricia Akello, Patricia Jaramillo, Ram Tripathi, Richard Harris, Rohit Valencha, Shamshad Khan, Sugata Data, Terence Hill, Victor Villarreal, Wei-Ming Lin, Zijun Wang

Absent: Elaine Sanders, Kenneth Walker, Selina Angel, Xiaoyin Wang

Visitors: Astrid Cardona, Chad Mahood, Jianwei Nui, J. Seshu, Timothy Yuen

II. Reports

A. Council Chair

- Consent Agenda
 - November minutes – approved without opposition
 - Special memberships – approved without opposition
- Faculty Senate report
 - Memo addressed to Vice President of Research regarding concerns about COVID-19 impact on faculty (travel restrictions, limitations on collaboration, human subjects research, impact on budget, etc.)

B. Dean of Graduate School

- Update on GAR committee activities
 - Corey Sparks shared survey results; some results: 75% of GARs are not on Graduate Council, 63% of GARs had never served on Graduate Council, many GARs work 10+ hours per week on related activities, most GARs oversee multiple programs, majority of GARs had no training prior to assuming the role, GAR roles
 - Committee will write a report and share with the Graduate Council, possibly by end of the current semester
 - Plan is to follow-up with focus groups based on survey respondents
- Graduate Catalog sent to the Graduate School on 11/30/2020 and forwarded it to the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council
 - Graduate Council members will receive the catalog, with notated changes

C. Secretary

- No report

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- Certificate in Data Science
 - Representative (Jianwei Niu) described purpose of certificate and degree requirements (proposal materials are available online), answered GC member questions (possibility of adding new courses, possibility of integrating social sciences, differences between graduate and undergraduate certificate program proposals [graduate certificate have more advanced statistics courses and research components], reason for housing program in University College)
 - Graduate Council approved the certificate program proposal
- PhD in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
 - Representative (Janakiram Seshu) described purpose of PhD program and degree requirements (proposal materials are available online), addressed Committee concerns (new faculty needs, program credit hours compared to similar programs), answered GC member questions (impact on teaching load of current faculty, how existing program courses will be impacted [no significant impact because of low number of new students], are programs different in foci and courses to existing program, question about need for new biostatistics course, potential issues regarding faculty from different departments teaching program course [based on possible division of department], concern about low student enrollment across programs because of students moving to new program from other existing PhD programs [Seshu indicated that student enrollment is not a concern], admission process concerns because of three programs [Seshu indicated that there would be different applications for each program once the program is established])
 - Graduate Council approved the PhD program proposal

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation

- No report

F. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements

- Discussion of proposed changes regarding Order of Business
 - Change order of presentations – move Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses to start of each Graduate Council meeting (proposal is available online for review)
 - Graduate Council will vote on this proposal at February 2021 GC meeting
- Discussion of proposed changes regarding Officers
 - Succession plan for replacing GC Chair – Secretary temporarily becomes Chair until a new Chair is elected or until the end of the year (proposal is available online for review)
 - Graduate Council will vote on this proposal at February 2021 GC meeting
- Discussion of proposed change regarding definition of Graduate Faculty
 - Previous version was submitted to Provost but not signed because of amendments related to workload
 - New proposal is available online and excludes Faculty Senate amendments; proposal has been previously discussed
 - Graduate Council approved this proposal (Article 1 – Grad Faculty Members & Grad Faculty Scholars)

III. Unfinished Business

- None reported

IV. New Business

- None reported

V. Adjournment