

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

TEAMS
3:30-5:00PM
05/05/2020

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Ambika Mathur, Ariel Suselo, Arkangel Cordero, Bridget Drinka, Catherine Clinton, Corey Sparks, Howard Smith, Elaine Sanders, Guadalupe Carmona, HungDa Wan, Jennifer Smith, Judy Haschenburger, Juliete Wiersema (for Libby Rowe), Jurgen Engelberth, Liang Tang, Marie Tillyer, Matthew Brogdon, Megan Piel, Melissa Wallace, Michael Cepek, Muntasir Masum, Nicolas Large, Page Smith, Patricia Jaramillo, Rohit Valecha, Tim Grigsby, Tyler Werland, Victor Villarreal, William Land

Absent: Angela Lombardi, Fathali Firoozi, Zijun Wang, Anuradha Roy, Heather Trepal, Wei-Ming Lin, Shamshad Khan, Kasandra Keeling, Laura Upenieks, Francine Johnson, Alexandra Holdbrook, Mohammad Nur Nobi

Visitor: Chad Mahood, Jeff Ragsdale

II. Reports

A. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- MS in Facility Management was approved and reported by the committee
 - Questions: Are there similar programs in Texas, or elsewhere given that it is fully online? Is fully online instruction in facility management common? The dean noted that professional graduate education of this sort is increasingly moving online and that UTSA is nationally competitive.
 - A motion passed to approve the proposal: Passed without opposition.
 - Chad Mahood indicated it could be placed on FS agenda for its final meeting.

B. Council Chair Elaine Sanders (Interim Chair)

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of April Meeting
 - Special Memberships
- Senate Report
 - Faculty Senate voted to approve Jurgen Engelberth as our next Chair.
 - Faculty Senate voted to approve the Certificate in Facility Management

C. Dean of the Graduate School (Ambika Mathur)

- Budget Adjustments due to COVID-19
 - Some funds for graduate scholarships impacted by 58 percent sweep.
 - Recruitment funds and student travel funds were also impacted.

- Graduate School, as a service unit rather than academic unit, received 10 percent cut for coming academic year; may be increased to 15 percent contingent on enrollment.
- Dean secured an exemption for graduate scholarship funds in 2020-21 AY.
- Personnel reductions in the graduate school will be necessary to comply with budget cuts.
- Research and Doctoral Education Recovery tactical team is tasked with thinking through transition back to campus in the coming year.
 - Includes Jurgen Engelberth and Jason Yaeger
 - Seeking seats for grad student representatives
- Working to keep enrollment on target for fall.
 - Auto-admit program for eligible UTSA seniors; about 50 percent of offers have been accepted.
 - Grad student, trans-disciplinary research competition for COVID-19 related research. Solid response
 - GMAT and GRE waiver has likely improved admissions
- A motion was made from the floor to formulate a resolution urging the president and provost to address funding deficits in the graduate school budget. Passed without opposition.
- Concern was raised with respect to master's programs; students are eager for remote/synchronous opportunities; there need to be opportunities for synchronous interaction in graduate courses, and preferably for courses that are remote but fully synchronous in appropriate cases.
- Some faculty expressed concern about programs with Masters/Doctoral students in the same classes if on-campus courses are confined to doctoral students
- Tactical Force
 - GC members were urged to take concerns to Jurgen as the GC representative on the tactical force.
- Motion to permit GC to act by electronic correspondence over the summer. Passed without opposition.
- The dean was asked to address the effect on research. We face difficult questions as we return to labs and to fieldwork. Many faculty are in high risk categories; we will have to grapple with how to accommodate them.
- Students need to complete FASFA as CARES Act funds require application for financial aid. Departments are urged to require or at least encourage their students to apply. There is support for students completing the FASFA app in the financial aid office.

D. Secretary (no report)

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (no report)

F. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (no report)

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business

V. Adjourn