

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

May 7th, 2019

ORDER OF BUSINESS

JPL ASSEMBLY ROOM
4.04.22
3:30-5:00PM

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present:

Lupita Carmona; Michael Cepek; Bridget Drinka; Lucila Ek; Jurgen Engelberth; Fathali Firoozi; Judy Haschenburger; Kasandra Keeling; Shamshad Khan; Myung Ko; Angela Lombardi; Alpha A. Martinez-Suarez; Ritu Mathur; Wing-Chung Ng; Heidi Rueda; Elaine Sanders; Jennifer Smith; Page Smith; Corey Sparks; Liang Tang; Marie Tillyer; Ram Tripathi; Victor Villarreal; Melissa Wallace; HungDa wan Zijun Wang; Alistair Welchman; Rebecca Weston

Absent:

Kandyce Fernandez; Doug Frantz; Erica Sosa; Heather Trepal; Jennifer Uria; Rory Vance; Juliet Wiersema

Excused:

John Bartkowski, Ruyan Guo

Visitors:

Hazem Rasheed-Ali; Pamela Smith; Jianwei Niu

3:34 call to order

3:36 motion to bring the Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (GPC) to the front of the agenda was seconded and passed unanimously (discussion below).

II. Reports

A. Council Chair

- Consent Agenda

There were no objections to the consent agenda.

- Senate Report

Faculty Senate was also concerned about the changes to promotion and tenure discussed at the April Council meeting, especially the new mandatory letter inviting external

reviewers. The Chairs' Council has issued a memo that addresses the concerns raised at Council and which therefore renders a separate memo from the council moot.

B. Dean of Graduate School

- No Report

C. Secretary

- 2019-2020 Graduate Council Committee Membership

The Secretary asked members who are not on a committee to join a committee, or to inform their replacements that they should join a committee. Several people responded, and the Secretary promised to follow up by email. The Secretary's longstanding aim is to make sure that every member of Council serves on a committee. This will ensure that committees are properly staffed, and promote faculty involvement in the Council.

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- Proposal 1: Master of Architecture + M.S. Urban and Regional Planning (Dual Degree)
- Proposal 2: Master of Architecture + M.S. Architecture (Dual Degree)
- Proposal 3: Certificate in Project Management
- Proposal 4: M.S. Cyber Security
- Proposal 5: Ph.D. CE (New Tracks)
- Proposal 6: Certificate in Latin American Studies

The GPC had an unusually large number of proposals to consider before the end of the year and so used compressed presentation format (slides enclosed). The committee recommended approval for all 6 proposals.

Victor Villareal, Chair of the GPC, also mentioned that there was a seventh proposal that had been before the committee, from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, for a dual degree proposal between UTSA and the University of São Paulo. The GPC decided that this proposal may need more thought, although the GPC did not want to block it, and so recommended not bringing it to a vote at this meeting, but seeking more feedback from members.

The committee recommended the acceptance of all the proposals, and the council as a whole approved all the proposals.

The Faculty Senate will review these proposals over the summer so that they can be approved prior to the beginning the new 2019-2010 academic year.

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation

F. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements

- 2019-2021 Graduate Catalog

The committee reported that there have been some issues with the new catalog, e.g. international policy, but that they have all been resolved.

The committee has also been in communication with the College of Business over its Business of Health Certificate program. COB petitioned the Council to abandon the program as part of a restructuring, but did not follow HOP procedures on Program Abandonment, and so the Council did not approve the abandonment. In discussions, the COB has now indicated that it will not abandon the program.

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business

- Graduate Council Bylaws Change: Graduate Faculty Definition

The Dean of the Graduate School and Council leadership propose amending the Council Bylaws to divide the graduate faculty into Graduate Faculty Scholars and Graduate Faculty Members. The two groups would have almost identical rights and responsibilities, but only Graduate Faculty Members would be permitted to serve as the sole chairs of PhD dissertation committees. Graduate Faculty Scholars would be able to serve on and chair MA thesis committees, and serve on and co-chair PhD dissertation committees.

It was pointed out that Membership Committee is going to get very busy adjudicating applications for Graduate Faculty Membership. The language of the proposal talks only about 'PhD' degrees. But there might be PhD level degrees that are not described as 'PhD' e.g 'Ed.D.' It was agreed that this should be researched.

College of Business faculty had posed some questions to the Chair about the proposal: will existing chairs be grandfathered in? what about senior faculty who are supervising a lot of PhDs and helping their programs out?

Lupita Carmona asked whether the list of four approvals is disjunctive. It is not: Graduate Faculty Members must be recommended by all the bodies mentioned.

Corey Sparks asked: 'do I need permission to serve on another committee?'

Judy Hessenberger asked what the criteria are. Chair responded that they are decided by the program. Will the criteria be approved? The Dean replied: 'no, there's no plan for that.' Chair said it will be like special membership.

Rebecca Weston said that Psychology already do this because the Coordinating Board was going to require it, and it has been successful.

Ritu Mathur pointed out that department chairs sometimes appoint people to teach graduate courses who might not meet the criteria. The Dean pointed out that the proposal will not affect that: special and adjoint members already can't sole chair PhDs.

Shamshad Khan asked if someone who gets tenure but does not publish enough would be dismissed as chair of a PhD Dissertation.

Lucia Ek asked why we should do this. Rebecca Weston replied that it is an effective route to NRUF funding. The Dean stated that NRUF funding could be as much as \$8-11m, at least some of which will be returned to the Graduate School for graduate education. She continued by emphasizing that UTSA is unlikely to be able to fulfil the other criterion, of 200 PhD graduates, in the near future.

Bridget Drinka asked about productive faculty in departments that lack PhD programs.

Lucia Ek asked about faculty who are not as research productive as some of their peers, but are good at directing dissertations. The Dean replied that the proposal allows for exceptions.

Mike Cepek asked if exceptions are still scholars. The Dean replied that no, faculty could in exceptional cases become Graduate Faculty Members (not just Scholars) even if they do not meet the research criteria.

Ritu Mathur pointed out that we need criteria for scholars. The Dean and Secretary replied that the present criteria would remain unchanged.

Bridget Drinka asked why we can't aspire to getting 200 PhD graduates. Mike Cepek replied that more funds will help us to get there.

Shamshad Khan asked if it was possible to make the changes quickly enough. The Dean replied that it is possible to do it this year, but we need to decide by September. The Chair suggested an electronic vote over the summer. The Secretary suggested that Council representatives talk to their faculty and get comments to the APR committee by May 20th. Then a vote can be scheduled soon afterwards. The Secretary also brought up the issue of departments without PhD programs.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38