

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

<b>Location - JPL 4.04.22 (Assembly Room)</b> <b>5/7/2024</b> <b>3:30 – 5:00 PM</b>
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I. Call to order and taking of attendance

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM.
- Quorum met.
  - i. Present: Faithali Firoozi, Rita Mitra, Arkangel Cordero, Min Wang, Victor Villarreal, Victoria Kim, Guadalupe Carmona, Gabriela Romero-Uribe, David Restrepo, Ovidio Giberga, Shamshad Khan, Andrew Konove, Stephanie Westney, Andrea Aleman, Ying Huang, Jeff Howard, William Land, Joe Houpt, Richard Harris, Zach Tonzetich, Dakai Zhu, Judith Haschenburger, Priya Prasad, Elizabeth Sooby, Michael Newell, Roberto Villatoro, Ambika Mathur, Jeff Ragsdale, Ginger Hernandez, Wei-Ming Lin, Elizabeth Sooby, Alfonso Apicella
  - ii. Absent: Elaine Sanders, Natasha Burns, Eunho Park, Kathryn Henderson, John Harrichand, Angela Lombardi, Wei-Ming Lin, Michael Cepek, Kenneth Walker, Nancy Membrez, Christopher Stratman, Byongook Moon, Tansu Demir, Allison Veach, Alfonso Apicella
  - iii. Guest: Patricia Sanchez

II. Consent Agenda – *Approved with no objections.*

- Meeting Minutes
- Special Membership

III. Reports

A. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses – *Approved in committee.*

- Graduate Certificate in Online Bilingual Education
  - Dr. Patricia Sanchez of the Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies was present to answer questions.
  - Chair raised the question concerning the what support is provided to students who want to enroll in the certificate given that it requires proficiency in Spanish. – Dr. Sanchez clarified that two of the required 5 classes for the certificate are in Spanish. There is currently no language exam for the program, as it has historically self-selected for students who are already proficient in Spanish. The program provides clarity to interested students before enrolling so that they are aware of the required proficiency in Spanish.
  - Dr. Wang asked about the nature of the certificate given that it appears to be English/Spanish and not generally bilingual. – Dr. Sanchez clarified that it is indeed focused solely on English/Spanish. Recruitment materials make this clear.
  - Dr. Mitra asked if the program would expand to other languages. – Dr. Sanchez clarified that expansion is not currently planned; based on our location in Texas, the English/Spanish program is by far the most needed.
  - Vote: *Approved unanimously.*

B. Council Chair

- The Chair updated Council on Faculty Senate, specifically their ongoing work on adapting to SB-18. Faculty Senate is also expecting the next Legislative Session to address issues related to faculty senates at public universities.
  - Dr. Howard asked for further clarification. – The Chair stated he has no more information at this time but anticipates the Legislature may modify the role of the senates.
- The Chair also brought up the issue of GRE requirements for graduate admissions. The Psychology Department had requested the continued use of GRE scores for graduate admissions, which was vetoed by the former-Provost. The issue did not go through Graduate Council or Faculty Senate, which is a concern in terms of due process and transparency. The Chair recommended that such issues be routed through Graduate Council in the future to better support programs and departments.
  - Dr. Wang asked for the rationale behind the former-Provost’s veto of the GRE requirement. – The Chair had no further information.

C. Dean of Graduate School

- The Dean reminded the Council of the Doctoral Conferral Ceremony next week.
- The Dean recognized Dr. Villareal for his service as Chair and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

D. Secretary

- The Executive Committee is still in need of nominees for the position of Parliamentarian for AY 24/25. Please consider nominating or self-nominating.
- At-large positions are also available on the Executive Committee.
- The ad-hoc Mentoring Committee met during the April EC Meeting. The committee will produce a report by the end of May.
- Leadership from Strategic Enrollment attended the April EC Meeting to discuss resources for graduate recruitment. At present there are no direct resources available for Departments/Programs, but the office will assist with on-campus events as they can.

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation

- M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
  - Review process is still ongoing. The evaluation will likely be discussed in the Fall 2024 semester.

IV. Unfinished Business

- The Doctoral Conferral Ceremony will be held on Wednesday May 15 at 6 PM in the Arts Building Music Recital Hall. The EC will be expected to be in attendance to represent Graduate Council.

V. New Business

- Dr. Prasad asked about how new GC members are communicated to the Graduate School. – The Chair informed the Council that names should be forwarded to Ms. Benavides.

VI. Adjournment – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:06 PM.