

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

October 2, 2001

Room 4.03.08
 John Peace Library Building
 3:30 p.m.

The second meeting of the Graduate Council for the 2001-2002 academic year was held in room 4.03.08 John Peace Library Building, October 2, 2001.

Present: Ron Alexander, Stephen Amberg, James Balentine, Aaron Cassill, Frances Colpitt, Robert Fuhrman, Michael Gilbert, Larry Golden, Juan Gonzalez, Joe Gonzales, Daniel Hogenauer, Jack Himelblau, Fred Hudson, David Jaffee, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Amir Karimi, Michael Kelly, Thomas Ricento, Hugh Maynard, James McDonald, Juan Mora-Torres, Bill Mullen, Chia Shih, Ted Skekel, David Thompson, Ram Tripathi, Raydel Tullous, Oscar W. VanAuken, Kenneth Wunderlich, Su Zhou, Diane Walz, and Dorothy Flannagan

Absent: Mark Alford, Thomas Bylander, Ryan N. Craig, Glenn Dietrich, Keith Fairchild, Luis Haro, Carole A. Leezer, Neil Maurer, Alan Morris, Arturo Vega, Pablo Vila, Amparo Villanueva

Excused: Rosalind Horowitz

Visitors: Julius Gribou (representing the Master of Architecture), Eugene John (representing Sos Agaian), William Scouten, Cheryl Schrader, Charles Wilson, Keith Clutter, Xiaodu Wang, Ronald Bagley, Zorica Pantic-Tanner

I. Call to Order and taking of attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by the new Council President, Chia-Shun (Rocky) Shih.

II. Minutes from September 4, 2001 meeting were amended (a degree name on page 2316, III, D was corrected) and approved as amended.

III. Reports

A. Council Chair

No report

B. Interim Dean of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Flanagan discussed upcoming proposed degree programs.

C. Secretary

i. Dr. Robert Fuhrman has agreed to chair the Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses.

ii. Changes to Council membership resulting from resignations were announced. The Council was notified that Jose Macias was not able to serve for the MA in Bicultural-Bilingual Studies and that Dr. Thomas Ricento was chosen to represent this degree program. Also noted were the vacancies in the Committees as a result of resignations, etc., Dr. Rosalind Horowitz, Chair of the Nominating Committee will report on the nominations at the next Council meeting.

iii. Dr. Walz noted that the HOP still describes three categories of membership for Graduate Faculty and will need to be updated.

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

i. The Committee reviewed the materials for the Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering and recommended approval of the program. The committee

report also offered four recommendations to those implementing the program. After discussion, the Council voted to amend the recommendation by removing a sentence. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to accept the Committees' recommendation, as amended, to approve the program. (Attachment A)

E. Membership Committee

- i. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted unanimously as in Attachment B.
- ii. Frances Colpitt presented a recommendation from the Membership Committee that will help them streamline the approval process. The recommendation was to establish deadlines for submission of applications for Graduate Faculty appointment. The Council unanimously voted to establish the following deadlines beginning with the Spring 2002 semester: September 15 for Fall and February 1 for Spring.

F. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation

Dr. Skekel reported that one of the programs was asking to have their evaluation postponed and will report on the outcome next month.

G. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements

No report

IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

None

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 4:43p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

Doctoral Degree Program in Biomedical Engineering

Jointly Administered by UTSA and UTHSCSA

Executive Summary

The UTSA Graduate Council Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses first reviewed this program proposal in April, 2001. The Committee received a revised version of the proposal on September 11 and the Committee met on September 14 to discuss the revisions. Dr. Stephen Amberg, last year's chair of the Committee, was asked to attend this meeting since five of the six members of the Committee were newly appointed this semester and were not familiar with the discussions that had taken place last April. The Committee met again on September 17 to discuss the proposal with Dr. Cheryl Schrader, the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Engineering. Subsequently, several members of the Committee met in separate meetings with, respectively, Dr. Guy Bailey, the University Provost, Dr. Amir Karimi, the Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Parimal Patel, the Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering. The Committee met for a final discussion on September 24.

The Committee believes the proposed degree program merits approval for the following reasons:

1. The proposed program would be the first degree to be jointly offered by UTSA and UTHSCSA. It would offer students, both locally and nationally, an exceptional opportunity to develop a career in biomedical engineering through the unique training offered by UTSA in areas pertaining to engineering and the biological sciences and the unique training offered by UTHSCSA in areas pertaining to medicine, dentistry, biomedical sciences, and allied health and nursing. No other biomedical engineering program in the state offers this opportunity to students in a manner where the two participating institutions are located to each other in such close physical proximity.
2. The program has received strong support from local community and business leaders. Graduates from the program would help fill the employment needs of local companies that are already located in the South Texas region and would encourage additional companies to move to the area as a consequence of the highly trained students that would be made more readily available. Evidence of this community support has already been established in the way of a pledge of one million dollars toward the construction of a Biotechnology, Sciences, and Engineering building that would eventually house the program.
3. The program has strong administrative support from both UTSA and UTHSCSA. Both administrations are eager to develop a joint degree program of this nature and believe that this program has an excellent chance of succeeding because the expertise drawn from the two schools would complement rather than conflict with each other. Evidence of this administrative support has been indicated by the schools' pledge to match the community's financial support toward the construction of a Biotechnology, Sciences, and Engineering building. The administration has also shown a high level of willingness to work with the developers of the program to address the issues of potential concern that this committee identified in the proposal (which will be noted presently).
4. The program offers a highly distinguished degree that would enhance the national reputation of UTSA as a center for research in technology and the sciences. A successful program of this sort would significantly move UTSA toward its more general, long-term goal of establishing itself as a level 1 research institution.
5. The program offers local students the opportunity to acquire significant job skills that currently is not available in the South Texas region. This would help attract students from other undergraduate institutions and would give local, minority students an

opportunity to acquire strong technical skills that they could not afford to pursue otherwise.

Although the Committee recognizes the merits of the proposed program and recommends its approval in the Graduate Council, the Committee also recognizes that this program is a first of its kind for UTSA. Consequently, the proposed program is difficult to compare with other programs that have been previously reviewed and approved by the Council. Two sets of issues that have been especially difficult to evaluate concern the effectiveness of the program's administrative structure and the expected nature of its future resource needs. A number of points that reflect these issues are addressed below, each followed by a specific Committee recommendation. The Committee requests that these recommendations be made available to the Faculty Senate prior to a senate vote on the proposal.

1. The top level of administration for the program will be shared jointly by the Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at UTHSCSA and the Dean of Graduate Studies at UTSA. The Committee is concerned over the level of expertise that the Dean of Graduate Studies at UTSA can be expected to have in making important decisions about program needs and faculty or student disputes. The Dean of Graduate Studies at UTSA is often likely to have a background in an area that is not related to the Biomedical Sciences. The Committee recommends that a consortium at UTSA be established between the Dean of Graduate Studies and the deans of the College of Engineering and the College of Science prior to the implementation of the program. This consortium would assist in giving advice to the Dean of Graduate Studies during any decision making process. Associate Dean Schrader and the Provost have indicated a willingness to the Committee to support this recommendation.
2. The second level of administration for the program is occupied by the Program Director. The director will serve as chair of the Committee on Graduate Studies for the program and will be hired as a faculty member whose area of research expertise is related to the program. The campus on which the director is housed will depend on the director's area of expertise. The Committee believes that the program director should be shared more equally between the two campuses and that the program, more generally, should have a physical point of contact on both campuses, even during years when the director is housed on the alternative campus. We recommend that an office and administrative assistant be located on both campuses and that some arrangement should be made to encourage the rotation of the housing of the program director between the campuses every three or four years. Like the first recommendation, Associate Dean Schrader and the Provost have indicated support for this recommendation.
3. New and current graduate faculty in the program will be given joint positions with UTSA and UTHSCSA. These faculty will also have service, teaching, and research responsibilities within their sponsoring departments such as Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering. The Committee recommends that the administration and the departments work together to develop a clear set of standards and responsibilities for all faculty members who participate in the program. These standards should be developed for annual reviews, tenure reviews, and PPEs.
4. The proposal requests four new faculty positions to help meet the teaching and research needs of the program. What remains unclear is whether or not four positions will be enough to meet the new needs of the program. The Committee understands that some of the current faculty are very interested in teaching courses in the new program and in working with students on dissertation projects, however, we do not know the total number of faculty who have actually committed themselves to teaching these courses. One reason some faculty may be reluctant to participate in the program is due to the diverse nature of the background of students who enter the program. Some students will have engineering backgrounds while others will have biomedical backgrounds. The Committee recommends that steps be taken to insure that students admitted to the program have the necessary background to complete the

courses required by the degree. A second reason faculty may be reluctant to get involved in the program is due to the potentially conflicting demands of other degree programs in the department. We recommend that the administration and departments work together to evaluate the expected teaching and supervisory needs of the program in comparison to the current teaching and supervisory needs of the department. This comparison is especially important for departments that must maintain accreditation for an undergraduate degree or are faced with the needs of an alternative doctoral program (e.g., the Ph.D. program in Electrical Engineering). It is possible that more than four additional faculty positions may be needed to adequately staff the new program in Biomedical Engineering.

ATTACHMENT B

RECOMMENDATION FOR GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBERSHIP

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Special Member:

Management Science & Statistics

Mason, Robert

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Special Member:

Counseling, Educational Psychology, Adult & Higher Education

Valadez, Albert A.

Education Leadership & Policy Studies

Smith, Page A.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Member:

Electrical Engineering

John, Eugene

Pantic-Tanner, Zorica

Smith, Bruce

Special Member:

Civil Engineering

Inniss, Enos Charles

Electrical Engineering

Hansen, Lars

Oian, Chunjiang

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND FINE ARTS

Special Member:

Architecture

Blizard, Mark

Canizaro, Vincent

Haugh, Sue Ann Pemberton

Hays, Diane Berry

Jimenez, Jose

Lewis, James R.

Roff, Shelley E.

Temple, Stephen A.

Anthropology

Bartlett, Thad Q.

English, Classics and Philosophy

Langan, Emily

Music

Allan, Diana

Burgess, Michael

Cavitt, Mary Ellen

Gutierrez, Elizabeth

Keeling, Kasandra

McCrary, William

Psychology

Baumann, Michael

Dolbier, Christyn

Persinger, James

Pfordresher, Peter

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Member:

Computer Science

Das, Samir

Special Member:

Chemistry

Klein, David

Earth & Environmental Sciences

Lambert, Lance L.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC POLICY

Special Member:

Criminal Justice

Byrd, John W.

Cancino, Jeffrey

Yu, Olivia