

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

October 2, 2007

John Peace Library 4.03.08

3:30 p.m.

Present:

Sos Agaian, John Alexander, Stuart Birnbaum, Rena Bizios, Andrey Chabanov, Fengxin Chen, Michael Cepek, Mari Cortez, Ashley Curtiss, James Dykes, Walter Ermler, Juanita Firestone, Dorothy Flannagan, Julie Gresham-Guerra, Sara Hohne, Mary Kay Houston-Vega, David Jaffe, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Kim Kline, William McCrary, Alokparna (Sonia) Monga, Malgozata Oleszkiewicz, Maricela Oliva, James Ordner, Terri Pantuso, David Romero, Eugene Stone-Romero, Thankam Sunil, Ram Tripathi, Lila Truett, Jose Weissmann, Wan X. Yao, Weining Zhang

Absent:

Cheryl Alderman, Andrew Bates, Mary Bollinger, Elizabeth De La Portilla, Karl Eschbach, Larry Golden, Gregg Michel, Can (John) Saygin, Ryan Weekley

Excused:

Emeka Nwaeze, Ben Olguin, Heywood Sanders, Scott Sherer

Visitor:

Beth Durodoye, Provost Fellow for Graduate School

I. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Dr. William McCrary called the October 2, 2007 meeting of the Graduate Council to order at 3:33 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes (William McCrary)

The Minutes of the September 4, 2007 meeting of the Graduate Council were approved.

III. Reports

A. Council Chair (William McCrary)

Dr. McCrary raised the issue of what percentage of student fees goes to graduate student services. He opened the floor to discussion after asking if there was interest in forming an ad hoc or special committee. Dr. Rena Bizios noted that there are two questions: what fees are involved and what services they get. The discussion centered on each of those questions.

Dean Dorothy Flannagan explained that all students pay about \$60 per semester to the Office of Student Services. Dr. Stuart Birnbaum observed that about 3700 graduate students are enrolled this semester with each paying that fee. In response to a question by Dr. Birnbaum, Dean Flannagan explained that no student fees are paid to the Graduate

School. Dr. Eugene Stone-Romero pointed out that the issue may be moot if there is no way to channel graduate student fees into a special fund.

Dr. Bizios and Dean Flannagan discussed conducting a survey asking graduate students about their satisfaction with the services currently available and what services they wished could be expanded. Dean Flannagan explained that graduate students tend to ask for academic software, workshops, and Library acquisitions. Dr. McCrary focused on the special needs of graduate students. For instance he had asked for a room in the University center for graduate students, but was told "No". James Ordner stressed the importance of informing graduate students of the services that are available. Dean Flannagan agreed. Information is provided at orientation and on the website, but there is not a single, consolidated source of information where, for example, a graduate student could find statistical consulting. Dr. Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam asked what the next step would be after identifying a needed service. Dean Flannagan explained that the Vice President for Student Affairs might be receptive to suggestions.

During the discussion, there was a motion to authorize Dr. McCrary to form an ad hoc committee of at least three members to investigate graduate student fees and services. Dr. David Jaffe suggested that the focus might be on investigating what services graduate students want and on helping them receive those services rather than conducting an audit. Dr. John Alexander noted the importance of working with the Vice President for Student Affairs. The motion passed with 17 ayes, 8 nays, and 2 abstentions.

B. Dean of Graduate School (Dorothy Flannagan)

Dr. McCrary requested a suspension of the Bylaws in order to allow Dr. Beth Durodoye to speak to the Graduate Council. His request was unanimously approved. Dean Flannagan introduced Dr. Durodoye who is completing her Provost Fellowship in the Graduate School this Fall. She has done a great job by increasing diversity in recruiting and improving retention.

Dr. Durodoye explained that she wears two hats, being both a faculty member in Counseling and Educational Psychology and a Provost Fellow. She thanked Dean Flannagan and Lisa Palacios (Director of Graduate Recruitment) for helping her boost recruiting and retention, especially with regard to diversity. She emphasized how recruiting (increasing the number of students) and retention (keeping those students and supporting them in their program) fit together.

With regard to recruiting, Dr. Durodoye cited two events last Spring. First, she met with Graduate Deans and Faculty at UT Brownsville and UT Pan American in order to establish a collaborative exchange program. The goal is to better match graduate students with their program needs. Currently, 5 students from Brownsville are enrolled at UTSA and she expects others from UT Pan American and other schools will join them in the future. Also last Spring, Lisa Pallacios worked to host a weekend workshop for the College of Science. After the workshop, 36 people applied for doctoral programs and 22 are currently enrolled. With regard to retention, she noted it is important to make connections outside the University as well as within, especially with regard to student services, careers, and diversity. She noted that the Graduate School has increased the number of thesis and dissertation workshops. In response to student requests, a Saturday orientation was held at the Downtown campus in August. There were 230 in attendance

(160 more than previously) and the faculty / student panel was very well received. She is presently coordinating student to student panel discussions, including a November discussion on how to overcome the challenges of graduate school.

Dr. Durodoye listed four ways to support student recruitment and retention. First, encourage people to present, greet, and host events. Second, faculty should attend and send students to the events and elicit feedback. Third, she needs us to let her know what is going on in our programs so that she can disseminate the information. Fourth, she needs suggestions about creative programming. She is always happy to discuss recruiting and retention with us.

C. Secretary (Jim Dykes)

Dr. Jim Dykes presented the updated list of 2007 / 2008 Graduate Council members (Attachment A of the Agenda). He noted that Dr. Karl Eschbach was elected to replace Dr. Steve Murdock as the representative for Demography and Organization Studies. Drs. Michael Cepek and Stuart Birnbaum were elected to replace Drs. Laura Levi and Alan Dutton (who are now the Chairs of Anthropology and Geological Sciences). The only gap is the student representative for the College of Education and Human Development. He also presented the updated list of members of the Graduate Council Committees (Attachment B of the Agenda). He specifically noted the need for a Parliamentarian (Dr. Stuart Birnbaum volunteered), for the Chair of the Nominating Committee (Dr. David Romero volunteered), and for the Chair of the Membership Committee. Since Dr. Ben Olguin (Chair of the Graduate Program Review Committee) was unable to attend the meeting, he asked Dr. Dykes to solicit volunteers to help with program reviews, especially from the College of Sciences.

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (Thankam Sunil)

No report.

E. Membership Committee (No Chair)

Ginger Hernandez had prepared the list of 13 people recommended to be Special Members of the Graduate Faculty. The Graduate Council approved the list and it is Attachment A. Dr. Dykes reminded the Graduate Council that we decided at our March 7, 2007 meeting to establish a three-year term for Special Memberships.

F. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (Ben Olguin)

Dr. Dykes substituted for Dr. Olguin. Dr. Olguin has sent notices to 23 programs scheduled for review in 2007- 2008 or 2008-2009. To date, he has heard back from four programs, but will give us an update at our November 6th meeting.

G. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (David Romero)

Dr. David Romero reported on two items. First, his committee had considered the case of the retired Emeritus faculty member who wanted to continue to chair his student's committee. Dr. Romero noted that our Bylaws only allow Special Members of the Graduate Faculty to co-chair student committees, but that the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) does not have that restriction. His committee unanimously recommended that Dr. R.E.W Adams be allowed to chair the student's committee. Four members of the Academic Policy and Requirements Committee specifically cited the HOP. The Graduate Council agreed with the committee. Dr. Juanita Firestone cited the

HOP and explained that emeritus is an academic title. Dr. Sos Aгаian emphasized the importance of the Department's decision. Dr. Flannagan noted that Dr. Elaine Sanders is currently chairing the HOP revision committee and that the future HOP will follow our Bylaws. Dr. Bizios recommended that we establish a consistent policy and Dr. Stone-Romero recommended that we do not take this individual case as a precedent. Drs. Walter Emler, Kadapakkam, and Flannagan focused on how we can best serve our graduate students. As faculty become more mobile, we may want to establish a grandfather rule. On the other hand, the full chair must be responsible for the student's progress. Being on campus is an important benefit.

Dr. Romero also presented an update on his survey concerning student dismissal and readmission. The survey included items about whether the program did or did not support a change in policy, the maximum number of times a dismissed student should be allowed to reapply to the same program, the maximum number of times to apply to a different program, and whether the student should be required to sit out at least one semester. In general the programs were comfortable with the current policy. The modal responses were once for reapplying to the same program and once for applying to a different program. Programs generally favored sitting out at least one semester with exceptions (e.g.; military service) and discretion at the College level.

IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

None.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:34.

Attachment A**New Special Members of the Graduate Faculty**

1. Dr. Costa M. Colbert
2. Dr. Ela Tekkaya Poursani
3. Dr. James Tepper
4. Dr. John Emory McCray
5. Dr. Jyostna Sharma
6. Dr. Maria Gaczynska
7. Dr. Michael Kurz
8. Dr. Nancy Klepper
9. Dr. Peter Herman Dube
10. Dr. Randolph D. Glickman
11. Dr. Raymond Ramin Sadeghi
12. Dr. Ryan Rudnicki
13. Dr. Terrance Wiley