

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

**December 1, 2009**

**John Peace Library 4.03.12  
3:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Gabriel Acevado , David Akopian, John Alexander, Kim Bilica, Norma Cantu, Michael Cepek, Bill Cooke, Jim Dykes, Dorothy Flannagan, Larry Golden (for Heather Trepal), Sean Guidry, Anjali Gupta, Kim Kline, Myung Ko, Don Kurtz, Lance Lambert, Fransisco Marcos-Marin, Greg Michel, Renee Nank, Sharon Navarro, Anne S. Reamey, Joel Saegert, Can Saygin, Scott Sherer, Howard Smith, Ryan Sprott, Drew Steven, Ram Tripathi, Lila Truett, John Wald, Raj Wilson, Mary Zey, Weining Zhang

**Absent:** Julie Bland, Richard Hartley, Adrian Lipscombe, Garry Sunter, Jose Weissman,

**Excused:** Rena Bizios, Andrey Chabanov, Mary Kay Houston-Vega, Elizabeth Murakami, Emeka Nwaeze, Rudy Sandoval, Brian Smith

**Visitors:**

Dana Forgione, Janey S. Briscoe Endowed Chair in the Business of Health  
Diane Walz, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research (College of Business)

**I. Call to order and taking of attendance.**

Dr. Norma Cantú called the December 1, 2009 meeting of the Graduate Council to order at 3:35 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes (Jim Dykes, substituting for Norma Cantú)**

The Minutes of the November 3, 2009 meeting were approved.

**III. Reports**

**A. Council Chair (Norma Cantú)**

Dr. Cantú welcomed our visitors (Drs. Dana Forgione and Diane Walz) and she moved that the Bylaws be suspended so that they could discuss the proposed Dual Degree Master in Business Administration / Master in Public Health (MBA / MPH). The motion was approved.

**B. Dean of Graduate School (Dorothy Flannagan)**

No report

**C. Secretary (Jim Dykes)**

Dr. Jim Dykes referred to the membership list for Graduate Council Committees (Attachment A of the Agenda). He thanked Dr. Joel Saegert (CoB) for volunteering to serve on the Academic and Policy Requirement Committee and Dr. Sue Ann Pemberton-Haugh (CoA) for volunteering to serve on the Graduate Programs and Courses

Committee. Dr. Dykes (CoLFA) will serve on the Academic and Policy Requirement Committee. He thanked Dr. Kim Kline for her work on the Nominating Committee. Dr. Kline reported that the committees were almost fully constituted. She asked for a CoB volunteer to serve on the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee and a CoA volunteer to serve on the Membership Committee.

**D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (Gabriel Acevedo)**

Dr. Gabriel Acevedo reported that he was currently receiving comments on the proposed Bilingual Reading Specialist Graduate Certificate. That proposal will be presented at our February 2, 2010 meeting.

Dr. Acevedo gave a Power Point presentation of the Dual Degree MBA / MPH proposal (the proposal was summarized in Attachment B of the Agenda). He explained that the interdisciplinary program (Business Administration, Business of Health, and Public Health) would serve the Health & Technology thematic of the College and University. It would build on the educational affiliation agreement between UTSA and UT School of Public Health (UTSPH). Students would apply to and pay fees to each school separately. If admitted to the dual degree program, students would take courses at UTSA and at the San Antonio regional campus of the UTSPH. The credits earned from each school would apply to its own degree and the student would receive a diploma from each school after meeting its degree requirements. The UTSA MBA degree requires 36 credits, but up to 12 shared credits from UTSPH would be accepted. The UTSPH MPH degree requires 45 credits, but up to 12 shared credits from the CoB at UTSA would be accepted. That would save the students time and money. Estimated 5-year enrollments assume five new students admitted each year with a rolling 3-year time to completion. While each program would be responsible for faculty time & effort, culminating experience / capstone / thesis work, and paying for program promotion; there would be a Coordinating Committee with an annual program evaluation to protect the academic integrity of both degrees and to address any problems or issues. The Coordinating Committee would report to the Chief Academic Officer / Dean for each school. Dr. Acevedo then opened the floor to discussion.

Drs. Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Scott Sherer, Saegert, and Ram Tripathi asked questions about the relationship between UTSA and UTSPH. Dr. Walz explained that completion of the dual degree program would result in two separate degrees, but that an individual student could choose to only complete one degree. She also explained that some UTSPH courses might be on-line, but that most would be taught at the regional campus in San Antonio. Dr. Forgione noted that the dual degree proposal helped both programs. It would give UTSA students more training than the 12-hour concentration in the Business of Health and would give UTSPH students more training than can be fit within the 9-hour business focus afforded by their accreditation. Dean Flannagan posited that that was a major reason for UTSPH contacting UTSA about setting up a dual degree program. Dr. Forgione explained that both programs have a wide pool of students from which to recruit. Dr. Walz explained that some leveling courses required by one program might be counted toward the other program, but that all courses from both institutions would be graduate courses. Drs. Sherer, Howard Smith, Kim Kline, Drew Stephen, and Cantú asked specific questions about the counting of hours and the realism of the time line. Drs. Forgione and Walz explained that each program could count up to 12 hours from the

other school and that a total of 12 hours could be double-counted. While double-counting is not allowed across sequential degrees, it is allowed in an approved dual degree. Dean Flannagan noted that approval of a dual degree requires approval by each institution and notification to the UT System. While the students will be busy, taking 12 hours per semester would earn the required 69 hours within the expected 3-year time to completion cycle. Dr. Kim Bilica asked about student support and program evaluation. Dr. Forgione reported no specific funding, but suggested that some students would be supported by grants. Dean Flannagan does not anticipate any difference in assessment. Dr. Acevedo noted that his committee had asked about similar programs, mission, and job prospects for graduating students. Dr. Forgione explained that Johns Hopkins has a similar program. He also suggested that training students how to couple providing a community service while earning a profit will be especially important as health care evolves. The proposal was unanimously approved.

**E. Membership Committee (Scott Sherer)**

Dr. Sherer referred the Graduate Council to the list of nine applications for Special Members of the Graduate Faculty distributed as Attachment C of the Agenda. He noted that Dr. Joel Christensen is a tenure-track faculty member and is consequently a Regular Member of the Graduate Faculty. Special membership is moot. The reason for Dr. Gulshan Singh's application (the blank cell in the Attachment C table) is to serve on a thesis/dissertation committee. Dr. Sherer's committee approved all eight applications (discounting Dr. Christensen's application) and a late application for Dr. Lisa Mora to serve on a dissertation committee in Educational Leadership. The entire list was unanimously approved by the Graduate Council.

Dr. Cantú encouraged all departments to submit their applications early. Dr. Smith asked about the review procedure of a hypothetical generalist requested by a student to serve on a thesis / dissertation committee who might have published a book without holding a terminal degree. Dr. Sherer explained that each application is evaluated by the program, the Chair of the Graduate Program Committee, the Chair of the Department, and the Dean prior to being forwarded to his Committee. Not all recommendations to his committee are unanimous.

**F. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (Howard Smith)**

Dr. Smith reported that Dr. Kathleen Mittag is coordinating the final report for the MS in Electrical Engineering program and that the MS in Statistics program is at the outside reviewer stage. He explained that Assistant Vice Provost Steve Wilkerson is coordinating the transition to the new evaluation procedure. Under the new procedure, all departmental undergraduate and graduate programs will be reviewed together. While no firm date has been given for the transition, we need to finish all scheduled reviews this year. In response to a question by Dr. Sherer, Dean Flannagan explained that the need to accommodate the accreditation process under the new procedure is being discussed, but no master plan is currently available.

**G. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (Andrey Chabanov)**

No Report

**IV. Unfinished Business**

Drs. Cantú and Acevedo reminded the Graduate Council about the issue of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for international students. Dr. Acevedo will try to schedule an open forum with Jim Kelim (ESL Coordinator). Interested people would be welcome. Dr. Smith suggested generating a list of questions to be given to Jim Kelim before the meeting. Dr. Acevedo asked people to send him any questions so that he could compile that list.

**V. New Business**

None

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:19.