

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

February 7, 2006

John Peace Library 4.03.08

3:30 p.m.

Present:

Sos Agaian, Diana Allan, Bruce Barnett, Stuart Birnbaum, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Laio Chen, Youn-Min Chou, Daren Daugaard, Blanche Desjean-Perotta, Liudmila Dunaeva, Beth Durodoye, Alan Dutton, James Dykes, Dorothy Flannagan, Lila Flory-Truett, Michael Frye, Larry Golden, Matthew Grunstra, Hai-Chao Han, Jack Himelblau, Daniel Hogenauer, Rosalind Horowitz, Mary Houston-Vega, Fred Hudson, Eugene John, Laura Levi, Ken Little, Debbie Lopez, Lalatendu Misra, Wing Chung Ng, Jeanne Reesman, David Romero, Francine Romero, Anuradha Roy, Ted Skekel, Judith Sobre, Thankam Sunil, Jon Thompson, Armando Trujillo, Raydel Tullous, John Warren, Kenton Wilkinson, Linda Winterbottom,

Absent:

Mark Allen, Tom Bylander, Richard French, Matthew Gdovin, Neal Guentzel, Hyunsoo Han, Alan Harmon, Rick Hatfield, Victoria Jones, Don Lien, John McCarrey, Cynthia McCluskey, Grant Merrill, Parimal Patel, William Shaw, L'Nea Stewart, Juan Urbina, Charlie Wilson, Weining Zhang

Excused:

Thelma Duffey, Tina Lowrey (on leave), Josephine Mendez-Negrete, Ben Olguin (on leave), Earle Reybold, Mary Lou Zeeman (on leave)

Visitors:

Olga Mata (Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School, retired)
Paul Westmeyer (worked with Olga Mata as Secretary of the Graduate Council)
Robert Fuhrman (Chair of Department of Psychology)
Tom Coyle (Associate Professor of Psychology)

I. Call to order and taking of attendance.

The February 7, 2006 meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 3:34 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes (Ted Skekel)

The minutes of the December 6, 2005 meeting of the Graduate Council were unanimously approved.

III. Reports

A. Council Chair (Ted Skekel)

Dr. Ted Skekel informed the Graduate Council that Olga Mata had retired after 31 years of outstanding service to graduate education at UTSA. He asked for and was granted a suspension of Graduate Council rules in order to allow Dr. Paul Westmeyer and Olga Mata to participate in a celebration of Olga Mata's service. Dr. Brenda Claiborne was out of town, but Dr. Skekel read her description of how she had worked with Olga Mata for five years in the 1990s as Graduate Dean and as Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies and Research. Reminding the Graduate Council of the rapid growth of graduate programs at UTSA during that time period, Dr. Claiborne's summary noted that Olga Mata had touched the lives of many graduate students and would be remembered by many generations of students. Dr. Jeanne Reesman said that the three years she worked with Olga Mata as Graduate Dean were the best three years. Ten doctoral programs were proposed and three were approved. She described Olga Mata as the best person with whom she had ever worked and commented that everyone said "Ask Olga". Dr. Rosalind Horowitz, having known Olga Mata for 25 years, described how she represents the history of the University. Dr. Horowitz recalled Olga Mata's work with Presidents Jim Wagener, Sam Kirkpatrick, and Ricardo Romo; Vice President for Academic Affairs Gordon Lamb; Provost Guy Bailey; and Drs. Marge Smelstor, Jim Dykes, Rick Tangum, herself and others in the Honors Program. She noted that Olga Mata arrived early each day to organize and attend to details and praised her genteel manner, elegance, finesse, and respect for others. Dr. Paul Westmeyer reminded the Graduate Council of Olga Mata's dedication while he was Secretary and stated that she made sure things were done correctly. He also enjoyed speculating with her on who would be the next Chair of the Graduate Council; which, at that time, was elected by the Senate. Dr. Skekel said that Olga Mata "made it all happen on the Graduate Council" and presented her with a plaque recognizing her dedication and outstanding service to the Graduate School and the Graduate Council. Olga Mata thanked the Graduate Council and said she had enjoyed the journey, but would also enjoy the journey of stress-free retirement. Dean Dorothy Flannagan invited the Graduate Council to partake of Olga Mata's retirement cake.

B. Secretary (Jim Dykes)

Dr. Jim Dykes reminded the Graduate Council that Dr. Ben Olguin (as Chair of the Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements) had proposed an addition to the Graduate Council Bylaws at the December 6th 2005 meeting. The addition of the proposed section III.3.c would designate the second runner-up of an election for a representative to the Graduate Council as the replacement for that representative. The full proposal was emailed to members on January 4th 2006 in order to provide a 30 day period for consideration. Dr. Olguin is on leave, so Dr. Dykes proposed the addition in his absence. The proposal passed.

C. Membership Committee (Jon Thompson)

Dr. Jon Thomson distributed a list of people recommended by the Membership Committee for special membership in the Graduate Faculty. The list (Attachment A) included two people that were recommended after distribution of the Agenda. In response to a question by Dr. Bruce Barnett, Dean Dorothy Flannagan explained that a letter is sent from the Graduate School to notify new special members of the Graduate Faculty. The recommended list was approved.

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (Fred Hudson)

Dr. Skelkel moved to suspend the Bylaws in order that Drs. Robert Fuhrman and Tom Coyle could answer questions about the PhD in Psychology proposal (summarized as Attachment B of the Agenda). The motion was approved. Dr. Fred Hudson described his recommendation of the PhD in Psychology as a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Hudson explained that the program is designed to provide background in psychological theory, research methods, statistics, and grant-writing. The curriculum includes 48 hours beyond the MS: 27 hours of organized coursework (24 hours of core courses and 3 hours of electives), 9 hours of supervised research, and 12 hours of dissertation. The background should prepare graduates for both academic and non-academic positions (including health care evaluation, disease prevention, and testing and measurement). Dr. Hudson cited a need at the state level (1700 PhD applicants for 200 students admitted) and strong interest at UTSA. He described a need for additional office and research space and the need for additional computer hardware and software for the students. He noted that revenues are expected to fully fund the program cost. Dr. Hudson summarized that the program would train behavioral researchers and teachers as well as leaders in non-academic settings.

In response to a question by Dr. SOS Agaian, Dr. Robert Fuhrman explained that there are currently 19 regular psychology faculty (1 senior psychologist joined UTSA in January and a second is coming in August) and two more are coming on line. In terms of the student training goals, he also noted the importance of having specialized courses taught by faculty at the UTHSC and psychologists at Harcourt Brace and Brooks City Base. Drs. Mary Houston-Vega and David Romero asked about the impact of the proposed program on undergraduate teaching and student support. Dr. Fuhrman noted that that there would be about 2 new organized courses taught per semester, but that there would be a considerable increase in the research program. He suggested that some doctoral students could help with some lower division courses. He also noted the importance of the \$3.5 million in extramural funding for student support.

Dr. Stuart Birnbaum asked about the number of students to be admitted. Dr. Fuhrman anticipates 6- 8 at first and to then ramp up to 10 per year. Dr. Birnbaum asked whether the program would integrate with neuroscience. Dr. Fuhrman noted that psychology can connect with a number of other disciplines. He specifically noted discussions about neuroscience with Drs. Aaron Cassill and Nicole Wicha, but also mentioned connections with health and management and marketing. In response to a comment by Dr. Birnbaum that he liked the proposal

not being too narrowly defines, Dr. Fuhrman explained that his goal was to have a contribution to the program by 100% of the psychologists. In response to Dr. Birnbaum's question about the timeline, Dean Flannagan explained that the earliest possible implementation would be Fall 2007.

Dr. Lalatendu Misra asked about the number of new faculty. Dr. Fuhrman answered that two new faculty were projected: one in the second year and one in the fourth. He specifically noted he had talked with Dr. Nandini Kannan about statistics, but that one of the new hires needed to be a statistician. Dr. Thankam Sunil asked about specific areas of concentration. Dr. Fuhrman explained that the current faculty are broadly grouped into cognition, health, and industrial / organizational psychology, but that specializations may evolve with new faculty. Drs. Sunil and Houston-Vega asked about how the proposed program compared to other PhD and PsyD programs in the region. Dr. Fuhrman noted that the only similar programs are at UT Arlington and UT El Paso. The focus on experimental methods and statistics distinguishes the proposed program from other near by programs. The dissertation (no more than three per faculty member per year) distinguishes it from PsyD programs (including the one at Baylor). Those skills should make the graduates competitive on local and national markets.

A number of questions centered on funding and the source of students. Dr. Fuhrman explained that the key to being self-supporting was having extramural grants in place to fund student support. He noted that an interest survey had been conducted with undergraduate majors and that the first set of cohorts would mainly draw from recent MS graduates. The proposed PhD in Psychology program was approved.

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (Debbie Lopez)

Dr. Debbie Lopez explained that her committee is scheduled to conduct 11 1-year follow-ups and 8 program evaluations. Of those 8 program evaluations, only some of the self-studies (due between December 1st and December 15th) are currently complete. The goal is to complete as many reports as possible by the May meeting. In response to a question by Dr. Skekel, Drs. Lopez and Flannagan expected that that three of the program evaluations and all of the 1-year follow-ups would be completed by May. Dr. Judith Sobre commented on the magnitude of the work, especially with the committee being short-handed.

F. Dean of Graduate School (Dorothy Flannagan)

Dean Flannagan noted that Olga Mata, in spite of being retired, was helping the staff before the Graduate Council meeting. She noted how much she appreciated her and would miss her.

Dean Flannagan presented the status of new graduate programs at UTSA. The PhD in Applied Statistics and Applied Demography proposal was approved by the Coordinating Board for Fall 2006 implementation with programs in Business and in Public Policy. The PhD in Anthropology is scheduled for an external review

this Spring, with possible consideration at the April or Summer meeting of the Board. Several new proposals are coming on line and Interim Provost Rosalie Ambrosino is working on the number and priority of the new proposals.

Dean Flannagan also noted the focus on student retention. Currently there is a task force on undergraduate student retention. There will be a task force on graduate student retention and she welcomed volunteers and discussions with the Associate Deans of Graduate Study.

G. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (no Chair)

No report.

IV. Unfinished Business

None.

V. New Business

Dr. Birnbaum suggested that program evaluations might proceed more smoothly if the program had more lead time; perhaps reminding the program of an upcoming review during the previous May rather than in the Fall. A number of Council members and Dr. Skekel thought that was an excellent suggestion. While the information is available in records, an early reminder would be very helpful (especially given the 7- 10 year review cycle).

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Attachment A
RECOMMENDATION FOR
GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBERSHIP

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Special Member:

Earth and Environmental Science

Victor Sylvia

Biology

Debra Niemeyer

Kenira Thompson

Computer Science

Dennis Cadena

Physics and Astronomy

Randolph Glickman

Benjamin Rockwell

Robert Thomas

John B. Gruber

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND FINE ARTS

Special Member:

English, Classics and Philosophy

Louis Mendoza

Art and Art History

Susan Kaufman

Gerry D Scott

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Special Member

Bicultural/Bilingual Studies

Quing Zhang

Educational Leadership

Thomas Jackson