

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

November 6, 2001

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

The third meeting of the Graduate Council for the 2001-2002 academic year was held in Room 4.03.08 John Peace Library Building, November 6, 2001

Present: Ron Alexander, Stephen Amberg, Stephan Bach, James Balentine, Aaron Cassill, Frances Colpitt, Ryan N. Craig, Robert Fuhrman, Michael Gilbert, Larry Golden, Juan Gonzalez, Daniel O. Hogenauer, Jack Himmelblau, Rosalind Horowitz, Fred Hudson, David Jafee, Eugene John, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Amir Karimi, Michael Kelly, Neil Maurer, Hugh Maynard, Juan Mora-Torres, Bill Mullen, Thomas Ricento, Ted Skekel, Ram Tripathi, Raydel Tullous, Oscar W. Van Auken, Pablo Vila, Amparo Villanueva, Kenneth Wunderlich, Su Zhou, Chia Chih, Diane Walz and Dorothy Flannagan

Absent: Mark Alford, Thomas Bylander, Glenn Dietrich, Keith Fairchild, Noe Gonzales, Jr., Luis Haro, Carol Anne Leezer, Alan Morris, Yu Zhou

Excused: James McDonald and David Thompson

Visitors: Zorica Pantic-Tanner, Julius Gribou, William Scouten and Cheryl Schrader

I. Call to Order and taking of attendance.

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

II. Minutes from the October 2, 2001 meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Reports

A. Council Chair. (no report)

The council voted to suspend the bylaws for this meeting to allow input from invited visitors representing the proposed Ph.D. program in Environmental Science & Engineering.

B. Interim Dean of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Flannagan discussed the three new Ph.D. programs which are planned for next fall. The site visit for the Ph.D. in Business program occurred last month. Site visit for the new Ph.D. program in Electrical Engineering is scheduled this month. The proposed doctoral degree program in English is due in early spring.

C. Secretary

- i. The Annual Report of the Graduate Council Secretary for the Academic Year 2000-2001 was presented as in Attachment A in Documents and Proceedings, pages 2327 – 2329.
- ii. Changes to Council membership were announced. A revised membership roster was distributed.
- iii. A slate of candidates for committee assignments was received from the Nominating Committee. These candidates were nominated to fill two vacancies on the Academic Policy and Requirements Committee and one vacancy on the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee. The

Council voted unanimously to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations. (Attachment A)

- iv. Dr. Walz suggested that the Graduate Council consider, given the recent and expected increases in number of graduate programs, whether changes in its structure might be in order.

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses

- i. Dr. Fuhrman presented the Committee's evaluation of the proposed Ph.D. program in Environmental Science & Environmental Engineering (Attachment B). The suggestion was made that the committee's report be revised to include "The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering" in its title. Dr. Fuhrman stated that he had noticed this and had intended to include both department names. The committee recommended acceptance of the program, as proposed, and the Graduate Council voted unanimously to accept the Committee's recommendation to approve the proposal.

E. Membership Committee

- i. The committee recommended acceptance of eleven new members. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Graduate Council, unanimously. (Attachment C)

F. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation

- i. Dr. Skekel reported that the committee is expecting to receive names of outside reviewers soon from two of the three programs scheduled for review this year. Internal reports for all three programs are currently being prepared.

G. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements

- i. No report

IV. Unfinished Business -- none

V. New Business

- A. Tom Ricento suggested that the Graduate Council should consider holding its meetings in a larger room, given the current number of members and frequent need for outside visitors.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm

Attachment A
COMMITTEES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
2001-2002

ADMINISTRATIVE AND AGENDA

Chia (Rocky) Shih, Chair (elected by the Senate)
Dorothy Flannagan, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies, Ex Officio

- (1) Diane Walz, Secretary
- (1) James Balantine
- (1) Michael Gilbert
- (1) Yu Zhou, Student Representative

- *****
- (1) Steve Amberg, Parliamentarian
 - (2) Carole Anne Leezer, University Assembly Representative (student)
 - (1) Ryan N. Craig, University Libraries, Univ Standing Committee (student)
 - (1) Amparo Villanueva, Human Research, Univ Standing Committee (student)
 - (1) Noe Gonzalez, Jr., UTSysGrad Graduate Advisory Council

MEMBERSHIP

- (1) William Flannery
- * (1) Frances Colpitt, **Chair**
- (1) David Senseman
- (2) John Bretting
- * (2) David Thompson
- * (2) Amir Karimi

Composition:

One Member from each college
and two at large, minimum of three
members of the Graduate Council

GRADUATE PROGRAM EVALUATION

- * (1) Stephen Bach
- * (1) Ted Skekel, **Chair**
- * (2) Jack Himelblau
- (2) Francine Sanders Romero
- (1) Manuel Diaz
- (2) Wanda Hedrick

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Nominated by the Council Chair)

Rosalind Horowitz, Chair
Aaron Cassill
Juanita Firestone
Michael Kelly

GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND COURSES

- * (1) Su Zhou
- * (1) Aaron Cassill
- * (2) Robert Fuhrman, **Chair**
- (2) Ni (Phil) He
- (1) G. Alberto Arroyo
- * (2) David Thompson

ACADEMIC POLICY AND REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Russell Briner
- * (1) Thomas Bylander
- * (2) Steve Amberg
- (1) Rebecca Peterson
- * (2) Thomas Ricento
- (2) Harriet Romo

* Member of the Graduate Council

Attachment B
Doctoral Degree Program in Environmental Science and Engineering

Department of Earth and Environmental Science, College of Sciences
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering

Executive Summary

The Committee received the proposal on September 10 but discussion of it was postponed until deliberations on the proposed doctoral degree program in Biomedical Engineering were completed. The Committee met on October 1 to begin a preliminary review of the proposal. The Committee met again on October 8 to discuss the proposal with Dr. Cheryl Schrader, the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Engineering, and Dr. O. William Van Auken, Professor of Ecology. Subsequently, the Committee Chair met in separate meetings with Dr. Weldon Hammond, the Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, and Dr. Chia Shih, Professor of Engineering and Environmental Management. It should be noted that Dr. German Alberto Arroyo, the Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is a member of the Committee. Following the completion of several changes in the proposal, per the request of the Committee, the Committee met for a final discussion on October 15.

The Committee recommends approval of the proposed degree program for the following reasons:

1. The proposed program would promote interdisciplinary collaborations between a number of departments within the College of Science and the College of Engineering, as well as with other UTSA graduate programs. This collaboration would broaden and strengthen existing undergraduate and masters degree programs in the area, offer new and unique opportunities for faculty grant development, and enhance the national reputation of UTSA as a center for research in technology and the sciences. These contributions would significantly move UTSA toward its more general, long-term goal of establishing itself as a level 1 research institution.
2. The proposed program would offer students an opportunity to develop a career in environmental science and engineering through the unique training offered by the College of Science and the College of Engineering. Graduates of the program would serve as leaders, develop expertise, and make significant contributions to a field that has grown rapidly in importance and job opportunities over the past decade. No other institution in the south or central parts of Texas offers this type of training so students from many other schools across the state are likely to be attracted to the program. In addition, minority students in the region would be given the opportunity to acquire strong technical skills that they could not afford to pursue otherwise.
3. The program would provide essential expertise to local, regional, state, and national agencies on matters pertaining to the management of natural resources. The need for this expertise will undoubtedly continue to grow as more decisions regarding the physical environment are considered in response to the demands of our growing population. Graduates from the program would also 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.

Attachment C
RECOMMENDATION FOR GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBERSHIP

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Special Member:

Management

Murray, Charles W.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Special Member:

Mechanical Engineering

Millwater, Harry R.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND FINE ARTS

Member:

English, Classics and Philosophy

Saldívar-Hull, Sonia

Political Science and Geography

Engster, Dan

Romero, David W.

Special Member:

Art and Art History

Waid, Jim

History

Johnson, Benjamin H.

Music

Fox, Peter T.

Parsons, Lawrence M.

Political Science and Geography

Crum, Shannon

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC POLICY

Special Member:

Public Administration

Reddick, Chris