

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

September 4, 2007

John Peace Library 4.03.08
3:30 p.m.

Present:

Sos Agaian, John Alexander, Kim Bilica, Rena Bizios, Mary Bollinger, Andrey Chabanov, Fengxin Chen, Ashley Curtiss, Elizabeth de La Portilla, Alan Dutton, James Dykes, Walter Ermler, Juanita Firestone, Dorothy Flannagan, Larry Golden, Julie Gresham-Guerra, Sara Hohne, David Jaffe, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Kim Kline, Laura Levi, William McCrary Alokparna (Sonia) Monga, Emeka Nwaeze, Ben Olguin, Maricela Oliva, David Romero, Scott Sherer, Eugene Stone-Romero, Thankam Sunil, Ram Tripathi, Lila Truett, John Warren, Jose Weissmann, Wanxiang Yao

Absent:

Cheryl Alderman, Andrew Bates, Gregg Michel, Can (John) Saygin, Ryan Weekley

Excused:

Mary Kay Houston-Vega, Malgozata Oleszkiewicz, Heywood Sanders

Visitors:

Beth Durodoye, Provost Fellow for Graduate School
 Keith Fairchild, Chair Department of Finance
 Thomas Thomson, Director of Real Estate Finance and Development Program

I. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Dr. William McCrary called the September 4, 2007 meeting of the Graduate Council to order at 3:38 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes (Ted Skekel)

After correcting the spelling of Dr. Maricela Oliva's name, the Minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting of the Graduate Council were approved.

III. Reports

A. Council Chair (William McCrary)

Dr. McCrary noted Dr. Ted Skekel's service to the Graduate Council as the previous Chair. He greatly appreciated Dr. Skekel's service and is committed to continuing the progress of the Graduate Council. He offered to meet with the Committee Chairs to assist in the transition and their important work.

B. Dean of Graduate School (Dorothy Flannagan)

Dean Dorothy Flannagan welcomed the members of the Graduate Council and commended them on their important work. She particularly thanked the people serving on committees. Noting that there were still some vacancies on some committees, she

asked people to volunteer to fill openings or to assist full committees with heavy workloads.

Dean Flannagan reported that almost new 300 graduate students attended the orientation. That was a record number. She was impressed by the quality of the students, the faculty and staff participation, and the workshop from the Tomás Rivera Center. The feedback from the students was quite positive. There are currently about 3700 graduate students. That is a decline of about 100 students mainly due to two programs cutting back, but there is an increase of about 30 doctoral students. It was a very busy summer recruiting and advising students. Dean Flannagan remarked on the important work by Dr. Beth Durodoye. She is completing her final semester as a Provost Fellow for the Graduate School and will present a report to the Graduate Council in October.

C. Secretary (Jim Dykes)

Dr. Jim Dykes presented the list of 2007 / 2008 Graduate Council members under the revised Bylaws: one representative for each of the 37 Departments with a graduate program. He noted that Dr. Wan Xiang Yao had replaced Dr. Georgia Polacek in representing Health and Kinesiology. Dr. Kim Kline has replaced Dr. Elaine Wittenberg-Lyles as the representative for Communication and, after the meeting, Dr. Karl Eschbach was elected to replace Dr. Steve Murdock as the representative for Demography and Organization Studies. Also after the meeting, 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). Anamaria Delperdang was the student representative for the College of Liberal and Fine Arts at the meeting. Except for the College of Education and Human Development, there are student representatives for all of the Colleges. The current list of Graduate Council members was distributed as Attachment A of the October Agenda. As Dean Flannagan noted, there are still some vacancies on Graduate Council Committees. A number of people volunteered during the meeting. Both the vacancies and the volunteers were highlighted in the list distributed as Attachment B of the October Agenda.

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

The proposed new Master of Science in Construction Science and Management was Attachment A of the Agenda. Dr. McCrary moved that the Bylaws be suspended to allow Drs. Keith Fairchild and Thomas Thomson to answer questions about the proposal. The Graduate Council approved his motion.

Dr. Thankam Sunil explained that the proposed MS in Construction Science and Management is designed to complement the proposed BS in Construction Science and Management in the College of Architecture. That BS program is estimated to grow to 69 full-time student equivalents in four years. The proposed MS program would emphasize the managerial aspects of the industry in one additional year of course work for those students with the architectural degree. FTSEs are expected to reach 19 in five years and the growth of the Bachelor of Business Administration in Construction Management major from 30 to 80 students was cited as an indication of student demand. Dr. Sunil reported that there are currently five similar graduate programs in the state. He also reported that there are 12 full-time and 5 part-time faculty to deliver the 33 credit hour curriculum.

Drs. Rena Bizios and Eugene Stone-Romero asked about the balance between architecture & engineering and finance, management, and real estate in the proposed program. Dr. Fairchild explained that the program is designed for people who already have a strong construction science background but who wish to augment their management skills. Both Drs. Fairchild and Thomson noted that employers seek people with that combination of skills. Dr. Fairchild suggested that the MS would better enhance employment opportunities and demand than a certification program; but he also suggested that the MBA with a concentration in Real Estate would be more appropriate for those students with a business background. Dr. Stone-Romero noted the strong emphasis on finance relative to management courses in the curriculum. Dr. Fairchild indicated that the curriculum has a strong finance component within a broader management overview. In response to questions by Drs. Emeka Nwaeze, Fengxin Chen, Scott Sherer, and Jose Weissmann; Drs. Fairchild and Thomson agreed that students may have additional background in the sciences or mechanical engineering prior to entering the intense, one-year program. The proposal was approved.

E. Membership Committee (No Chair)

Dr. Rodolpho Sandoval is unable to Chair the Membership Committee, but Susan Mancha in the Graduate School distributed a list of 19 people recommended by the Committee to be Special Members of the Graduate Faculty. The Graduate Council approved the list and it is Attachment A.

Dr. Oliva asked about regular membership in the Graduate Faculty and Dean Flannagan explained that newly hired tenured or tenure-track faculty automatically become regular members of the Graduate Faculty. Dr. Nwaeze asked if there were other requirements, such as research. While Dean Flannagan explained that there were no other formal requirements, Dr. Bizios reported that she was quite impressed with the credentials of the applicants she reviewed.

F. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (Ben Olguin)

No report.

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

Dr. David Romero reported that the survey on reinstatement petitions was sent to the appropriate administrative heads of the seven colleges over the summer. The responses (from a total of nine programs) were less than he had hoped. He received full responses from Architecture and Public Policy, but has received spotty to no responses from the remainder. He will send out additional reminders and will tally the responses to present at the October meeting.

IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

Dr. Stone-Romero asked if we could hold secret ballots on program proposals if visitors were still present. Dr. Olguin indicated that he was generally opposed to secret ballots, but Dr. Alan Dutton noted that a member could call for a secret ballot. Dr. Bizios suggested that it might be possible to ask the visitors to leave prior to holding a vote.

Dr. McCrary stated that a Professor Emeritus has just retired after more than 30 years of teaching. Both the student and the Graduate Program Committee would like him to chair the student's committee, but our Bylaws prohibit special members of the Graduate Faculty from chairing committees. Dr. McCrary referred the issue to the Academic Policy and Requirements Committee. He also noted that a minimum of 30 days must pass between any proposed change to our Bylaws and a vote.

VI. Adjournment

Drs. McCrary, Flannagan, and Dykes presented an informal overview of the Graduate Council to interested members after the regular meeting was adjourned.

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

1. Dr. Alan Frazer
2. Dr. Antonia I. Castaneda
3. Dr. Clark R. Wilson
4. Dr. David H. Sacko
5. Dr. Dennis McFadden
6. Dr. George Veni
7. Dr. German Barrionuevo
8. Dr. Harvey Graff
9. Dr. Helmut Joachim Koester
10. Dr. J. Thomas Cunningham
11. Dr. James Howard Cox
12. Dr. John Giggie
13. Dr. Lynette Caroline Daws
14. Dr. Lynn Kitchen
15. Dr. Marvin Forland
16. Dr. Moshe Levi
17. Dr. Pramod Kumar
18. Dr. Russell M. Sanchez
19. Stephen Ackley