

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS  
March 6, 2018

**Graduate Student Professional  
Development Center  
GSR 1.204  
3:30-5:00**

I. Call to order and taking of attendance  
Meeting called to order at 3:36pm

II. Reports

A. Council Chair (**Mike Baumann**)

- Consent Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes
  - Special Membership Applicants (Attachment A)  
Comments: None  
Consent agenda approved
- Update from Senate Meeting
  - Have not yet received final information regarding changes to emeritus policy
    - Likely will include requirement of some number of years at “exceeds”
    - Data suggest the proposed 3 of 5 rule would not have impacted most cases
  - SGA renewed its objection to the +/- system
    - Used graduate council as part of justification

B. Dean of Graduate School (**DeBrenna Agbényiga**)

- No Report

C. Secretary (**Jonathan Clark**)

- 2018-2019 Elections Update  
Question: Should the department chair notify of the results? YES.

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (**Victor Villarreal**)

- No Report

E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (**Vacant**)

- No Report

F. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (**Elaine Sanders**)

- No Report

III. Unfinished Business

- Academic Policy and Requirements Guidance for Considering +/- recommendations

Not a clear sense from the last meeting where the department stands. Some of the options include:

1. Change cutoff to a B-
2. Eliminate the +/- system
3. Implement other forms of standardization

Several departments' representatives indicated their department consensus was to keep a +/- system and a "regular" B as minimum acceptable GPA. A similar number of departments' representatives indicated their departments oppose +/- and do not use it. A few departments indicated their faculty are nearly evenly split on the issue. Of those departments commenting on changing cutoff to a B-, most did not support it. It was also discussed that differences in department practices appear to reflect differences in disciplines more broadly rather than preferences of local faculty. Academic Policy and Requirements will continue to have a discussion about the +/- system, the description of the grading system in the catalog, and possibilities for increasing consistency.

IV. New Business

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm