

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO
DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
ACTION MINUTES
ORDER OF BUSINESS
OCTOBER 13, 2015

HARRIS ROOM
HUC 2.212
3:30-4:45 p.m.

Present:

DeBrenna Agbényiga, Richard Armendariz, Rahman Azari, Mike Baumann, Curtis Brewer, Kinitra Brooks, Youn-Min Chou, Jonathan Clark, Alberto Cordova, Dennis Davis, Brian Derrick, Kevin Grant, Ruyan Guo, Jeff Halley, Shane Haberstroh, Seok Kang, Adolfo Matamoros, Margarita Machado-Casas, Lucinda Nevarez, Sharon Nichols, Anuradha Roy, Boyka Stefanova, Drew Stephen, Joshua Thurow, Lila Truett, Melissa Wallace, Hongjie Xie, Weining Zhang

Absent:

Mehdi Beyhagi, Doug Frantz, Jingqi Li, Rongjie Liu, Marcela Lopez, Liang Tang, Daphne Villarreal, Jennifer Woods,

Excused:

Michael Cepek, Yusheng Feng, Barbara McCabe, Catherine Nolan-Ferrell, Chris Packham, Elaine Sanders, Corey Sparks, Marie Tillyer,

Visitor:

- I. Call to order and taking of attendance
The September meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 3:43pm by Dr. Mike Baumann, Council Chair.
- II. Approval of minutes (Mike Baumann)
Dr. Baumann asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 2015 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Jeff Halley and seconded by Dr. Weining Zhang. Motion was approved unanimously.
- III. Reports
 - A. Council Chair (Mike Baumann)
 - Update on Faculty Senate
Dr. Baumann gave updates on the activities of Faculty Senate. His presentation included the following topics:
 - Task force on concealed carry is being organized by the Faculty Senate
 - Programs/ certificates in grant proposals – Senate is drafting policies to distribute to Research Service Centers to make sure the vetting of new programs go through proper channels (some proposals have been proposed as part of grants)
 - Input on Chancellor's report – university is trying to get info about how to give input to Chancellor's request; more information will be coming in the future
 - Committee staffing updates

Dr. Baumann is encouraging committee membership; these committees have important work to do this year, particularly related to programs and academic policy. Ginger projected current committee membership lists and members were encouraged to sign up.

B. Dean of Graduate School (DeBrenna Agbényiga)

- Application Deadlines

Dean is meeting with the Associate Deans at the colleges once a month. One of the things they have been talking about is the application deadlines (handout of Master's deadlines was provided). There are lots of deadlines across departments. This has implications for the Graduate School admissions staff. Also the deadlines are so far out they limit our competitiveness with other institutions. Programs have been requesting extensions of deadlines also. None of the dates are moving this year. Conversation is starting now about having new priority dates in place during next cycle. The Dean explained priority dates as follows: if students get their applications in by this date, students get priority for funding when available.

Q&A followed. The Dean clarified that she is anticipating three or four application dates across the university – dates that won't disadvantage any programs, potentially including a separate priority date for international students. These could include priority deadlines with some flexibility afterwards for additional applicants (a few additional deadlines, but not too many). Masters and doctoral deadlines would still be separate, with priority dates for both. The Dean clarified that students who apply by the priority dates would get priority related to funding; programs need to decide how and if they want to hold onto funds after the priority admissions. During the discussion, the Dean also mentioned that the VIP program might be extended to alums as well; and could eventually extend to doctoral programs.

- Memo sent to Deans

The memo that Dr. Agbényiga sent to the Deans was also shown to Council Members. The memo stated that the spring 2015 application deadline will be moved to Nov 15 at the latest if extensions are requested by departments.

C. Secretary (Dennis Davis)

- No Report

D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (Kevin Grant)

- Dr. Grant gave overview of the work of the committee - to improve the quality of the proposals that are submitted to maximize their success as they move up for approval through state, etc.

E. Membership Committee (Michael Cepek)

- Special member applicant approval

Dr. Truett referred members to the list of special member applications, which were already recommended for approval by the Membership Committee. The list serves as the motion to approve the special membership applications. The motion was seconded by Dr. Weining Zhang and passed with 26 votes, no opposed; one abstention.

Committee was asked to add a column listing the year of the PhD to the list of special membership applicants that are presented to Graduate Council.

- F. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (Vacant)
 - No report
- G. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (Elaine Sanders)
 - Update on Bylaws – postponed until later meeting
 - Update on Graduate Program Reviews – postponed until later meeting
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
- VI. Adjournment
 - Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Anuradha Roy and seconded by Dr. Adolfo Matamoros. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.