

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS
November 6, 2018

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

Present: Janis Bush, Lupita Carmona, Michael Cepek, Jackie Cuevas, Lucila Ek, Jurgen Engelberth, Kandyce Fernandez, Doug Frantz, Ruyan Guo, Shamshad Khan, Myung Ko, Carlos Monton, Wing C. Ng, Elaine Sanders, Page Smith, Corey Sparks, Marie Tillyer, Ram Tripathi, Victor Villarreal, Melissa Wallace, HungDa Wan, Zijun Wang, Alistair Welchman, Rebecca Weston, Juliet Wiersema, Liang Tang, Rory Vance
Excused: John Bartkowski, Angela Lombardi, Matthew McCarter, Heather Trepal
Absent: Fathali Firoozi, Judy Haschenburger, Kasandra Keeling, Ritu Mathur, Erica Sosa, Greg Wene, Alpha Martinez-Suarez, Muntasir Masum, Nasouri Reza, Jennifer Uria
Visitor: Jelena Todic, Johnelle Sparks

- I. Call to order and taking of attendance
Meeting called to order at 3:40pm
Motion to suspend bylaws passed.

II. Reports

A. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (Victor Villarreal)

- M.S. Applied Demography proposal
 - The committee recommended in favor of approval (3 votes in favor, 1 against, no abstentions)
 - There was lively discussion, with a number of questions asked and satisfactory answers provided by Department of Demography representatives Dr. Johnelle Sparks and Dr. Corey Sparks. The proposal was approved with 25 in favor, none opposed, and 2 abstaining.
- Changes to existing Ph.D. Applied Demography
 - The committee recommended in favor of approval (4 votes in favor, none against, no abstentions). There was some discussion about the difference between the track for students entering the program with an MS from somewhere else and those entering with an MS from UTSA. Dr. Johnelle Sparks clarified that UTSA students have usually taken demography courses while those from other programs usually haven't. The proposal was approved with 21 voting in favor, 1 opposed and 5 abstaining.

B. Council Chair (Elaine Sanders)

- Consent Agenda
 - The consent agenda was approved.

- Senate Report
 - Faculty Senate restructure of Graduate Council
 - The Council Chair reported that Interim Graduate Dean Can Saygin had presented a proposal to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the restructuring of Graduate Council. The proposal involved removing all or most of the functions of the Graduate Council: membership would be dealt with by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness; the process for adding programs would be simplified; evaluation is already being performed without the Council; and the Bylaws of the Graduate Council needed to be simplified. Dr. Saygin proposed that the decisions related to the restructuring of the Council be made by the Faculty Senate (as Graduate Council is an arm of Faculty Senate, and he asked the Senate to vote on dissolving the Council at its December meeting. The Senate would then decide on a new structure and repurposing of Graduate Council to be piloted in spring 2019 and implemented in fall 2019.
 - There was robust discussion of this proposal, with relevant points including: 1. The proposed 14-member council would be too small. 2. The proposal would involve taking away an entire level of faculty governance. 3. The Council does have problems that should be addressed. 4. At least some of the purported apathy of members stem from the feeling that the administration does not take much notice of the Council. 5. There would not be much left of the Council if the functions are moved to administration. 6. The committees do the heavy lifting, and it doesn't make sense to say the body as a whole is inefficient. 7. The Council should ask the Senate to table the issue, work on a faculty-driven proposal and wait until the new Graduate Dean is in place before making any changes.
 - There was consensus to draft a resolution addressed to the Faculty Senate, and to vote on it electronically prior to the next Senate meeting on December 6th.

- C. Dean of Graduate School (Can Saygin)
 - Funding update (Ginger Hernandez)
 - Tabled.
- D. Secretary (Alistair Welchman)
 - Committees
 - Tabled.
- E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (Elaine Sanders)
 - Update on committee
 - Tabled.
- F. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (Elaine Sanders)
 - No Report

III. Unfinished Business

A. Memo regarding Business of Health Graduate Certificate closure

Tabled.

IV. New Business

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.