

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO  
DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL  
ACTION MINUTES  
ORDER OF BUSINESS  
April 7, 2015

**Assembly Room**  
**JPL 4.04.22**  
**3:30-4:17 p.m.**

**Present:**

DeBrenna Agbényiga, Richard Armendariz, Mike Baumann, Michael Cepek, Youn-Min Chou, Alberto Cordova, Dennis Davis, Sara DeTurk, Kevin Eddy, Sonya Eddy, Jurgen Engelberth, Kevin Grant, Jeff Halley, Steven Hoffman, Adolfo Matamoros, Michael McDonald, Mary Minor, Samuel Musen, Sharon Nichols, Thalia Rodriguez, Elaine Sanders, Jorge Solis, Johnelle Sparks, Rebecca Stortz, Liang Tang, Marie Tillyer, Lila Truett, Hongjie Xie

**Absent:**

Mehdi Beyhagi, Kinitra Brooks, Liao Chen, Gloria Crisp, Anthony Escalante, Eugene John, Gerald Juhnke, Donald Kurtz, Barbara McCabe, Catherine Nolan-Ferrell, Malgorzata Oleszkiewicz-Peralba, Drew Stephen, Alistair Welchman, Walter Wilson, Weining Zhang

**Excused:**

Rahman Azari, Yusheng Feng, Ram Tripathi

**Guests:**

Karen Daas, Jeremy Sullivan; Page Smith

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

The April meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by the Council Chair Dr. Elaine Sanders. Dr. Sanders asked for a vote to suspend the by-laws in order to allow visitors, Dr. Jeremy Sullivan and Dr. Page Smith, to attend the meeting. Motion was made by Dr. Johnelle Sparks, seconded by Dr. Lila Truett, and passed unanimously, no abstentions.

II. Approval of Minutes (**Elaine Sanders**)

Dr. Sanders asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2015 meeting as written. The minutes serve as the motion; seconded by Dr. Jeff Halley; and the motion passed unanimously, no abstentions.

III. Reports

A. Council Chair (**Elaine Sanders**)

- No Report

- B. Dean of Graduate School (**DeBrenna Agbényiga**)
- No Report

- C. Secretary (**Dennis Davis**)
- Update on Council Members Elections

Dr. Dennis Davis made an announcement about departments who have not yet sent the names of their representatives for the upcoming academic year.

- Officer Elections

The candidates who were nominated at the previous month's meeting were: Dr. Mike Baumann for Chair and Dr. Dennis Davis for Secretary. Dr. Davis asked for additional nominations. No additional nominations were put forth. Motion was made to approve the slate of officers by Dr. Jurgen Engelberth, seconded by Dr. Johnelle Sparks, approved unanimously, no abstentions. Dr. Baumann will serve as Chair of the Graduate Council and Dr. Davis as Secretary for the 2015-2016 academic year.

- D. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses (**Kevin Grant**)
- Graduate Catalog Revisions for 2015-2017

Dr. Kevin Grant gave an overview of the proposed changes to the Graduate Catalog for 2015-2017. He described five policy-oriented changes:

- 1-addition of VIP application admission policy
- 2-allow students on academic probation to graduate if they have overall 3.0 GPA
- 3-addition of dual degree policy
- 4-stipulation that the dissertation committee must consist of a majority of graduate faculty from the degree-granting department

Dr. Grant reported that the Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses voted to approve the proposed catalog (6 approve, 0 disapprove). Their recommendation is to recommend approval of the 2015-2017 Graduate Catalog. The report serves as the motion to approve. Discussion followed. There was a request to see the page numbers in the new catalog for the changes. Motion was approved unanimously by the Council, no abstentions.

- E. Membership Committee (**Michael Cepek**)
- Special Member Applicant Approval

Dr. Michael Cepek presented the list of applicants for special membership. The Membership Committee's recommendation serves as the motion to approve the applicants. Motion was approved unanimously, no abstentions.

- F. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation (**Jurgen Engelberth**)
- Bicultural-Bilingual Studies Academic Program Review

Dr. Jurgen Engelberth gave a report on the program review of the Bicultural-Bilingual Studies department. He presented highlights from the report for the Council to read, including strengths and needs of the department as identified by the external reviewers.

Council was given opportunity for questions for the department representative, Dr. Jorge Solis.

The Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation recommends to approve the report as it stands. The recommendation serves as the motion; approved unanimously, no abstentions.

- Educational Psychology Academic Program Review

Dr. Engelberth gave a report on the program review of the Educational Psychology department, including an overview of the departments and its degrees offerings, strengths and initiatives, and challenges faced by the department. There was an opportunity for questions for Dr. Jeremy Sullivan from the Educational Psychology department;

The Committee recommends approval of the report as it stands. The recommendation serves as motion; approved unanimously, no abstentions.

During the discussion, a procedural question was asked about what we are voting on in these situations. Members commented that the Council has the opportunity to add observations or objections to the report that moves forward to the Dean of Graduate Studies. It was commented that some of the concerns in the reports are university-wide concerns. Council members asked how the data generated in these reports is being used to support the graduate programs. Dr. Sanders suggested looking back through reports from previous years to identify consistent themes across reports and make a recommendation to the Dean.

It was also suggested that Council members have access to the reports ahead of time to review before each meeting.

G. Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements (**Vacant**)

- No Report

IV. Unfinished Business

- Recommendation for Bylaws Revision

Dr. Sanders has completed a draft of the bylaws revisions. An ad hoc committee will review and vote on the revisions and bring their recommendations to the Graduate Council at the May meeting or by electronic vote after the May meeting. The revisions are intended to clear up questions about special membership in graduate faculty. Specifically, are special members considered members of graduate faculty with all responsibilities and privileges of graduate faculty? Opportunity for questions was given. No questions were asked.

V. New Business

- No new business

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Jurgen Engelberth, seconded by Dr. Mike Baumann. Meeting adjourned at 4:17pm.