

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Graduate Council
Report of the Secretary for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Submitted September 7, 2010

by

Jim Dykes, Secretary

Authority

This secretary's report is filed in accordance with the Bylaws (Article IV.2.g.) of the Graduate Council of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

Meetings and Attendance

The Graduate Council met eight times during the 2009-2010 academic year: September 1, 2009; October 6, 2009; November 3, 2009; December 1, 2009; February 2, 2010; March 2, 2010; April 6, 2010; and May 4, 2010. Attendance was taken at each meeting and visitors were invited to attend and provide information about graduate program proposals in their area.

Graduate Council Chair Reports

Dr. Norma Cantú served as Graduate Council Chair. She conducted all meetings with a grace, collegiality, and efficiency noted by both Graduate Council members and visitors. She worked closely with Dean Dorothy Flannagan and Drs. Gabriel Acevedo and Xiaohe Xu on three new graduate program and certification proposals. She worked closely with Drs. Jim Dykes, Kim Kline, & Lance Lambert and with Ginger Hernandez to keep our committees complete and vibrant. She helped Dr. Scott Sherer to revise our Bylaws to clarify the role of Special Members of the Graduate Faculty and to improve the review process. Her work with Dean Flannagan, Dr. Howard Smith, Dr. Steve Wilkerson, and Ginger Hernandez was essential to keeping our Graduate Program Reviews on track (two final reports and five one-year follow-ups) and helping us prepare for the new Academic Program Review procedures. She also coordinated an updated list of Research and Statistics courses for graduate students. Her calm, even-handed approach resolved issues of tracking students admitted provisionally and of Summer funding of graduate students. Most notably, she worked with Dean Flannagan, Drs. Acevedo and Xu, and Jim Kelim to clarify the process of ESL for our graduate students. It is critical that the Graduate Council and current students be knowledgeable about the process and that future students (and their advisors) become knowledgeable. Dr. Cantú's outstanding service as Chair was noted with a standing ovation at the May meeting.

Dean of the Graduate School Reports

Dr. Dorothy Flannagan, Dean of the Graduate School, consistently focused on the recruiting, advising, and retention of graduate students. In Fall 2009, Graduate credit hours increased 7%; with a 4% increase in Master's enrollments and a 10% increase in Doctoral enrollments. In Spring 2010, 798 doctoral applications were received before the February 1st deadline (almost a 48% increase over the 540 received in Spring 2009). She used technology to facilitate graduate admissions. To help the new students, she expanded the Graduate Fairs and orientation programs. She expanded workshops for student development and the job bank. She nurtured the UTSA Graduate Student Association. Dean Flannagan worked with the Vice Provost for Accountability and Institutional Effectiveness and she kept us informed of changes in

Academic Program Review process. She was critical to development of the final report for SACS accreditation and the successful site visit in the Spring. She met regularly with representatives of the UT System and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to shepherd our graduate proposals. The THECB approved the MS in Urban and Regional planning for Fall 2010 implementation. Dean Flannagan has been proactive about changes in the review of new proposals, changes in reporting of current proposals, and posting of information on the UTSA website (including the 18 Characteristics of Texas Doctoral Programs).

Graduate Council Secretary Reports

Dr. Jim Dykes worked with Ginger Hernandez to maintain the membership list of the Graduate Council. He is extremely grateful to Drs. Norma Cantú, Kim Kline, and Lance Lambert for serving on the Nominating Committee and for recruiting faculty to serve on the Graduate Council Committees.

Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses Reports

Dr. Gabriel Acevedo chaired the important committee from September to February when Dr. Xiaohu Xu replaced him as the Representative for Sociology and Chair of the Committee. In addition to reviewing changes in the Graduate Catalog, the Committee guided three new proposals to approval by the Graduate Council. The Dual Degree Masters of Business Administration-Business Health / Masters of Public Health was approved at the December 1st meeting, the Bilingual Reading Specialist Graduate Certificate was approved at the February 2nd meeting, and the Joint Doctoral Degree Program in Translational Science was approved at the May 4th meeting. As noted above, both Drs. Acevedo and Xu worked closely with Dr. Cantú, Dean Flannagan, and Jim Kelim on the issue of ESL for our international students.

Membership Committee Reports

Dr. Scott Sherer's committee diligently reviewed the applications for Special Membership of the Graduate Faculty. A list of candidates recommended by the committee was presented at each meeting (a total of 91 Special Member and 15 Adjoint recommendations) and all were approved by the Graduate Council. As noted above, Dr. Sherer and his committee worked with Dr. Cantú and Ginger Hernandez to review the required qualifications for Special Members and how those qualifications relate to teaching (master or doctoral courses) and service on student committees (either thesis or dissertation). His proposed changes to our Bylaws were approved at our May 4th meeting.

Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation Reports

Dr. Howard Smith's committee was also extraordinarily busy this year. New programs are reviewed five years after implementation and established programs are reviewed at least once every 10 years. A total of two program reviews were presented to the Graduate Council this year: the MS in Chemistry in October and the MS in Electrical Engineering in February. In addition, there is a one-year follow-up after each program review. A total of five one-year follow-ups were presented to the Graduate Council this year: one in March (PhD and MA in English) and four in April (PhD & MS Biomedical Engineering, PhD & MS Computer Science, PhD in Environmental Science & Engineering, and PhD Neurobiology).

Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements Reports

Dr. Andrey Chabanov and the Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements carried on the work of defining the role of the Graduate Advisor of Record and helped update the list of research and statistics courses for graduate students.

Conclusion

The Graduate Council was very busy and productive in the 2009 / 2010 academic year. Graduate education at UTSA continues to rapidly expand. A new MS program was approved for implementation by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and multiple graduate programs are under review. A new PhD proposals and a Masters proposal were approved by the Graduate Council and approved by the Faculty Senate. A new certificate program was approved for implementation. As the number of graduate programs and enrollments (especially doctoral) increase, initiatives by the Graduate Council and the Graduate School continue to improve student recruitment, retention, and graduation. The salience of UTSA in graduate education has also increased in Texas and the nation. The internal reviews of new proposals and the reviews of established programs are attuned to changes at the Board of Regents, the THECB, and the HOP. Review of Special Membership has been improved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Dykes