MEMORANDUM

September 3, 2013

TO:        Ms. Cynthia M. Sanchez

FROM:      Patti Ohlendorf

RE:        Faculty Council Legislation: D 8997, Revisions Proposed by the Graduate Assembly to Recent Amendments to the In Absentia Policy

Our office has reviewed Faculty Council Legislation D 8997, Revisions Proposed by the Graduate Assembly to Recent Amendments to the In Absentia Policy. Our office finds the modifications to be in order for approval.

Thank you.

PCO/bh

cc:        Dr. Charles A. Roeckle
          Dr. Dean Neikirk
          Ms. Debbie Roberts
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY TO RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE IN ABSENTIA POLICY PASSED BY THE FACULTY COUNCIL IN MAY 2011

On behalf of the Graduate Assembly and as a member of the Faculty Council Executive Committee, Professor Shermaz García (special education) has submitted proposed changes to the In Absentia policy in the General Information catalog. The Graduate Assembly approved these revisions on September 14, 2011. The Secretary has classified this proposal as general legislation. It is being submitted to the Council for review and approval on a no-protest basis. If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. A member of the Faculty Council must sign the objection, with reasons. Final approval resides with UT System.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by September 26, 2011.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The General Faculty and the Faculty Council

REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY TO RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE IN ABSENTIA POLICY PASSED BY THE FACULTY COUNCIL IN MAY 2011

A student who is taking the final course(s) remaining to complete degree requirements via non-resident credit or a candidate for a degree who has completed the requirements for graduation and needs to register only for the purpose of having a degree conferred, may register in absentia. In absentia registration is not permitted for any other purpose; for graduate students, in absentia registration is allowed only at the end of the summer session for fall graduation as described below. The fee for in absentia registration is $25. In order for the degree to be awarded, the remaining coursework must be completed, the final grade recorded on the student’s academic record, and degree requirements certified by the established deadlines for the term. Students registering in absentia must meet in-residence requirements for a degree to be conferred.

Context and Rationale: On May 10, 2011, the Faculty Council passed revisions to the In Absentia policy in the General Information catalog (see D 8670). The paragraph in question serves as a preamble to specific policies for undergraduate and graduate students, and therefore required review by the Graduate Assembly prior to being published in the 2011-2012 catalog. However, this review could not be conducted until the fall semester because the last Graduate Assembly meeting predated that of the Faculty Council (April).

The proposed revisions to the Faculty Council legislate will clarify in absentia registration procedures for students and administrative offices. Specifically, we recommend that the word “posted” be removed and replaced with explicit language that elaborates the requirements for graduation. The changes would be published in the 2012-13 catalog.

Posted on the Faculty Council website (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on September 16, 2011.