

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUGUST 2001

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
2000-2001

In accordance with the Handbook of Operating Procedures of The University of Texas at Austin, the Secretary submits the following report of the activities of the Graduate Assembly during the Regular Session, 2000-2001. The report summarizes pages **3048-3055b** of the Documents and Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly.

I. Membership of the Assembly

For the period covered by this report the faculty members were as follows:

Elected members with vote and their terms of office – serving 2000-2001

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE		
Alba Ortiz	Bilingual Education	1999-2002(1)
Lonnie Wagstaff	Ed. Administration	1998-2001(2)
Kay Avant	Nursing	1998-2001(1)
Kamy Sepehrnoori	Petroleum & Geosystems	1998-2001(1)
Katherine Arens	Germanic Studies	2000-2003(1)
Alan Cline	Computer Sciences	1998-2001(2)
Naomi Lindstrom	Spanish & Portuguese	2000-2003(1)
Janet Dukerich	Management	2000-2003(1)
Salomon Stavchansky	Pharmacy	2000-2003(1)
Bruce Palka	Mathematics	2000-2003(1)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Sam Wilson, Chair	Anthropology	1997-2000(2)
Donald Paul	Chemical Engineering	1998-2001(2)
John Allison	MSIS	1999-2002(1)
Irene Owens	Library & Info Science	1999-2002(1)
Jacqueline Angel	LBJ School of Public Affairs	1998-2001(1)
Michael Oden	Architecture	1999-2002(1)
Lynn Miller	Speech Communication	1999-2002(1)
Austin Gleeson	Physics	2000-2003(1)
Scot Powe	Law	2000-2001(1)*
David Hull	Aerospace Engineering	1998-2001(1)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Edmund Emmer, Chair	Ed. Psychology	1999-2002(2)
Mark Alpert	Marketing	2000-2003(1)
Darlene Grant	Social Work	1998-2001(1)
Jenny Brodbelt	Chemistry	2000-2003(1)
Michael Stoff	History	2000-2003(1)
David Bogard	Mechanical Engineering	2000-2003(1)
Ann Brooks	Curriculum & Instruction	1998-2001(1)
Linda Ferreira-Buckley	English	1998-2001(1)
Desmond Lawler	Civil Engineering	2000-2003(1)

No Committee Assignment

Laura Starks, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Charlotte Canning, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

John Machado
Eric Opiela*

*Serving balance of term of an elected member.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Brian Gunter
Rozelle Moulton

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Chuck Haynes
Travis Metcalfe

Ex Officio Member, with Vote

Patrick Davis Chair, Faculty Council

Ex Officio Member, without Vote

Larry R. Faulkner	President
Teresa A. Sullivan	Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies
Sheldon Ekland-Olson	Executive Vice President and Provost
Juan Sanchez	Vice President for Research
Robert May	Dean, College of Business Administration
Ellen Wartella	Dean, College of Communication
Manuel J. Justiz	Dean, College of Education
Ben Streetman	Dean, College of Engineering
Robert Freeman	Dean, College of Fine Arts
Richard W. Lariviere	Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Mary Ann Rankin	Dean, College of Natural Sciences
Steven Leslie	Dean, College of Pharmacy
Lawrence Speck	Dean, School of Architecture
Barbara W. White	Dean, School of Social Work
Dolores Sands	Dean, School of Nursing
Edwin Dorn	Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
William Powers	Dean, School of Law
Roberta Shaffer	Dean, Graduate School of Library & Information Science

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (2000-2001)

Chair: Laura Starks, Finance
Chair-elect: Alba Ortiz, Bilingual Education
Secretary: Charlotte Canning, Theatre & Dance

Meeting Dates: September 27, 2000
November 29, 2000
January 31, 2001 (Cancelled)
March 28, 2001
April 25, 2001

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

No items of major legislation were considered by the Assembly during 2000-2001.

Minor Legislation

The Graduate Assembly approved the proposals recommended by the Academic Committee to replace the M.A. and the Ph.D. degree programs in Molecular Biology, Biological Sciences (Zoology), and Biological Sciences (Botany) with M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Cell and Molecular Biology; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior; and Plant Biology, respectively and to abolish the Biological Sciences degree program. (D&P 3048a, 9/27/00)

The Assembly approved the proposal as recommended by the Academic Committee to create a Master of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies. (D&P 3048b, 9/27/00)

The Assembly approved the proposal as recommended by the Administrative Committee to change wording in *The Graduate Catalog* to clarify the amount of credit for 398T that master's and doctoral students may list in their Programs of Work. (D&P 3048b, 9/27/00)

The Graduate Assembly approved as recommended by the Academic Committee the proposal to change the name of the degree from Master of Library and Information Science to Master of Science in Information Studies. (D& P 3050b, 11/29/00)

The Assembly approved as recommended by the Academic Committee the proposal for a Master of Fine Arts in Design separate from the Master of Fine Arts in Art. (D&P 3050b, 11/29/00)

The Assembly also approved the proposal as presented and recommended by the Academic Committee to abolish the Master of Arts Degree Option II Program in Human Resource Development leadership. (D& P 3050c, 11/29/00)

The Assembly approved, with the recommendation from the Admissions & Enrollment Committee, the proposal on the School of Nursing catalog change to permit RNs with non-nursing baccalaureates to be admitted into the regular MSN program instead of into the Alternate-Entry MSN program. (D & P 3050c-3050d, 11/29/00)

The Assembly approved the proposal for a GRE exemption for applicants to the MFA in Design degree program. (D& P 3053a-3050b, 3/28/01)

The Graduate Assembly also approved the Resolution for GRA Tuition Remission supporting the concept of tuition remission comparable to teaching assistants. (D&P 3053b, 3/28/01)

Report from the Chair

Chair Starks introduced new members for the academic year 2001-2002 and thanked departing members Cline, Hull, and Wagstaff for their service on the Assembly. (D& P 3055a, 4/25/01)

Report of the Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Teresa Sullivan summarized the 1999-2000 legislative action by the Graduate Assembly and gave a status report on administrative action on those proposals as follows:

The Law School Graduate Studies Committee was added to the Assembly membership in Group A. With reapportionment, the Graduate Assembly membership was increased from approximately 26 to 30, taking into account the staggered terms as the changes fall into place.

An advising bar is to be placed on master's degree recipients to ensure that they are properly advised for continuation in a doctoral program.

The GRE is to be waived for applicants to doctoral and master's music performance majors.

The Grading basis has been changed from letter grade to credit/no credit for dissertation, treatise, thesis, report, and recital courses.

The Graduate program and major name changed from Child Development and Family Relations to Human Development and Family Sciences.

The Master's Portfolio Program was approved with review and approval of all master's portfolio programs delegated to the Academic Committee, and the master's Portfolio Program in Dispute Resolution.

The portfolio program proposals (the Interdisciplinary European Doctoral Portfolio Program and the Dispute Resolution Doctoral Portfolio Program) as approved by the Academic Committee have received final approval by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

The proposed change in the Marine Science Master of Arts degree title to the Master of Science in Marine Science title was approved by the Executive Vice President and Provost and is pending approval by the UT System and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as of the end of September 2000.

Three catalog changes have been approved at the staff level by the UT System. There will be a determination as to whether they will need regental approval.

1. proposed removal of the statement on residence from the *Graduate Catalog*,
2. proposed removal of the section, Additional Degrees At The Same Or A Lower Level, and
3. proposed change in the continuous registration rule for doctoral candidates that will allow approved registration in Affiliated Studies to satisfy the continuous registration requirement.

Two graduate program items were highlighted by Dean Sullivan. The Science and Technology Commercialization Option III master's degree program report was reviewed by an ad hoc committee and forwarded with recommendations to the Academic Committee. The Committee endorsed the report and presented it to the Graduate Assembly. The Human Resource Development Leadership Option II master's degree program report was reviewed by the Academic Committee, but no action was taken since the program has discontinued admissions.

Dean Sullivan further summarized other administrative matters. Terry Kahn is a new Associate Dean in Graduate Studies and has succeeded Tom Griffy, who went to phased retirement status in May 2000. Larry Graham has succeeded Richard Lariviere as the Associate Vice President for International Programs.

Dean Sullivan listed the workshops and sessions the Graduate School has conducted since July 2000:

- An orientation lunch for new Graduate Coordinators
- An orientation lunch for new Graduate Advisers
- A grants workshop to help UT students who want to apply for national grants and fellowships that are restricted to certain demographic groups
- Our fall orientation for new graduate students
- Safety and ethics training for new graduate students
- The academic job workshop
- The Fellowship Fair
- The workshop for graduate students interested in applying for the NSF Graduate Fellowship

The workshop for Graduate Advisers and Graduate Coordinators will be held in October. It was reported that events are listed for graduate students in the Graduate Student newsletter which goes out electronically, and information goes out to Graduate Advisers in weekly mailings.

Dean Sullivan reported the status of electronic dissertations and the redesign of the dissertation packet to give students more options in publishing their dissertation, either with the UT General Libraries or with UMI; or students may propose a third publisher to the Graduate School for either electronic or traditional print publication. Also a variety of formats and software options will be available to students. Students are urged to use commercial applications that are widely available to maximize continued accessibility to their work.

An on-line tutorial on intellectual property is to be provided. Dissertations using human subjects will also be required to provide proof of IRB approval. There is a campaign this fall to make graduate students aware of their responsibility to comply with federal guidelines for the protection of human subjects.

Dean Sullivan indicated she was in discussion with four deans concerning possible program reviews during this academic year. (D&P 3048d – 3048g, 9/27/00)

In the second meeting of the Graduate Assembly for the 2000-2001 academic year Dean Sullivan reported that the Graduate School was about to set its first dissertation in HTML format from the Department of Theatre and Dance.

She also discussed the Harrington Fellowships that will eventually be a 15 million-dollar endowment for graduate fellowships in the name of Donald Harrington. The initial stipends are being set at \$25,000 a year plus tuition, medical insurance and \$2,000 in expense money. No more than 25 per cent of the Harrington fellows can be appointed from inside The University of Texas.

Sullivan cited a \$10 million gift from Joe and Terri Wong, most of which will be for fellowships in Latin American Studies. Also the University Cooperative Society is giving the Graduate School another \$8,000 for achievement fellowships for graduate student research and creativity.

Dean Sullivan reported she has given a presentation to the Development Board arguing that as we go into the last three years of the capital campaign, fellowships should be a main theme. Materials are being prepared through the Office of Development to give donors about why fellowships are important.

On January 17, 2001, The University of Texas will be participating in a research education project at the Legislature. UT-Austin, together with Texas Tech, North Texas, Texas A&M, and the University of Houston, will be hosting a reception for legislators and their staffs. Each school will have three tabletop exhibits with teams of graduate students, undergraduate students and faculty members, talking about research. Following the receptions, we will have a display in the Capitol Rotunda for a week, displaying another three University of Texas research projects.

Dean Sullivan is now watching for what's going to be happening in the legislative session, which will focus initially on redistricting. There is interest in coming up with an analog to the top 10 per cent bill that would apply to graduate and professional education; however, there is no particular bill filed as yet. There is a bill in the Virginia Legislature that would put a cap on non-Virginians in all of their programs, both undergraduate and graduate. The bill has pulled together a coalition of people who don't like foreign students and people who just generally don't want to pay tax money for something supporting people who are not their citizens. If the bill is successful in Virginia, there could be a similar bill here.

There is a University committee headed by Susan Clagett and Susan Tsu from Theatre and Dance looking into the possibility of designing new doctoral regalia for our graduates this new century. The committee includes a student representative as appointed by the Graduate Student Assembly. (D&P 3050 – 3050b, 11/29/00)

Dean Sullivan reviewed progress on the Hopwood case to date and updated the Assembly on related court cases in Georgia, Washington, and Colorado. She was optimistic that the remainder of the capital fund campaign would see graduate fellowships as a priority in fundraising. She reported that the Education Testing Service (ETS) cancelled the GRE forums and Graduate Advantage, the electronic admission program. Sullivan also

reported that there is a bill before the Legislature that would require universities to require high school and elementary school transcripts for admission. (D & P 3053-3053a, 3/28/01)

Dean Sullivan reported that UT graduate students have been very successful in getting various fellowships, including Fulbright-Hayes, Eisenhower, and NSF.

The legislature continued to consider a variety of bills affecting Graduate Studies, but the outcome will not be known until June. (D & P 3055, 4/25/01)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee

Chair Ortiz presented the Committee's recommendation for approval of the motions regarding the reorganization of the School of Biological Sciences:

- Proposal for a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in Cell and Molecular Biology to replace the M.A. and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology
- Proposal for a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior to replace the M.A. and Ph.D. in Biological Sciences (Zoology)
- Proposal for a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Biology to replace the M.A. and Ph.D. in Biological Sciences (Botany)
- Proposal to abolish the graduate program and degree major in Biological Sciences
- Proposal to abolish the graduate program and degree major in Biological Sciences (Botany)
- Proposal to abolish the graduate program and degree major in Biological Sciences (Zoology)
- Proposal to abolish the graduate program and degree major in Molecular Biology

The recommendations of the Academic Committee on the School of Biological Sciences proposals were approved unanimously. (D&P 3048a, 9/27/00)

Chair Ortiz presented a proposal for a Master of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies to create a program that already exists in various units across campus. The Academic Committee recommended approval of this proposal also. The proposal for a Master of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies was approved unanimously by the Assembly. (D&P 3048b, 9/27/0)

The Academic Committee Chair presented a proposal to change the name of the degree from Master of Library and Information Science to Master of Science in Information Studies, reflecting a need for a change in degree title due to job market demands and a need for change in the curriculum. This proposal was approved unanimously by the Assembly. (D&P 3050b, 11/29/00)

A proposal for a Master of Fine Arts in Design separate from the Master of Fine Arts in Art, as recommended for approval by the Academic Committee was approved unanimously. (D&P 3050b, 11/29/00)

Chair Ortiz presented the proposal to abolish the Master of Arts Degree Option II Program in Human Resource Development Leadership. The motion passed unanimously. (D&P 3050c, 11/29/00)

The Academic Committee Chair presented a report of the Interim Review of the Master of Science in Science and Technology Commercialization, and the Committee deferred any motion until spring 2001.

Chair Ortiz reviewed the report and recommendations made by the Academic Committee regarding the MSSTC Option III Review. There was some discussion and concern over the process of preparing the report, and many at IC² thought they should have been consulted more. There was discussion of communication as the report was being compiled, faculty involvement in the program, and a potential enrollment expansion. (D & P 3053a, 3/28/01)

Ortiz reported that the Academic Committee had approved the Doctoral Portfolio Program in Cultural Studies. (D & P 3053a, 3/28/01)

Ortiz reviewed the process of the review of the master's degree program in Executive Software Engineering. There was some discussion on the status of the program at that time. (D & P 3055a, 4/25/01)

B. Administrative Committee

Committee Chair Sam Wilson presented a motion to change the existing wording in *The Graduate Catalog* to clarify the amount of credit for 398T that master's and doctoral students may list in their Programs of Work. The motion was approved unanimously and without discussion by the Graduate Assembly.

Two more issues were reported that will be taken up at a later meeting: (1) students encountering difficulty with the -99R and -99W course enrollment, and (2) the size of doctoral committees. (D&P 3048b-3048c, 9/27/00)

In the absence of Chair Wilson, Jacqueline Angel reported the following:

Regarding the clarification of procedures for back registering in the second half of thesis (698B) and dissertation (-99W) courses the same semester as registration in 698A and -99R, the committee decided that since only three or four students per year complete all degree requirements in the semester in which they register for the first half of thesis (698A) or dissertation (-99R) courses, the Graduate School should not address the situation in the *Graduate Catalog*. Instead, the present practice of back registering students in the second half of the course (698B or -99W) should be continued and information about the procedures should be included in the Graduate School Policy manual.

The faculty request to reduce the number of members on a dissertation committee had been discussed and studied by the Committee, it was decided that the number should remain the same (five members). (D&P 3050c, 11/29/00)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Chair Ed Emmer presented a proposal for a School of Nursing catalog change to permit RNs with non-nursing baccalaureates to be admitted into the regular MSN program instead of into the Alternate-Entry MSN program. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Emmer also presented a report on the Affiliated Studies Program. There is concern over fellowships and reduced fees when enrolled in Affiliated Studies. Students who go abroad can't afford tuition, cannot work, and therefore don't have any means of support other than the cash or loans they have on hand. They also don't use University of Texas resources to any substantial degree. It's an opportunity for students, numbering about 30 graduate students per year on average; and it is felt the loss in semester hours (3 doctoral hours minimum when advanced to candidacy) is not that great for the University.

The Assembly discussed the issue of fellowships or how much a fellowship should be required. As long as there was some kind of mechanism or check to make sure that the student was engaged in some legitimate research that was part of the program of work, the amount of the fellowship didn't seem to be critical. It is a money issue domestically; however, because it's clearly easier for a student to meet the requirements for Affiliated Studies registration if not required to go outside the U.S. Expansion of the program would lose tuition at \$6,000 per student. This was an interim report, and the committee was not ready to propose a catalog or rule change.

Chair Emmer also reported on a request for waiver of requirements for appointments for teaching assistants and assistant instructors. Every year the Graduate School gets requests for exception to the rules. It was cited that in the 1999-2000 academic year there were 297 waivers of requirements. The distribution of requests across departments is very uneven. Half of the requests were generated by six departments. The committee was reluctant to formulate any change in general policy or procedures since the policies and procedures seem to be working in more than 60 departments. The committee suggested that the Graduate School ask the Graduate Advisers in the six areas or departments where there is a substantial number of exceptions requested in a given year to do a report and get at the bottom of what's occurring in their field. No action of the Assembly was called for by the Committee at this time. (D&P 3050c – 3050f, 11/29/00)

Chair Emmer reported that the proposal for a GRE exemption for applicants to the MFA in Design degree program has passed unanimously in a Graduate Assembly electronic mail ballot. (D & P 3053a-3053b, 3/28/01)

Other Reports

Dean Sullivan asked Associate Dean Rick Cherwitz to report on Graduate School Admissions. He also submitted a written report (3048h). Two important points in his report were that international enrollment did not increase substantially for the first time in several years and on-line applications are increasing (62 per cent of applications were on-line in 1999). (D&P 3048 – 3048a, 9/27/00)

Dean Sullivan requested a Status Report of 2000-2001 Legislative Action by the Graduate Assembly which was presented to the Assembly by Jean Griffith as a handout at the March 28, 2001, meeting.

Graduate Student Assembly

Graduate Student Assembly co-chair Travis Metcalfe urged all present to make sure their departments had a representative on the Graduate Student Assembly. (D&P 3048c, 9/27/00)

Metcalfe reported he is working with the Research Policy Committee to try to develop a recommendation for a uniform policy for tuition remission for research assistants. In the last few years teaching assistants have been phased in full tuition remission from the University, and there should be a similar policy in place for research assistants. The GSA will recommend that PI's write tuition into their grants for grants that contain funding for research assistants to be phased in over two to three years, which is a typical grant cycle; and then during that two to three year period, provide a central source of funding for RA's who don't have tuition funds. After that two to three years, they would provide the central source of money only for students who are RA's on grants that are not actually allowed to have tuition in there. (D&P 3050f, 11/29/00)

Metcalf reported on the motion before the Faculty Council on RA tuition remission and discussion followed. A motion was then presented by Metcalf regarding GRA tuition remission and reworded for the Graduate Assembly to support the concept of tuition remission comparable to teaching assistants. (D & P 3053b, 3/28/01)

Metcalf reported that the Faculty Council has passed the motion as endorsed by the Graduate Assembly for tuition remission for research assistants. (D & P 3055a, 4/25/01)

Metcalf reported on the GEC insurance proposal as endorsed by the Graduate Student Assembly allowing students not covered by UT health insurance to buy into the program. Dean Sullivan indicated that previous attempts for coverage had failed, but she would take it up again with other graduate deans in the system. (D & P 3055b, 4/25/01)

Annual Report prepared by Karen Bancroft, Office of Graduate Studies