

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY MEETING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
April 29, 2009

Chair Susan Heinzelman called the fifth and last meeting of the Graduate Assembly in the 2008-2009 academic year to order on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at 2:15 PM in the Harry Ransom Center, Tom Lea Room, 3.206.

Faculty Members Present: Bias, Browning, Carter, Cleaver, Dangel, Edgar, Garcia, Golden, Heinzelman, Henry, Hess, Horwitz, Hull, Kachelmeier, Kinney, Lindstrom, March, Mehdy, Murray, Odell, Ovando, Popova, Sprinkle, Sylvie, Wilson

Faculty Members Absent: Cline, Evans, Gamkhar (excused), Haunschild, Lauderdale, Markovits (excused)

Student Members Present: None

Student Members Absent: Carpenter, Garcia, Haenschen, Kim, Luu

Ex-Officio Members Present: Rodríguez

Representatives from Office of Graduate Studies: Bancroft, Belinoski, Borden, Dalton, Ellison, Grant, Hackert, Kahn

Visitors: Chandler, Desimone, Hoffman, Moore, Robinson, Ruddock, White, Wiley

Order of Business

I. Approval of the March 25, 2009 minutes.

The minutes of the March 25, 2009 meeting will be approved at the next Graduate Assembly meeting.

II. Report of the Graduate Dean (Victoria Rodríguez)

Dean Rodríguez reported on four items. In the Texas legislature, the Senate passed a bill providing benefits to graduate students holding fellowships of \$10,000 or more. Approvals by the House and Governor look promising.

Secondly, the National Research Council report evaluating universities is expected to be released during the summer 2009. Universities will be able to access their individual data 72 hour before the public release.

Thirdly, Dean Rodríguez commented on the status of actions based on the recommendations of the Gender Equity report. Vice Provost Judy Langlois has been appointed to implement the recommendations. In various meetings, President Powers has reiterated his support to follow through on the recommendations. The higher administration is awaiting budget decisions from the Texas legislature and then will consider feasible actions based on the report. Per the recommendation of the Gender Equity task force, Dean Rodríguez and

others are designing a gender equity survey of graduate students that the Graduate School expects to administer in the next academic year.

Next, Dean Rodríguez introduced Tom Belinoski, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, who briefly commented on the distributed handout titled “Legislative Action of the Graduate Assembly, 2008-09, Status Report as of April 22, 2009.” He noted many academic programs had been evaluated and approved.

Lastly, Dean Rodríguez led the Graduate Assembly in a warm show of appreciation for two retiring members of the Graduate Assembly: Darlene Grant, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Sue Heinzelman, Chair of the Graduate Assembly.

### III. Report of Chair (Sue Heinzelman)

Chair Heinzelman thanked departing, continuing, and new members of the Graduate Assembly. She introduced Elmira Popova as the nominee for serving next year as chair of the Academic Committee and chair-elect of the Graduate Assembly. Popova was unanimously confirmed by a vote of the Graduate Assembly.

### IV. Academic Committee (Paula Murray)

Chair Murray reported on five proposals. The Academic Committee approved the Graduate Portfolio Programs in Molecular Biophysics and no further action was needed.

The Academic Committee endorsed proposals for two dual degree programs in Architecture.

- The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved two proposals for dual degree programs: 1. Community and Regional Planning and Sustainable Design (MSCRP/MSSD) and 2. Community and Regional Planning and Urban Design (MSCRP/MSUD). The approvals were deemed minor legislation.

A proposed graduate certificate program, the Artist Diploma in Music Performance, was discussed with representatives from the Butler School of Music.

- The proposal for a graduate certificate program in Music Performance was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation.

Lastly, Dan Robinson of Educational Psychology presented a proposed Option III program leading to the Master of Education (MEd) in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in College Teaching in the Health Sciences.

- The Proposal for the Option III program in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in College Teaching in Health Sciences was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation.

V. Presentation of Summary of Office of Graduate Studies Report on graduate student compensation and other factors affecting graduate student well being

Manu Aggarwal, a Graduate Research Assistant in the Office of Graduate Studies, presented his research findings on graduate student compensation and other issues between UT and eight peer public universities. At UT Austin, it was found that TA, AI and GRA salaries ranged widely for graduate students holding the same positions. The research involved student focus groups. Rodríguez said the findings and recommendations of the report will be further discussed.

VI. Administrative Committee (Alan Cline)

A resolution drafted by the Administrative Committee opposing firearms on campus other than those held by law enforcement officers was briefly discussed.

- The resolution opposing firearms on campus other than those held by law enforcement officers was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation.

VII. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Harry Cleaver)

Chair Cleaver expressed concerns about the myriad of issues that his committee could focus on affecting admissions and enrollment. However, he felt their efforts were held back by lack of time to adequately research the issues and uncertainty about whether their recommendations would be translated into concrete steps. A general discussion ensued about the mandates of Graduate Assembly committees.

VIII. Graduate Student Assembly - No representatives were present.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

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Mona Mehdy, Secretary