

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUGUST 2009**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
2008-2009**

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 2008-2009. The report summarizes pages 3134 – 3142b 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 2008-2009

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE		
Paula Murray, Chair	Information, Risk, & Operations Management	2008-2011(2)
Richard Markovits	Law	2006-2009(2)
Martha N. Ovando	Ed. Administration	2007-2010(2)
Elmira Popova	Mechanical Engineering	2006-2009(1)
Shernaz Garcia	Special Education	2008-2011(1)
Randolph Bias	Information Studies	2008-2011(1)
Linda Golden	Marketing	2006-2009(2)
Jim Wilson	Pharmacy	2006-2009(1)
Clement Henry (Ben Gregg in fall)	Government	2006-2009(1)

*Serving out the term of a member who resigned or is on leave.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Alan Cline, Chair	Computer Sciences	2007-2010(2)
Ted Odell	Mathematics	2007-2010(1)
Michael Lauderdale	Social Work	2007-2010(1)
Peter Hess	Germanic Studies	2006-2009(1)
Pam Haunschild	Management	2006-2009(1)
George Sylvie	Journalism	2008-2011(1)
David Hull	Aerospace Engineering	2007-2010(2)
Brian Evans	Electrical & Computer Engineering	2008-2011(1)
Tom Edgar	Chemical Engineering	2007-2010(1)
Naomi Lindstrom	Spanish & Portuguese	2008-2011(1)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Harry Cleaver, Chair	Economics	2006-2009(2)*
Shama Gamkhar	LBJ School	2007-2010(1)
Steven Kachelmeier	Accounting	2008-2011(2)
James Sprinkle	Geological Sciences	2006-2009(1)
Pat Carter	Nursing	2007-2010(1)
Kerry Kinney	Civil Engineering	2006-2009(1)
Ulrich Dangel	Architecture	2008-2011(1)
Elaine Horwitz	Curriculum & Instruction	2008-2011(1)
Hunter March	Music	2008-2011(1)
Karen Browning	Chemistry	2006-2009(2)

*Serving out the term of a member who resigned or is on leave.

No Committee Assignment

Susan Heinzelman, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Mona Mehdy, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Katherine Haenschen	Radio, Television, Film
Yonghyun Kim	Electrical & Computer Engineering

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Bradley Carpenter	Educational Administration
Daniela Totah	Advertising

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Chris Garcia	Curriculum & Instruction
Lilla Luu	Asian Studies

Ex Officio Member, with Vote

David Hillis	Chair, Faculty Council
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Ex Officio Members, without Vote

William Powers	President
Victoria E. Rodríguez	Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
Steven Leslie	Executive Vice President and Provost
Juan Sanchez	Vice President for Research
Thomas Gilligan	Dean, Red McCombs School of Business
Roderick Hart	Dean, College of Communication
Manuel J. Justiz	Dean, College of Education
Gregory Fenves	Dean, College of Engineering
Douglas Dempster	Dean, College of Fine Arts
Randy Diehl	Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Mary Ann Rankin	Dean, College of Natural Sciences
Lynn Crismon	Dean, College of Pharmacy
Frederick Steiner	Dean, School of Architecture
Barbara W. White	Dean, School of Social Work
Dolores Sands	Dean, School of Nursing
James Steinberg (Fall)	Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Bobby R. Inman (Spring)	Interim Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Lawrence Sager	Dean, School of Law
Andrew Dillon	Dean, School of Information

Engineering, and Mathematics, and the degree title from Master of Science in Computational and Applied Mathematics to Master of Science in Computational Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. The vote was deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3138b, 2/4/09)

- The Academic Committee motioned, and the Graduate Assembly unanimously passed the Global Policy Studies/Middle Eastern Studies and the Global Policy Studies/Asian Studies dual degree programs. The approval of the programs was deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3140a, 3/25/09)
- The Assembly unanimously approved the domestic partners benefits resolution and directed that it be forwarded to the higher university administration. The action was deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3140a, 3/25/09)
- 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. (D&P 3142a, 4/29/09)
- The proposal for a graduate certificate program in Music Performance was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3142a, 4/29/09)
- 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. (D&P 3142b, 4/29/09)
- The resolution opposing firearms on campus other than those held by law enforcement officers was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3142b, 4/29/09)

Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Rodríguez reported on four items: the ongoing review of the Brackenridge tract and development of various plans for future use; the National Research Council report, evaluating universities; the upcoming Capital Campaign; and a table showing international student applications, admissions and enrollment figures for UT Austin for the period Fall 1998-Fall 2008. (D&P 3134-3134a, 9/17/08)

Dean Rodríguez reported on three items: the ongoing Capital Campaign to raise \$3 Billion for UT Austin through 2014; the upcoming Texas legislative session in January 2009; and the status of the National Research Council report, evaluating universities. (D&P 3136, 11/12/08)

Dean Rodríguez reported that there was still no release of the National Research Council report, evaluating universities. Dean Rodriguez mentioned that different universities showed skepticism as to the relevance of a report based on 2005 data that may be finally released in 2009.

Dean Rodríguez asked Associate Dean Marvin Hackert to discuss the status of Tuition Benefit Assistance. Dean Hackert reviewed the history of the lump sum provided by The University of Texas to help cover tuition costs.

Dean Rodríguez also reported on the status of this year's graduate student admission process, and she announced the Come to Texas event (April 4-6, 2009) and a recruiting workshop on best practices (February 11, 2009). (D&P 3138-3138a, 2/4/09)

Dean Rodríguez reported the Gender Equity Report had been presented at a forum on February 4. Rodríguez described recent activities in the Texas Legislature, regarding the top 10% and graduate student benefits. Rodríguez reported there were no developments to report regarding the long-awaited National Research Council report evaluating universities. Finally, Dean Rodríguez announced the recent Graduate School awards. (D&P 3140-3140a, 3/25/09)

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. 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. 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.

Dean Rodríguez then 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." (D&P 3142-3142a, 4/29/09)

Report from the Chair

Chair Heinzelman reported that the issue of unequal TA workloads was a carryover matter from last year. Dean Rodríguez stated that a GRA had been hired during the summer to collect and analyze data and that this project was ongoing. (D&P 3134a, 9/17/08)

Chair Heinzelman mentioned various current efforts to establish partner benefits on campus. (D&P 3136a, 11/12/08)

Chair Heinzelman and the Graduate Assembly congratulated Dean Rodríguez on her selection as the president-elect of the Association of Graduate Schools, an arm of the Association of American Universities.

Chair Heinzelman noted that she had e-mailed Assembly members regarding the Women's and Gender Studies thesis that documented difficulties and abuse experienced by the wives of international students at UT Austin. (D&P 3138a, 2/4/09).

Chair Heinzelman noted that the election of the Graduate Assembly was completed, and the winners were being informed. New members will be invited to attend the April meeting. (D&P 3140a, 3/25/09)

Chair Heinzelman thanked departing, continuing, and new members of the Graduate Assembly. Elmira Popova was elected the new chair-elect of the Graduate Assembly and the chair of the Academic Committee for 2009-2010. (D&P 3142a, 4/29/09)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic

Chair Murray reported that the Academic Committee had approved all five proposals for dual master's degree programs in the LBJ School of Public Affairs: Global Policy Studies and Business Administration; Global Policy Studies and Journalism; Global Policy Studies and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies; Public Affairs and Social Work; and Public Affairs and Women's and Gender Studies. All five proposals from the School of Public Affairs proposals were passed unanimously and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3134A-3134b, 9/17/08)

Chair Murray reported on three items: a proposal for a graduate portfolio in the area of Molecular Biophysics, which the Academic Committee expects to present at the February Assembly meeting; proposals to change the Master of Arts in Kinesiology to Master of Science of Kinesiology and Master of Arts in Health Education to Master of Science in Health Education; and the Committee's approval of the five-year review for the Option III program in Engineering Management. The proposals were all passed unanimously and deemed minor legislation. The Option III program review report was approved by the Committee and required no action of the Assembly. (D&P 3136a, 11/12/08)

Chair Murray reported on three items: the proposal for a graduate degree program in Religious Studies; proposals to change the degree major and the degree title in Computational and Applied Mathematics; and an update on the Option III in Engineering Management. The three proposals were passed unanimously and deemed minor legislation. The update on the Option III in Engineering Management required no action of the Assembly. (D&P 3138a-3138b, 2/4/09)

Chair Murray reported on four proposals. The Academic Committee had approved two Graduate Portfolio Programs: Disability Studies and Applied Statistical Modeling; no further action was needed. Murray introduced two proposals for dual degree programs: Global Policy Studies/ Middle Eastern Studies and Global Policy Studies/Asian Studies. Both proposals were passed unanimously and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3140a, 3/25/09)

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: Community and Regional Planning and Sustainable Design and Community and Regional Planning and Urban Design. The approvals were deemed minor legislation. Also Murray presented a proposal for a graduate certificate program, the Artist Diploma in Music Performance. The proposal was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation. The final proposal was the Option III program in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in College Teaching in Health Sciences, which passed unanimously and was deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3142a-3142b, 4/29/09)

B. Administrative Committee

Chair Cline invited suggestions for desired policy changes that the committee might consider. (D&P 3134b, 9/17/08)

Chair Cline noted a problem with repeated absenteeism of members of standing committees and encouraged information from committee chairs in particular. (D&P 3136b, 11/12/08)

Chair Cline reported that the Committee had discussed the issue of domestic partner benefits and will postpone consideration by the Assembly until the March meeting. (D&P 3138b, 2/4/09)

Chair Cline presented a resolution drafted by the Administrative Committee in support of UT Austin efforts to provide domestic partner benefits for graduate students, faculty, and staff. The Assembly unanimously approved the resolution and directed that it be forwarded to the higher university administration. (D&P 3140a, 3/25/09)

Chair Cline presented a resolution drafted by the Administrative Committee opposing firearms on campus other than those held by law enforcement officers. The resolution was unanimously approved by the Assembly. (D&P 3142b, 4/29/09)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Chair Cleaver distributed a list of issues the Admissions and Enrollment committee expects to consider in the current year, including assessment of applicant skills, competitiveness of the offers for stipends and benefits, and problems with graduate student retention and progression. (D&P 3134b, 9/17/08)

Chair Cleaver discussed the need for more data on why graduate school applicants decline to attend UT Austin and go elsewhere. Cleaver also reported on the Committee's discussion on graduate student housing and variation in graduate student workloads, salaries, and benefits. (D&P 3136b, 11/12/08)

Chair Cleaver distributed a handout on issues being discussed by the Committee. Cleaver led a discussion on how the Graduate Assembly could better influence policy and expressed concern over the small impact faculty has on policy advisory committees. (D&P 3138b, 2/4/09)

Chair Cleaver expressed concerns about the myriad of issues that his committee could focus on affecting admissions and enrollment; and he discussed various constraints on the committee. There was general discussion on the mandates of Graduate Assembly committees. (D&P 3142b, 4/29/09)

Graduate Student Assembly

GSA President Carpenter spoke of efforts to increase communication with the approximately 12,000 graduate students. External Vice President Haenschen described preliminary finds from a GSA survey on housing, health, and transportation matters. (D&P 3134b, 9/17/08)

President Carpenter presented three items: the upcoming meeting hosted by UT that brings together graduate students from nine other peer schools; the matter of graduate applicants declining to enroll; and the Brackenridge Tract planning discussions. Haenschen distributed the UT Graduate Student Housing Survey. (D&P 3136b, 11/12/08)

Carpenter requested that Assembly members inquire as to whether their graduate programs have representation in the GSA and expressed his hope that the GSA will continue to build strength through the greater involvement of graduate students and more representation on university committees. (D&P 3138c, 2/4/09)

Carpenter informed the group that a new president and two new vice presidents are set to assume office for next year. He summarized key GSA accomplishments this year and future goals. GSA was involved in legislative outreach with graduate students from universities nationally and within Texas. The GSA has expanded its level of representation, aiming toward representation from all departments. Carpenter expressed hopes that graduate student housing would remain a part of the Brackenridge tract in the redevelopment plan.