

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUGUST 2010**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
2009-2010**

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 2009-2010. The report summarizes pages 3145 – 3153b 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 2009-2010

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
--------------------------	----------------------------	----------------

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Elmira Popova, Chair	Mechanical Engineering	2009-2012(2)
Richard Markovits	Law	2009-2012(1)
Martha N. Ovando	Ed. Administration	2007-2010(2)
Shernaz Garcia	Special Education	2008-2011(1)
Randolph Bias (Lukenbill, Fall*)	Information Studies	2008-2011(1)
Jim Wilson	Pharmacy	2009-2012(2)
David Hull	Aerospace Engineering	2007-2010(2)
Janet Dukerich	Management	2009-2012(1)
Hunter March	Music	2008-2011(1)
Richard Kyle	Geosciences	2009-2012(1)

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Brian Evans, Chair	Computer Sciences	2007-2010(2)
Steven Kachelmeier	Accounting	2008-2011(2)
Ted Odell	Mathematics	2007-2010(1)
Michael Lauderdale (Jones, Spring*)	Social Work	2007-2010(1)
George Sylvie	Journalism	2008-2011(1)
Tom Edgar	Chemical Engineering	2007-2010(1)
Michael White	Classics	2009-2012(1)
Kerry Kinney	Civil Engineering	2009-2012(1)
Alan Cline	Computer Sciences	2007-2010(2)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Naomi Lindstrom, Chair	Spanish & Portuguese	2008-2011(1)
Pat Carter	Nursing	2007-2010(1)
Ulrich Dangel	Architecture	2008-2011(1)
Elaine Horwitz	Curriculum & Instruction	2008-2011(1)
Shama Gamkhar	LBJ School of Public Affairs	2007-2010(1)
Karen Grumberg	Middle Eastern Studies	2009-2012(1)
Coleman Hutchison	English	2009-2012(1)
Jay Hartzell	Finance	2009-2012(1)
Juliet Walker	History	2009-2012(1)
David Hoffman	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2009-2012(1)

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

No Committee Assignment

Paula Murray, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Mona Mehdy, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Paul Gavaza	Pharmacy
Daniel Spikes	Educational Administration

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Manuel Gonzalez	Educational Administration
Puja Ajay Kowley	Electrical & Computer Engineering

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Brian Gatten	English
Shannon C. Mann	Social Work

Ex Officio Member, with Vote

Janet Staiger	Chair, Faculty Council
---------------	------------------------

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
Bobby R. Inman (Fall)	Interim Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Robert Hutchings (Spring)	Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Lawrence Sager	Dean, School of Law
Andrew Dillon	Dean, School of Information
Sharon Mosher	Dean, Jackson School of Geosciences

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (2009-2010)

Chair: Paula Murray, Information, Risk, and Operations Management
Chair-elect: Elmira Popova, Mechanical Engineering
Secretary: Mona Mehdy, Molecular Biology

Meeting Dates: September 16, 2009 March 25, 2010
 November 11, 2009 April 28, 2010
 February 3, 2010

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

- No major legislation was passed by the Assembly academic year 2009-2010.

Minor Legislation

- The proposal to change the name of the degree program and the major in Computer Sciences to Computer Science was approved unanimously and was deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3145a-3145b, 9/16/09)
- The proposal to create a dual degree program in Information Studies and Law was unanimously approved and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3147b, 11/11/09)
- The resolution to raise minimum salaries for teaching assistants and assistant instructors to a standard consistent with a living wage for Austin, Texas, was passed unanimously and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3149a-3149b, 2/3/10)
- The proposal for uniform language for letters of offer was approved unanimously and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3149b, 2/3/10)
- The proposal to create a dual degree program in Public Affairs and Public Health (MPAff/MPH) was unanimously approved and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3151a, 3/24/10)
- The proposal to create a dual degree program in Global Policy Studies and Public Health (MGlobalPol Stds/MPH) was unanimously approved and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3151a, 3/24/10)
- The proposed language for letters admitting graduate applicants was unanimously approved and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3153b, 4/28/10)

Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Rodríguez reported on six items:

- The Texas Legislature bill, which would have made available health insurance benefits for fellowship holders, failed to pass in the last session.
- The Graduate School has begun to develop a survey to assess gender equity among graduate students.
- Rodríguez summarized changes in graduate housing proposed by the Regents-commissioned Cooper-Robertson Company as part of the Brackenridge tract redevelopment.
- Rodríguez referenced the study commissioned by the Office Graduate Studies last year, which showed huge disparities in TA salaries across the campus.
- Marvin Hackert, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, as UT Austin's institutional representative, reported on the status of the National Research Council graduate programs report.
- Rodríguez announced various forthcoming activities to celebrate the centennial of the founding of the Graduate School.
(D&P 3145-3145a, 9/16/09)

Dean Rodríguez reported on seven items:

- Effective January 2010, NSF and NIH will require all the graduate students that are on NSF or NIH grants have an institutional program of training about ethics, also known as RCR (Responsible Conduct of Research).
- Five years ago, the Graduate School began considering *race* as one of the factors in admissions. A review of this policy is required every five years and is currently being conducted by Pat Ellison and two UT attorneys.
- The Tuition Policy Advisory Committee is completing their recommendations and will be holding some public forums soon.
- Discussions about the future of the Brackenridge tract are still underway, including the redesign of graduate student housing.
- President Powers had an erroneous statement in his State of the University address in September. Two million dollars were allocated last year to cover the increase in tuition for graduate students, not for graduate student stipends. President Powers correctly added that

there is an additional one million dollars this year that will be used for targeted improvement of graduate programs, and how this money will be used is currently under examination.

- Concerning the National Research Council graduate programs report, Marvin Hackert, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, spoke about an article that he has distributed to various administrative heads on campus in advance of the release of the report.
- There will be various activities during the spring semester to celebrate the centennial of the founding of the Graduate School.
(D&P 3147-3147a, 11/11/09)

Dean Rodríguez reported:

- She had attended public forums, regarding the proposed tuition increase.
- Regarding the state cuts to the UT budget for next year, Dean Rodríguez said that it was presently unclear whether it would be a 3, 4 or 5 percent cut.
- For the centennial of the founding of the Graduate School, she announced that UT Press will be publishing a book on the personal stories of different alumni who had been graduate students at UT as an outreach to alumni.
- The survey directed at graduate students will become active next weekend. The survey was designed to assess gender equity as well as other subjects such as salary, mentoring, etc.
(D&P 3149, 2/3/10)

Dear Rodríguez welcomed Manuel Gonzalez as the new Graduate Student Assembly president and then reported on five items:

- The Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment (DIIA) has been restructured so that it is now a unit within the Provost's office.
- With regard to UT budget cuts, the Office of Graduate Studies has submitted its budget with various reductions, but without layoffs or losses to the fellowship programs.
- The Graduate School was announcing its annual awards at this time.
- Rodríguez commented on the Technology Commercialization Program's move into the McCombs School.
- The proposed new PhD program in religious studies external review was very positive, and approval of the program is expected this summer.
(D&P 3151, 3/24/10)

- Rodríguez led the Assembly in thanking retiring Chair Paula Murray. She also thanked the Graduate Student Assembly for organizing their successful 5K run, raising \$1,500.
- Rodríguez solicited input from members on their experiences with student use and abuse of laptops in the classrooms.
- Rodríguez noted that an annual report of the Graduate Assembly legislative actions for the year underscores how many evaluations and approvals of academic programs are conducted.
- Assistant Dean Pat Ellison and Associate Dean Marv Hackert of Graduate Studies presented, respectively, on the development of fully online systems for handling graduate school applications and graduate school administered award programs.
(D&P 3153, 4/28/10)

Report from the Chair

Chair Murray joined Dean Rodríguez in declaring her interest for the Graduate Assembly to recommend ways to improve TA salary inequities. Murray acknowledged that this would be difficult with budget constraints over the next few years. (D&P 3145a, 9/16/09)

Chair Murray stated that the Faculty Council executive committee had met with the President and Provost regarding the budget. (D&P 3147a, 11/11/09)

Chair Murray reported that the Brackenridge Field Lab has been spared by the Regents but the fate of graduate student housing on the Brackenridge site remains uncertain. She also reported on the 2010-11 budget, indicating that Governor Perry stated his intention for a 5% cut in the general revenues portion of the UT budget. Chair Murray noted that Janet Staiger, Faculty Council Chair, recently learned that one criterion for approval of a new PhD program by the Texas Coordinating Board was sufficiency of data showing successful placement of graduates in jobs. (D&P 3149a, 2/3/10)

Chair Murray reported on the election for new members and noted that a nominating committee is being organized with incoming Chair Elmira Popova for the April election of the new chair-elect and secretary. (D&P 3151a, 3/24/10)

Chair Murray introduced new members and thanked the Assembly for its work the past year. She conducted the election of the new chair-elect and secretary. Nominees Shernaz Garcia and Barbara Jones were elected as Chair-elect and secretary, respectively. (D&P 3153a, 4/28/10)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic

Chair Popova reported on the deletion of the Option III program in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering, leading to the MSE in Mechanical Engineering, and a proposal to change the name of the graduate degree program and major in Computer Sciences to Computer Science. The proposal to change the name of the degree program and the major in Computer Sciences to Computer Science was approved. (D&P 3145a-3145b, 9/16/09)

Chair Popova reported that the academic committee recommended approval of a proposal to create a dual degree program in Information Studies and Law (MSInfoStds/JD). The proposal to create a dual degree program in Information Studies and law was approved.

Chair Popova reported that the committee had reviewed several programs that needed review after 5 years: MBA-Mexico City (Option III), MBA-Evening (Option II), and MBA-Executive (Option II). The committee was pleased with the programs. (D&P 3147b, 11/11/09)

Chair Popova introduced proposals to create two dual degree programs between the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the UT School of Public Health in Houston. Both proposals were approved. (D&P 3151a, 3/24/10)

Chair Popova reported that the Academic Committee had approved a graduate portfolio program in Scientific Computation. She also reported on the committee's evaluation of a proposal to create a joint PhD degree program in Translational Sciences, submitted by UT Austin (College of Pharmacy), UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, UT San Antonio, and the UT School of Public Health. The proposal was rejected at this time. (D&P 3153a, 4/28/10)

B. Administrative Committee

Chair Evans reported his committee was meeting with members of the Faculty Council to develop a proposal with generally qualitative recommendations, targeting a living wage and better retention of graduate students. (D&P 3147b, 11/11/09)

Chair Evans presented a resolution for a vote of the Graduate Assembly titled, "Resolution to the Graduate Assembly to raise the minimum salaries for teaching assistants and assistant instructors to a standard consistent with a living wage for Austin, Texas." The amended resolution was passed unanimously. (D&P 3149a-3149b, 2/3/10)

Chair Evans reported on the Faculty Council's passing of a living wage resolution for TAs and RAs that was similar to that passed by the Assembly limited to TAs. (D&P 3151a, 3/24/10)

Chair announced the committee would be examining two issues next year:

- Protections of dissertation content that are made freely available online
- Minority graduate student recruiting and retention, working with Pat Ellison of the Graduate School (D&P 3153a, 4/28/10)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Chair Lindstrom presented a proposal for uniform language for letters of offer from the Admissions and Enrollment Committee. The sentence will read: "All forms of financial support beyond the first semester are contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and, if applicable, job performance." The proposal was approved. (D&P 3149b, 2/3/10)

Chair Lindstrom presented the status of the committee's efforts in developing proposed uniform language for offer letters to prospective graduate students. (D&P 3151a, 3/24/10)

Chair Lindstrom reported on the committee's recommendations concerning Bologna degrees. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to invite Robert Watkins, Assistant Director of Admissions, to meet next year to continue the discussion on the committee's recommendations.

Chair Lindstrom announced that the language for letters admitting graduate applications had been worked out with the university legal office. With minor changes to improve the English, the language was unanimously approved the Assembly. (D&P 3153a-3153b, 4/28/10)

Graduate Student Assembly

GSA President Daniel Spikes expects to have the results of the graduate student survey of Brackenridge tract housing-related issues in the near future and plans to share the findings with the Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3145b, 9/16/09)

GSA President Daniel Spikes reported on attending the SAGE (Student Advocates for Graduate Education), and he mentioned some new fund-raising initiatives for the GSA. (D&P3147b, 11/11/09)

GSA President Daniel Spikes encouraged Assembly members to promote participation of graduate students in the climate survey. He also invited all to turn out for the 5K Run to be held April 11, 2010 in support of funding for graduate student travel. Spikes indicated that the GSA expects to write a resolution on the proposed closure of the Cactus Café and the elimination of informal Texas Union classes. (D&P 3149b, 2/3/10)

GSA President-elect Manny Gonzalez introduced himself and noted various events included in the upcoming Graduate and Professional Appreciation Week in early April. He also reported that GSA has passed a resolution in support of continuing operation of the Cactus Café. (D&P 3151a, 3/24/10)

Darren Kelly introduced himself as the incoming 2010-2011 vice president for external affairs. He reported on the events of the recent Graduate and Professional Appreciation Week. Kelly also introduced several new Officers in the GSA. (D&P 3153b, 4/28/10)

