

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUGUST 2003**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
2002-2003**

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 2002-2003. The report summarizes pages **3067-3076c** 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 2002-2003

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
	ACADEMIC COMMITTEE	
Peter Green, Chair	Chemical Engineering	2001-2004(1)
Bruce Palka	Mathematics	2000-2003(1)
Kay Avant	Nursing	2001-2004(2)
Kamy Sepehrnoori	Petroleum & Geosystems Engineering	2001-2004(2)
Janet Dukerich	Management	2000-2003(1)
Salomon Stavchansky	Pharmacy	2000-2003(1)
David Herrin	Cell & Molecular Biology	2001-2004(1)
Dean Neikirk	Electrical & Computer Engineering	2001-2004(1)
Ken Flamm	LBJ School of Public Affairs	2001-2004(1)
Naomi Lindstrom	Spanish & Portuguese	2000-2003(1)
Austin Gleeson	Physics	2000-2003(1)
David Bogard	Mechanical Engineering	2000-2003(1)
Richard Markovits*	Law	2002-2003(1)

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Oden, Chair	Architecture	2002-2005(2)
Urton Anderson	Accounting	2002-2005(1)
Irene Owens	Information Studies	2002--2005(2)
Jim Scheurich	Educational Administration	2001-2004(1)
Don Heider	Journalism	2002-2005(1)
Bruce Hunt*	History	2000-2003(1)
Austin Gleeson	Physics	2000-2003(1)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Katherine Arens, Chair	Germanic Studies	2000-2003(1)
Mark Alpert	Marketing	2000-2003(1)
Darlene Grant	Social Work	2001-2004(2)
Desmond Lawler	Civil Engineering	2000-2003(1)
Mark Smith*	American Studies	2000-2003(2)
Randall Parker	Special Education	2002-2005(1)
Jennifer Brodbelt	Chemistry	2000-2003(1)
Stefan Kostka	Music	2002-2005(1)

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

No Committee Assignment

Linda Ferreira-Buckley, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Cindy Carlson, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Eric Opiela
Alissa Carter

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (2002-2003)

Chair: Linda Ferreira-Buckley, English
Chair-elect: Peter Green, Chemical Engineering
Secretary: Cindy Carlson, Educational Psychology

Meeting Dates: September 25, 2002
November 20, 2002
January 29, 2003
March 26, 2003
April 23, 2003

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

There was no major legislation considered by the Assembly during 2002-2003.

Minor Legislation

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal presented by the Academic Committee to create a Master of Arts in Dance. (D&P 3068d, 9/25/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal to change the master's degree designation in Architectural History from a Master of Science in Architectural History to a Master of Arts (with a major in Architectural History). (D&P 3068d-3068e, 9/25/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal to respecify the joint degree programs in the College of Communication to indicate the specific fields of study. (D&P 3068e, 9/25/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal to change the name from Electrical and Computer Engineering – Executive Software Engineering Option III to Electrical and Computer Engineering – Software Engineering Option III. (D&P 3068e, 9/25/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal to change the name of the program, Master of Science in Architectural Studies (Historic Preservation Concentration Only) to Master of Science in Historic Preservation. (D&P 3070b-3070c, 11/20/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the recommendation of the Academic Committee to approve their program review of the Option III Engineering Management Program. (D&P 3070c, 11/20/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the motion to accept IELTS for international admissions as an option to the TOEFL and to allow individual graduate programs to decide which they will accept. (D&P 3070c, 11/20/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the motion that resources be made available to the Graduate School, GIAC, and the International TA Program to undertake a long-term study of ESL tests with a goal of making new and/or improved information available to departments and programs. (D&P 3070c, 11/20/02)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to terminate the Manufacturing Systems Engineering program and the joint Manufacturing Systems Engineering/Business Administration program. (D&P 3072b, 1/29/03)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to create a joint program in Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing and Decision Systems Engineering concentration)/Business Administration. (D&P 3072b, 1/29/03)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal to change the master's degree designation for the School of Architecture's major in Sustainable Design from Master of Science in Architectural Studies (MSArchSt) to Master of Science in Sustainable Design (MSSD). (D&P 3074c, 3/26/03)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to change the master's degree designation for the School of Architecture's major in Urban Design from Master of Science in Architectural Studies (MSArchSt) to Master of Science in Urban Design (MSUD). (D&P 3074c, 3/26/03)

The Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to change the major in Nutrition to Nutritional Sciences for the MA degree. (D&P 3074c, 3/26/03)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the document "Core Principles to Guide the Reorganization of the Graduate Studies Portfolio. (D&P 3074d, 3/26/03)

The Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to extend the existing waiver of GRE scores for admission to the MFA Programs in Acting, Directing, and Design (Costume, Lighting, Scene) to include the MFA Technical Production concentration. (D&P 3074c, 3/26/03)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to change the term “joint degree” to “dual degree” in official publications and other published descriptions. (D&P 3076a –3076b, 4/23/03)

The Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to allow the digital submissions of terminal master’s projects beginning in spring of 2004. (D&P 3076b, 4/23/03)

Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Sullivan requested Cherwitz to report on admissions. Cherwitz indicated the resumption of a report to all graduate programs and all deans, providing five years of data, program by program, college by college, that looks at selectivity and yield for admission. He reported that the statistics indicate a substantial increase in applications, admissions, and enrollment.

Sullivan welcomed the Graduate Assembly to the 2002-2003 academic year. Dean Sullivan then reported on several admission issues: changes in the GRE general test beginning October 1, 2002. She also reported that the Education Testing Service has suspended computer-adapted testing in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Korea due to a substantial compromise of the items on the test. For similar reasons, the Computer Science Subject Test has been suspended in China and India. Sullivan reported a substantial part of the world will have no access to TOEFL; and, therefore, she asked the Admissions Committee to examine the alternative IELTS test, developed by Cambridge University. It is available worldwide.

Sullivan announced Ellison in Graduate and International Admissions will be leading an analysis of how well UT complied with House Bill 1641 which requires standardized test scores of applicants be considered in relationship to their socioeconomic status.

Sullivan reported that INS policy is being carefully followed, and particularly the preparations for *CBEST, which will be the new computerized data base for keeping track of visa issuance and enrollment status of foreign students in the United States.

Sullivan indicated she would like the Academic Committee to examine the accessibility of appropriate levels of statistical instruction for graduate students on campus.

Sullivan commended Char Dison for her hard work in developing an online orientation program and ethics training for incoming graduate students.

Finally, Sullivan announced that she would be leaving her position as Graduate Dean. She thanked the members of the Graduate Assembly and saluted them for their work.

Palka requested clarification on whether or not GRE scores taken with the computerized system would be accepted by GIAC. Sullivan indicated that if ETS reports the score, the University has to accept it; and she acknowledged that it was a difficult situations. Palka also noted a problem with obtaining social security numbers for foreign students who are also hired to be teaching assistants. Dean Sullivan indicated that the International Office and the local Austin Social Security Office has given permission to UT to give students temporary numbers for the purposes of payroll. (D&P 3068-3068g, 9/25/02)

Ferreira-Buckley informed the Assembly of changes in the Graduate School that have occurred since the September 25, 2002, meeting: President Faulkner had announced a reorganization of Graduate Studies and named Victoria Rodríguez Interim Dean of Graduate Studies. Provost Ekland-Olson was invited to explain the reorganization, answer questions from Assembly members, and introduce Victoria Rodríguez and her new role.

Interim Graduate Dean Rodríguez spoke to the Assembly, indicating that she is a professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and, therefore, has experience with graduate students and faculty. She looks forward to working with the Assembly.

Former Interim Graduate Dean Dollard addressed the Assembly, informing the members of several projects that Rodríguez would now assume as responsibilities: the Research Road Show, showcasing for legislators the benefits derived from research studies conducted at UT and other major universities in the State of Texas; and the Commission of 125, to determine the future of the University for the next twenty years. Rodríguez will participate in the Graduate and Professional Education Committee. Dollard informed the Assembly there is a new degree under discussion that is a joint MD-PhD degree with the MD completed at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston. He also reported that Immigration and Naturalization Service has introduced a new finger printed photo registration requirement for non-immigrants from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Syria. Finally, Dollard reported that the Committee on the Rights and Responsibilities and Welfare of TA's and AI's is continuing efforts to eliminate the taxability of the TA tuition benefit. (D&P 3070-3070b, 11/20/02)

Interim Graduate Dean Rodríguez provided the Graduate Assembly with an update on the reorganization of Graduate Studies and indicated that an internal review had been started to examine ways in which operations might be streamlined and efficiency enhanced. Also the reorganization will include more closely integrating the Provost's office and Graduate Studies. Rodríguez responded to questions from the Assembly. Members of the Assembly expressed concerns that faculty governance would have less influence in the reorganization if the college deans gain influence. Members also questioned the rationale for the reorganization and expressed concern that Graduate Studies retain a strong voice. Discussion closed with the recommendation to have the Administrative Committee further examine these issues.

Rodríguez announced winners of awards from the Graduate School: Graduate Teaching Award recipients at the doctoral level – Linda Ferreira-Buckley from English and Eric Anslyn from Chemistry; and at the master's level – David Springer from Social Work. The Outstanding Alumnus Award at the doctoral level – Marta Tienda from Sociology, currently a professor at Princeton University and Director of the Office of Population Research; and at the master's level – Robert Brown from Chemical Engineering, current provost at MIT. Rodríguez also announced that nominations are open for the Outstanding Graduate Advisor Award, the Outstanding Dissertation Award, and the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. She thanked the University Co-operative Society for funding these awards.

Interim Dean Rodríguez asked Cherwitz to report on legislative initiatives, regarding admissions – particularly House Bill 484. Cherwitz gave a status report on House Bill 484, indicating it was not a very specific bill, but intended to guarantee admission to graduate and professional schools any student who is in the top ten percent of their class. He stated the bill might be operationally defined.(D&P 3072-3072b, 1/29/03)

Interim Dean Rodríguez requested Cherwitz to update the Assembly on House Bill 484, Representative Wilson's bill to increase diversity by requiring universities to admit students who are in the top ten percent of their class. Also discussed was House Bill 1212, proposed legislation to remove the out-of-state tuition waiver.

Rodríguez reported on the reorganization of the Office of Graduate Studies.

Rodríguez reported on the status of tuition taxation of TA's and AI's, assuring the Assembly that they are exploring ways to eliminate the taxation.

Rodríguez provided the Assembly with a status report on legislative action of the Graduate Assembly 2002-2003.

Interim Dean Rodríguez also announced the Outstanding Graduate Adviser for the year -- Tse-min Lin of the Department of Government. (D&P 3074-3074b, 3/26/03)

Interim Dean Rodríguez provided the Assembly with a legislative update, primarily the tuition de-regulation bill passing in the House and pending in the Senate. The bill concerning indirect costs was also discussed. The House version of the bill permits the University to recoup all indirect costs, and the Senate bill phases in the return of 100% of indirect costs over a four-year period. Another bill still in discussion would eliminate health benefits for part-time staff, including graduate student teaching assistants. Regarding the budgetary crisis at the University, there has been discussion about instituting a voluntary retirement program that would provide a \$16,000 incentive to eligible staff. (D&P 3076, 4/23/03)

Report from the Chair

Ferreira-Buckley reciprocated the thank you to Sullivan for her years of work with the Graduate Assembly.

Chair Ferreira-Buckley indicated that guest speakers would be invited to the Assembly to present on topics related to Graduate Studies. The chair also reported that President Faulkner has not yet named the acting graduate dean, but that this is expected soon. (D&P 3068d, 9/25/02)

Ferreira-Buckley introduced two guest presentations for the meeting: Thomas and Johnson, representing the Graduate Coordinator Network; and Barnette, discussing the Graduate Writing Project. (D&P 3072b, 1/29/03)

Chair Ferreira-Buckley provided an update on the search for a new graduate dean. Twenty nominations had been received, and the committee will provide a short list for Provost by the end of the semester. (D&P 3074b, 3/26/03)

Chair Ferreira-Buckley reported on the search process for graduate dean, indicating the commitment by the committee and the provost to an internal search. The target date for completion of the search committee's work is the end of May 2003. The chair reported that the reorganization committee for the Graduate School had not met as yet, but that the responsibilities of the graduate dean appear to be more clearly defined than previously thought by the Assembly. Furthermore, a committee is being formed to revise the Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Chair Ferreira-Buckley reported the results of the 2002-2003 Graduate Assembly election and introduced those new members attending. The new chair-elect was elected: Dean Neikirk (Electrical & Computer Engineering). The chair thanked the outgoing members for their service to the Assembly over the past three to six years. (D&P 3076-3076a, 4/23/03)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee

Chair Green provided the Assembly with the rationale for the proposed MFA in Dance, citing the need for academic training for dance professionals who are advanced in their careers and transitioning to teaching in other areas of their profession. The proposal was passed unanimously. (D&P 3068d, 9/25/02)

Green presented a proposal to change the master's degree designation in Architectural History from a Master of Science in Architectural History to a Master of Arts (with a major in Architectural History). The proposal was passed unanimously. (D&P 3068d-3068e, 9/25/02)

Green presented a proposal to re-specify the joint degrees offered by the College of Communication, changing a number of the joint program names and assigning new codes. The proposal passed unanimously. (D&P 3068e, 9/25/02)

Chair Green reported on the proposal to change the program name and major from Electrical and Computer Engineering (Executive Software Engineering – Option III) to Electrical and Computer Engineering (Software Engineering – Option III). The proposal was passed unanimously. (D&P 3068e, 9/25/02)

Academic Committee Chair Green introduced a proposed nonsubstantive change of the master's degree title from Master of Science in Architectural Studies (Historic Preservation Concentration Only) to Master of Science in Historic Preservation. The proposal passed unanimously. (D&P 3070b-3070c, 11/20/02)

The Academic Committee recommended that the Assembly approve their program review of the Option III Engineering Management program. The Engineering Management Program was approved about three years ago, and it is viewed to be

successful. The program brings together elements from Engineering, teaching practical application of engineering science, and the Business School, teaching management skills. The subsequent motion was passed unanimously. (D&P 3070c, 11/20/02)

Chair Green informed the Assembly that the Academic Committee has amended procedures to specify that proposals have the endorsement (via signatures) of the appropriate dean, department chair, and graduate studies committee chair. (D&P 3070c, 11/20/02)

Academic Committee Chair Green presented a proposal to terminate the Manufacturing Systems Engineering program and the joint Manufacturing Systems Engineering/Business Administration program. Then a second proposal was presented to create a joint program in Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing and Decision Systems Engineering concentration)/Business Administration. Both proposals passed unanimously. (D&P 3072b, 1/29/03)

Chair Green presented three proposals to the Assembly. The first proposal was to change the master's degree designation for the School of Architecture's major in Sustainable Design from Master of Science in Architectural Studies (MSArchSt) to Master of Science in Sustainable Design (MSSD). The second proposal was to change the master's degree designation for the school of Architecture's major in Urban Design from Master of Science in Architectural Studies (MSArchSt) to Master of Science in Urban Design (MSUD). The third proposal was to change the major in Nutrition to Nutritional Sciences for the MA degree. All three proposals were passed unanimously and ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3074c, 3/26/03)

B. Administrative Committee

Chair Oden reported the committee is studying two proposals. The first proposal will address the monitoring and tracking of PhD students, and second will propose a change in the grading system to a plus/minus system. (D&P 3070c, 11/20/02)

Chair Oden presented a resolution on principles to guide the reorganization of the Graduate School portfolio. The "Core Principles to Guide the Reorganization of the Graduate Studies Portfolio" document was presented and approved by the Assembly unanimously. (D&P 3074d, 3/26/03)

Chair Oden presented a proposal to change the term "joint degree" to "dual degree" in official publications and other published descriptions. Also presented was a proposal to allow master's student submission of terminal projects (e.g. thesis, professional report) in digital format. Both proposals were passed unanimously.

Oden reported the Committee's recommendation for the Academic Committee in 2003-2004 to complete a systematic study of interdisciplinary studies and related joint (vs. dual) degrees as this is viewed to be a significant future trend. Chair Oden also presented a recommendation of the Administrative Committee to further study change in the Graduate School grading system to a plus/minus system. (D&P 3076a-3076b, 4/23/03)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Chair Arens proposed no current business, but questioned whether the review of the creation of a Division of Statistics should be the purview of the Academic Committee and the Administrative Committee. Dean Sullivan suggested the Academic Committee review the issue; however, other committee involvement may be appropriate after the intellectual issues are addressed. Discussion followed regarding individuals who might educate the Academic Committee on the issues in of organizing a Department of Statistics. It was suggested that a memo be written, summarizing the needs and concerns of developing a statistics degree program. Arens offered to follow a parallel process. (D&P 3068f, 9/25/02)

Arens reminded the Assembly that in September former Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies had discussed problems in the use of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) as either a valid or available measure of English language proficiency for graduate, international applicants from many third world countries. Arens presented recommendations to the Assembly in two motions. The first recommended that the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) be accepted for international admissions as an option to TOEFL. The rationale for this motion is that the IELTS test is very similar to TOEFL, has comparable validity; and the tests can be normed against each other. Also, the IELTS is administered by the British Council, and there is equivalent or better access to test centers.

The second motion stated that resources be made available to the Graduate School, GIAC, and the International TA Program to undertake a long-term study of ESL tests with a goal of making new and/or improved information available to departments and programs.

After discussion of concerns by members, both motions were passed unanimously. (D&P 3070c-3070e, 11/20/02)

Chair Arens presented a proposal to extend the existing waiver of GRE scores for admission to the MFA Programs in Acting, Directing, and Design (Costume, Lighting, Scene) to include the MFA Technical Production concentration. The proposal was passed unanimously. (D&P 3074c, 3/26/03)

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly

Graduate Student Assembly co-chair Eric Opiela reported that the picnic hosted for entering graduate students on the second day of classes was a huge success with 1200 students attending. The GSA had their first meeting of the year and is in the process of making committee appointments. Issues raised at the meeting related to benefits and rights of teaching assistants and the University rule that does not permit NSF and NIH fellows to receive University benefits. (D&P 3068g, 9/25/02)

Graduate Student Assembly co-chair Joyce Banks reported that graduate student feedback had not yet been received on the report of the Task Force on Assembly and Expression. Banks reported that two members of student government are interested in creating a student employee grievance process that would create an umbrella process for any student employee including TA's, AI's, and any undergraduate student who has a job on campus, work study or non-work study. Banks also reported concern regarding input from graduate students on the reorganization process.

Banks reported on a possible solution to the taxation of graduate student stipends that emerged from a meeting of student representatives from all the UT Systems schools with Regent Krier. Compensation requires taxation; an educational benefit does not require taxation. After further reviews, Krier will ask the System General Counsel to request a private letter ruling, or basically an opinion from the IRS. Preliminary estimates show that it might save UT Austin graduate students \$1.4 million a year. (D&P 3070e-3070f, 11/20/02)

GSA co-chair Banks informed the Assembly that she, Barnette, and Evans have been selected to attend the National Graduate Student Leadership Conference. GSA is reviewing proposals from graduate student organizations to distribute \$7,000 in funds for purposes of travel, guest speakers, etc. GSA hopes to create a TA/AI Teaching Excellence Award with a

nominal monetary award, and they plan to approach the University Co-operative Society for funding. Current concerns of the GSA include tuition deregulation and the racial harassment statement that has been deemed unconstitutional. (D&P 3072c, 1/29/03)

Co-chair Banks reported the deadline for nominations by departments for the outstanding TA, AI, and RA awards had been extended. Assembly members were encouraged to make nominations. Banks distributed two documents for consideration. The first was a resolution from the GSA to the Texas Legislature to address the special needs of graduate and professional schools when considering legislation that modifies the methods by which tuition and fees are set for Texas public institutions of higher learning. The second provided a broader perspective on concerns that graduate students are feeling in the current budgetary crisis. (D&P 3074b, 3/26/03)

Co-chair Banks announced that three top TA/AI/RA's were honored at a reception on 4/7/03, during Graduate Student and Professional Week. The GSA has elected new co-chairs for academic year 2003-2004: Don Drumtra (School of Information) and Marian Barber (History). Banks introduced a general resolution that requested the administration be thoughtful about the unique considerations faced by graduate students, in contrast with undergraduate students, in regards to the proposed legislation to deregulate tuition. The resolution was discussed and passed unanimously. (D&P 3076c, 4/23/03).

Annual Report prepared by Karen Bancroft, Office of Graduate Studies