

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUGUST 2005**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
2004-2005**

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 2004-2005. The report summarizes pages **3090 – 3098b** 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 2004-2005

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
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ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Janet Dukerich, Chair	Management	2003-2006(2)
Bruce Palka	Mathematics	2003-2006(2)
Alan Cline	Computer Sciences	2004-2007(1)
Richard Markovits	Law	2003-2006(2)
Karen Rascati	Pharmacy	2003-2006(1)
Carlota Smith	Linguistics	2003-2006(1)
Martha Ovando	Ed. Administration	2004-2007(1)
Robert Duke*	Music	2002-2005(1)
Shirley Laffrey	Nursing	2004-2007(1)
Randall Parker	Special Education	2002-2005(1)

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

David Hull, Chair	Aerospace Engineering	2004-2007(1)
John Allison	MSIS	2002-2005(2)
Urton Anderson	Accounting	2002-2005(1)
Lesley Dean-Jones	Classics	2003-2006(1)
Philip Doty*	Information Studies	2002-2005(2)
David Bogard	Mechanical Engineering	2003-2006(2)
Michael Oden	Architecture	2002-2005(2)
Cindy Carlson	Ed. Psychology	2002-2005(1)
Pauline Strong	Anthropology	2004-2007(1)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Kenneth Flamm, Chair	LBJ School, Public Affairs	2004-2007(2)
Katherine Arens	Germanic Studies	2003-2006(2)
Linda Golden	Marketing	2003-2006(1)
Allen Rubin	Social Work	2004-2007(1)
Desmond Lawler	Civil Engineering	2003-2006(2)
Peter Green	Chemical Engineering	2004-2007(2)
Naomi Lindstrom	Spanish & Portuguese	2003-2006(2)
Mona Mehdy	Molecular Biology	2003-2006(1)
Karen Browning	Chemistry	2003-2006(1)

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

No Committee Assignment

Dean Neikirk, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Don Heider, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Paul Navratil
Noah Mass

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Amy Forestell
Nachiket Kharalkar

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Erik Malmberg
Greg Michener

Ex Officio Member, with Vote

Linda Reichl Chair, Faculty Council

Ex Officio Members, without Vote

Larry R. Faulkner	President
Victoria E. Rodríguez	Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
Sheldon Ekland-Olson	Executive Vice President and Provost
Juan Sanchez	Vice President for Research
George W. Gau	Dean, Red McCombs School of Business
Roderick Hart	Interim 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
Frederick Steiner	Dean, School of Architecture
Barbara W. White	Dean, School of Social Work
Dolores Sands	Dean, School of Nursing
Bobby Inman	Interim Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
William Powers	Dean, School of Law
Andrew Dillon	Dean, School of Information

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (2004-2005)

Chair: Dean Neikirk, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Chair-elect: Janet Dukerich, Management
Secretary: Don Heider, Journalism

Meeting Dates: September 22, 2004
November 17, 2004
February 2, 2005
March 30, 2005
April 27, 2005

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

There was no major legislation passed by the Graduate Assembly during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Minor Legislation

A proposal to establish a dual degree program in Cell and Molecular Biology between the UT Medical Branch in Galveston and the University of Texas at Austin was approved unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3090c, 9/22/04)

The proposal to establish a new Master of Science in Textiles and Apparel Technology was approved unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3092b, 11/17/04)

The proposal to create a Master of Arts degree program in Mexican American Studies was approved unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3096a, 3/30/05)

The proposal to create the MD/PhD Dual Degree Program in Neuroscience between UT Medical Branch at Galveston and UT Austin passed unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3096a, 3/30/05)

The Graduate Assembly voted unanimously to create a resolution, expressing concern over the structure of the graduate governance document as proposed by the Jackson School, and to ask the Provost and the President to meet with the Assembly to discuss the issue. (D&P 3098a, 4/27/05)

Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Rodríguez reported that she had just returned from the AAU meeting and a major topic of discussion was the mental health of graduate students.

Rodríguez reported that the revisions made to the Handbook of Operating Procedures had been approved at all levels at UT-Austin and now had been considered at the system level. At the system level a question was raised about the restructuring of the Graduate School and the position that she holds as a Vice Provost and Dean, reporting to the Provost rather than the President. As a result of that question being raised, the President has now delegated the authority to the Provost so that the Graduate Dean reports to the Provost rather than to the President.

Rodríguez reported that after the Graduate Assembly had passed the proposal to change grading in the graduate program to a plus and minus system, she had signed the proposal and it worked its way through the administration.

Rodríguez reported that race as a criterion for consideration in admissions, fellowships, and scholarships has been approved by the system. It is now UT's official policy. University faculty and administrators can start using race as a criterion and using the words openly and freely.

Rodríguez introduced Tommy Darwin, Director of the Graduate School's Professional Development and Community Engagement Program.

Dean Rodriguez requested Darlene Grant to report on recruitment trips to San Luis Potosi, Guadalajara, and Monterrey. Grant also reviewed enrollment statistics for 2004. (D&P 3090-3090b, 9/22/04)

Rodríguez reported that President Faulkner has approved the plus and minus grading system for graduate courses that was proposed by the Assembly last semester, so it will become effective in fall of 2005.

Rodríguez reported that the proposal for flat rate tuition for undergraduate students was posted on the web; but in regard to flat rate tuition for graduate students, the discussion will take place next year. There will be 4.75 % tuition increase.

Rodriguez reported that the new burnt orange doctoral gown will be available for the spring Commencement.

Rodríguez reported that there are searches underway for the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for Development, and the new Vice Provost for Inclusiveness and Cross-Cultural Effectiveness.

Rodríguez announced that she had been elected to the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools. She reported that she will serve a three-year term and that her election will be good for the University to be represented nationally.

Rodríguez reported this year's winners of the Outstanding Graduate Coordinator Award are Debbie Coleman in Government, Helen Kim in Microbiology, and Kathleen Sowash in Foreign Language Education. They will be recognized at the spring convocation. (D&P 3092-3092a, 11/17/04)

Rodríguez reported on the Graduate School awards, which are given at the Graduate School Convocation in May. Rodríguez also reported a change in the Graduate School research awards. In the past, it was eight \$1,000 awards. Last year that was changed. She said the Graduate School was able to get some more funding from the University Co-op. They are now giving out five \$3,000 awards and one \$5,000 award.

Rodríguez reported that the Legislative Budget Board had asked for another accountability study from the University. The Board hired Pappas Consulting, who interviewed a number of people at UT during the fall. The graduate program was not a major part of the report.

John Dollard reported that he had a chance to review a draft of the firm's final report. His overall impression was the report was not very carefully done. He found several factual errors in the report. (D&P 3094-3094a, 2/2/05)

Rodríguez reported the new doctoral gown will be available for the spring convocation. She also reported people attending the Master's convocation will need to get tickets. Ticketing is required by the fire marshal due to high attendance in the past.

Rodríguez also reported that notification about the change to a plus and minus grading system for graduate students has gone out to all deans, department chairs, graduate advisers, and coordinators.

Rodríguez reported that revisions to the Handbook of Operating Procedures have finally been approved. They are now posted on the web in the online HOP.

Rodríguez reported there are searches underway for deans of the LBJ School and the College of Communication and for the new vice provost for inclusion and cross cultural effectiveness.

Rodríguez announced Graduate Assembly member Cindy Carlson is the recipient of the outstanding graduate adviser award. (D&P 3096-3096a, 3/30/05)

Rodríguez thanked Dean Neikirk for excellent service as Graduate Assembly chair this year and welcomed Janet Dukerich, chair of the Assembly for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Rodríguez reported the Graduate School has started “OGS on the Road,” a new outreach effort to the various colleges and schools throughout the University.

Tom Belinoski presented the legislative status report.

Pat Ellison reported that the TOEFL Committee has worked for the past year, determining a score that would work for the students applying to the University of Texas. In the future, the IELTS examination will be accepted along with the TOEFL test.

Darlene Grant reported on admissions. Grant reported in considering race as a factor in admissions, departments are still wrestling with what it means and how to implement it. (D&P 3098-3098a, 4/27/05)

Report from the Chair

Neikirk identified awards committees, seeking Assembly volunteers, and he asked members to be generous with their time. Neikirk reminded the Assembly that as Chair of Graduate Assembly, he is the Assembly’s representative on the Faculty Council Executive Committee and the Assembly’s representative to the Faculty Council.

Neikirk also reported he had been checking into whether all graduate students will have to undergo a security check.

Terry Kahn reported because of all of the international issues, the University is charged with doing security checks on students that are in security sensitive positions.

Neikirk also reported that he will put an ad hoc committee together to look into whether the Assembly should do regular, formal program reviews. (D&P 3090b, 9/22/05)

Neikirk reported that there is currently a committee of the Faculty Council titled the Responsibility, Rights, and Welfare of Teaching Assistants and Assistant Instructors Committee; and they have proposed to the Council that the title of the committee be changed to the Responsibilities, Rights, and Welfare of Graduate Student Employees Committee.

Kahn pointed out that the HOP titles that separate GRAs, AIs, and TAs from other student classified employees are “Student Academic” or “Student Academic Employee.”

Neikirk commented that the Committee on 125 Report is out. Neikirk pointed out that there is a section, in particular Recommendation Twelve, addressing graduate students and graduate programs. (D&P 3092a-3092b, 11/17/05)

Neikirk reported two items from Faculty Council. First there was a successful motion to change the name of graduate employees to Student Academic Employees. Second, the Council asked the President to comment on the upcoming SACS accreditation. (D&P 3094a, 2/2/05)

Neikirk reported also that changes to the Handbook of Operating Procedures have been posted, and the final version is virtually identical to the form that the Graduate Assembly approved.

Neikirk reported on matters before the Faculty Council, including legislation to change committee membership. In many cases, there are changes to make graduate student appointments to the committee membership explicit.

Neikirk reported there is discussion about the grievance procedure for teaching assistants and graduate research assistants.

Neikirk also reported the upcoming election for Graduate Assembly chair-elect would be at the April 27 meeting. (D&P 3096a, 3/30/05)

Neikirk reported that there had been one nomination for the position of chair- elect of the Assembly: Bruce Palka. The Assembly then elected Palka chair-elect for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Neikirk welcomed three new members visiting: Elizabeth Crist from Music; Nicole Wiedemann, Architecture; and Paula Murray, Management Science and Information Systems.

Neikirk reported that a matter concerning the Jackson School had come before the Faculty Council. The school's proposed governance documents indicated the new school would not comply in several areas with the Handbook of Operating Procedures. A resolution to express the Assembly's concern over the Jackson School's governance issues and to request a meeting with the Provost and the President to discuss these issues passed unanimously. (D&P 3098a, 4/27/05)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee

Dukerich reported that the Academic Committee has recommended to the Graduate Dean and Provost approval of the proposal for a doctoral portfolio program in Communication, Information and Cultural Policy.

Dukerich introduced Karen Browning from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Chair of the GSC for the Cell and Molecular Biology program to report on a proposal to establish a dual degree program in Cell and Molecular Biology between the UT Medical Branch in Galveston and the University of Texas at Austin.

Dukerich informed the Assembly that the Academic Committee recommended approval of the dual degree program. (D&P 3090b-3090c, 9/22/04)

Chair Dukerich reported on the proposal for a doctoral portfolio program in Cellular and Molecular Imaging for Diagnostics and Therapeutics and informed the Assembly that the Academic committee approved this proposal.

Chair Dukerich introduced Richard Willis, Associate Chair of Human Ecology, to report on his department's proposal for a new master's program as a beginning step to build a graduate faculty and a graduate program within the textiles and apparel group and within the College of Natural Sciences.

Dukerich informed the Assembly that the Academic Committee recommended approval of the proposal for a Master of Science in Textiles and Apparel Technology. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3092b, 11/17/04)

In the absence of Chair Dukerich, Neikirk reported on the proposal for a doctoral portfolio program in African and African American Studies and indicated that the Academic Committee had approved the proposal.

Neikirk next reported on the proposal for a Master of Arts degree in Mexican American Studies. Neikirk reported the committee, with one abstention, had recommended approval of this new program to the Assembly. The representative from Mexican American Studies was not present. A motion to defer a decision to the next meeting when someone could be present to answer Assembly's questions on the proposal was passed unanimously. (D&P 3094a-3094b, 2/2/05)

The proposal to create a Master of Arts degree program in Mexican American Studies, presented for a second time, was passed unanimously.

The proposal to create the MD/PhD Dual Degree Program in Neuroscience between UT Medical Branch at Galveston and UT Austin was passed unanimously. (D&P 3096a, 3/30/05)

Dukerich introduced a proposal to change the name of the degree major from Management Science and Information Systems to Information, Risk, and Operations Management. The Academic Committee recommended the proposal, but consideration was deferred unanimously until the next meeting.

Dukerich reported that the Academic Committee reviewed and unanimously approved a proposal for a Master's and Doctoral Portfolio Program in the Study of Religion. (D&P 3098a-3098b, 4/27/05)

B. Administrative Committee

Owens reported she had met with the other standing committee chairs of the Assembly to conduct a review of the portfolio programs from the administrative standpoint, not the academic component. They are planning to meet again. (D&P 3092b, 11/17/05)

Newly appointed Chair Hull reported that the committee had begun gathering information about portfolio programs. Hull said the committee was addressing three concerns about portfolio programs: administration, quality, and elimination of inactive programs. (D&P 3096b, 3/30/05)

Hull reported the committee is making a recommendation that the Graduate School institute an electronic recording procedure for portfolio programs, tracking the director and the students in the program on a semester basis. Hull submitted the committee report on portfolio programs. (D&P 3098b, 4/27/05)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

In the absence of Chair Flamm, Neikirk reported that by mutual agreement with the proposers, the committee tabled a proposal to allow Engineering Option III programs to grant GRE waivers to applicants who already have a graduate degree in a related field. (D&P 3092c, 11/17/05)

In the absence of Chair Flamm, Darlene Grant gave a report from the Office of Graduate Studies on Select Admissions, a program that was introduced in 1999. Grant reported that the Select Admissions program was instituted under Hopwood as a race neutral alternative or effort to encourage departments to enhance diversity. Grant reported the distribution across departments.

Grant also reported that foreign applications continue to be down. Grant stated this is a national phenomenon that continues.

Grant reported that the committee received a brief report from Mary Ann [Ruddock] in Institutional Research, which summarized graduate level enrollment for spring 2005. While we had a net increase in students from underrepresented populations, Grant emphasized how small that increase is.

Grant reported briefly on the graduate recruitment fellowship. She said that because of legal review, this program was announced late. The graduate recruitment fellowship is now up and taking applications.

Grant also called attention to a new addition at the right hand bottom corner of the UT website: a new diversity gateway for the University. There is a variety of information about student organizations based on their constituency, classes, campus resources, library resources, faculty and staff designated as individuals who are up and running in the area of diversity. The gateway makes this campus a more hospitable, civil, welcoming place across groups. (D&P 3096b-3096c, 3/30/05)

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly

Navratil reported the Graduate Student Assembly partnered with the Texas Exes for their annual welcome barbeque, and more than 1800 graduate students attended. Twenty different agencies from around campus came to give student information about various organizations on campus.

Malmberg reported that with the help of the Graduate School, information about the Graduate Student Assembly will now be listed in the Graduate Catalogue.

Malmberg also reported that the GSA is working on the issue of graduate student representation on committees of the Faculty Council.

Navratil reported that he and Malmberg want to work on the issue of community among graduate students. He reported that they are partnering with the Student Government and with the Senate of College Councils and other groups on campus to increase graduate student awareness and to market University-wide programs to graduate students. (D&P 3090c-3090d, 9/22/04)

Navratil reported the Graduate Student Assembly celebrated its tenth birthday on November 4 with a well-attended off-campus event.

Navratil reported that they are holding two open houses on the tuition policy issue. He also reported that he is serving on the search committee for the Vice Provost for Inclusion and Cross-cultural Effectiveness.

Malmberg reported they attended several national conferences, including the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students.

Malmberg reported GSA also has been working on the issues of high speed internet access off campus and graduate student housing.

Malmberg introduced a resolution for members of the Graduate Assembly to review, calling for graduate student representation on the University governance committees and advisory groups. Malmberg said they wanted members to review the proposal, give input, and then perhaps endorse the resolution. There was discussion, but no action was taken by the Assembly. (D&P 3092c, 11/17/05)

Malmberg reported that Graduate Student Assembly had developed and released a new logo. The Co-op had given them \$2000 to produce mugs and cups, which were given out at a reception.

Malmberg reported the deadline for the Excellence in Graduate Research Award was February 11, by 5:00 pm.

Malmberg reported that the Outstanding Graduate Student Employee Award had been renamed in honor of William Livingston.

Malmberg requested the Assembly members encourage graduate students to learn about pending legislation and let their views be known to the state legislature. (D&P 3094b, 2/2/05)

Malmberg reported that the Graduate Student Assembly just completed the Livingston Awards and the George Mitchell Awards for Excellence in Graduate Research. The awards reception, sponsored by the University Co-op and the Office of Graduate Studies, will be held Wednesday, April 6, in the Texas Union Ballroom at 2:30 p.m.

Navratil reported that the Governor's Office has proclaimed that next week as Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, and he encouraged Assembly members to take the opportunity to thank graduate students for all the work they do in their respective departments. (D&P 3096c, 3/30/05)

Navratil and Malmberg gave an electronic presentation, showing the Graduate Student Assembly activities for the year. Navratil and Malmberg also reviewed the Graduate Student Assembly's accomplishments for the year.

The new Graduate Student Assembly co-chairs for 2005-2006 are Erica Whittington from History and Jessica Geier from Educational Administration. (D&P 3098b, 4/27/05)