

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
JULY 2006**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY  
2005-2006**

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 2005-2006. The report summarizes pages 3100 – 3109b 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 2005-2006

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
<b>ACADEMIC COMMITTEE</b>		
Randall Parker, Chair	Special Education	2005-2008(2)
Bruce Palka	Mathematics	2003-2006(2)
Richard Markovits	Law	2003-2006(1)
Carlota Smith	Linguistics	2003-2006(1)
Karen Browning	Chemistry	2003-2006(1)
Elizabeth Crist	Music	2005-2008(1)
Paula Murray	Information, Risk, & Operations	2005-2008(1)
	Management	
Allen Rubin	Social Work	2004-2007(1)
Pauline Strong	Anthropology	2004-2007(1)
Graham McDougall	Nursing	2004-2007(1)

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

David Hull, Chair	Aerospace Engineering	2004-2007(1)
Lesley Dean-Jones	Classics	2003-2006(1)
David Bogard	Mechanical Engineering	2003-2006(2)
Ekwere Peters	Petroleum & Geosystems Engineering	2005-2007*
Linda Golden	Marketing	2003-2006(1)
Alexandra Loukas	Kinesiology & Health	2005-2008(1)
Dean Neikirk	Electrical & Computer Engineering	2005-2008(2)
Martha Ovando	Ed. Administration	2004-2007(1)
Nichole Wiedemann	Architecture	2005-2008(1)

## ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Katherine Arens, Chair	Germanic Studies	2003-2006(2)
Alan Cline	Computer Sciences	2004-2007(1)
Ken Flamm	LBJ, Public Affairs	2004-2007(2)
Steven Kachelmeier	Accounting	2005-2008(1)
Desmond Lawler	Civil Engineering	2003-2006(2)
Naomi Lindstrom	Spanish & Portuguese	2003-2006(2)
Karen Rascati	Pharmacy	2003-2006(1)
Patricia Stout	Advertising	2005-2008(1)
Mona Mehdy	Molecular Biology	2003-2006(1)

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

No Committee Assignment

Janet Dukerich, Chair of the Graduate Assembly  
Philip Doty, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

## ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Amy Forestell  
Apurva Borikar

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Erica Whittington  
Jignesh Shah

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Jessica Geier  
Courtney Brannon

Ex Officio Member, with Vote

Alba Ortiz                      Chair, Faculty Council

Ex Officio Members, without Vote

William Powers	President, succeeding Larry R. Faulkner, as of 2/1/06
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	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
James Steinberg	Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Steven Goode	Interim Dean, School of Law
Andrew Dillon	Dean, School of Information

## II. Organization of the Assembly

### Elected Officers (2005-2006)

Chair: Janet Dukerich, Management  
Chair-elect: Randall Parker, Special Education  
Secretary: Philip Doty, Information Studies

Meeting Dates: September 21, 2005  
November 16, 2005  
February 1, 2006  
March 29, 2006  
April 26, 2006

## III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

### Major Legislation

There was no major legislation passed by the Graduate Assembly during the 2005-2006 academic year.

### Minor Legislation

The proposal to change the name of the degree program from Management Science and Information System to Information, Risk, and Operations Management was passed with one dissenting vote and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3101a, 9/21/05)

The proposal regarding the Graduate Assembly Academic Committee's consideration for elimination of inactive graduate portfolio programs was passed unanimously and ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3101b, 9/21/05)

The proposal for a Master's and Doctoral Portfolio Program in Museum Studies was approved by the Academic Committee and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3103a, 11/16/05)

The proposal for a Master's of Science degree in Museum Studies was passed unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3103a), 11/16/05)

The proposal to consolidate the Master's and Doctoral portfolios into Graduate portfolios was passed unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3103a, 11/16/05)

The proposal to change the name of the graduate degree program and major from “Energy and Mineral Resources” to “Energy and Earth Resources” was passed unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3105b, 2/1/06)

The proposal to establish a dual degree program in Public Affairs and Community and Regional Planning was passed unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3105b, 2/1/06)

The proposal to establish Master of Science degree programs in each of the five existing PhD programs in the McCombs School of Business passed unanimously and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3105b, 2/1/06)

The proposal to establish a Social Work (MSSW) and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (MDiv) dual degree program was passed and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3107a, 3/29/06)

The Academic Committee approved the Graduate Portfolio Program in Integrated Watershed Science. (D&P 3107a, 3/29/06)

The Academic Committee approved the Graduate Portfolio Program in the Societal Impacts of Science and Technology. (D&P 3109a, 4/26/06)

The Academic Committee approved the Graduate Portfolio Program in Sustainability. (D&P 3109a), 4/26/06)

#### Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Rodríguez introduced Marvin Hackert who has assumed John Dollard’s portfolio as Associate Dean of the Graduate School for student fellowships and the faculty development program.

Rodríguez also reported on the University enrollment of students from the New Orleans area because of Hurricane Katrina.

Rodríguez commented on the 12<sup>th</sup> class day enrollment in the Graduate School.

Rodríguez noted the appearance of Omar Ochoa, Student Government President, on the cover of *Hispanic Business Magazine* and the continuing leadership of UT-Austin in enrollment of Hispanic students in graduate programs. (D&P 3101-3101a, 9/21/05)

Dean Rodríguez announced the results of the search for a university president and mentioned an open forum with the successful candidate, William Powers.

Rodríguez reported on the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee decision to retain graduate tuition based on the number of graduate hours taken rather than by a flat tuition rate.

Rodríguez reported on Recommendation 12 of the Commission of 125, regarding the increase of stipends for graduate students as a high priority in the new capital campaign. The Graduate School will have its own development officer as of January 2006.

Rodríguez reported on the visits to main campus graduate schools and colleges by OGS staff in an effort to increase familiarity among respective staff members and Graduate School awareness of graduate program concerns. (D&P 3103-3103a, 11/16/05)

Dean Rodríguez reported that new University President William Powers met jointly with the Graduate Assembly and Faculty Council, and he spoke strongly in support of graduate education.

Rodríguez reported that graduate stipends are likely to be supplemented by the upcoming Capital Campaign and that the Graduate School has appointed its first development officer. Dean Rodríguez also mentioned the appointment of John Dalton as assistant dean for graduate student services, replacing retiring Char Dison.

Rodríguez discussed the plus/minus grading system implementation and indicated that a memo, reiterating the specifics of the grading system, was sent to deans, chairs and directors, graduate advisers, and coordinators.

Rodríguez introduced Senior Vice President William Livingston to the Assembly. Livingston made a special presentation about the current window of opportunity for the university to assume a greater leadership role in the humanities. He requested the faculty's intellectual, political, and financial support in this endeavor. (D&P 3105-3105a, 2/1/06)

Dean Rodríguez announced that Pauline Strong of Anthropology had been named as winner of the Graduate School award for outstanding graduate teaching.

Rodríguez described petitions to the Faculty Council to extend the fourteen-semester rule for University-employed graduate students. (D&P 3107, 3/29/06)

Rodríguez presented the legislative status report of the Graduate Assembly 2005-2006 as of April 12, 2006.

Dean Rodríguez reported on the newly-formed UT System task force on doctoral programs and post-doctoral experience. The task force is to determine the quality of doctoral and post-doctoral education at the system component institutions.

Rodríguez announced the winners of the Graduate School awards. (D&P 3109-3109a, 4/26/06)

### Report from the Chair

Chair Dukerich reported that Bruce Palka, Chair-elect and Chair of the Academic Committee had to step aside due to other commitments. Randall Parker of Special Education was nominated and elected unanimously to both positions.

Dukerich also reported the resignation of Don Heider as secretary after one year. Philip Doty of the School of Information was nominated and elected unanimously as secretary for one year until a new secretary is elected for a two-year term in spring 2006.

Dukerich solicited volunteers for awards committee for the Assembly.

Dukerich also reported that the Faculty Council is still discussing the character of the course instructor surveys. (D&P 3101a, 9/21/05)

Chair Dukerich indicated that discussions of the course instructor survey forms continue in the Faculty Council and that Erica Whittington, student member of the Assembly, would have further remarks in her report from the Graduate Student Assembly. (D&P 3103a, 11/16/05)

Chair Dukerich echoed Graduate Dean Rodriguez's comments on President Powers' commitment to graduate education. She also reported that the Faculty Council is hearing some results of various academic units' forums on recommended changes in the undergraduate curriculum.

Dukerich noted that the template for faculty members' annual reports is being reviewed. There was some discussion among the Assembly members about the ongoing review of "ownership" of the course instructor survey responses. (D&P 3105a-3105b, 2/1/06)

Chair Dukerich announced the completion of the Assembly membership elections. New members will be invited to the April 26, 2006, meeting. Dukerich also indicated the nominating committee would report at the April meeting for the election of the new chair-elect. (D&P 3107a-3107b, 3/29/06)

Dukerich introduced and welcomed the new members of the Graduate Assembly and announced that the nominating committee had identified Pauline Strong as a candidate for chair-elect and Philip Doty as candidate for secretary for the 2006-2007 academic year. (D&P 3109a, 4/26/06)

### Standing Committee Reports

#### A. Academic Committee

Chair Palka re-introduced the proposal to change the name of the degree program and major from "Management Science and Information Systems" to "Information, Risk, and Operations Management." The discussion had been set aside at the April 27, 2005, meeting because of questions about the proposal. The proposal to change the name of the degree program was passed with one dissenting vote and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3101a, 9/21/05)

Chair Parker introduced a proposal for a Doctoral and Master's Portfolio Program in Museum Studies as well as the proposal on a Master of Science in Museum Studies. The proposal for a portfolio program was approved by the Academic Committee and was ruled minor legislation. The proposal for a Master's of Science degree in Museum Studies was passed unanimously by the Assembly and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3103a, 11/16/05)

Chair Parker introduced a proposal to change the name of the graduate degree program and major from "Energy and Mineral Resources" to "Energy and Earth Resources." The proposal passed unanimously and was deemed minor legislation.

Parker presented a proposal to establish a dual degree program in Public Affairs and Community and Regional Planning. The Assembly passed the proposal, and it was ruled minor legislation.

Parker presented a final proposal to establish Master of Science degree programs in each of the five existing PhD programs in the McCombs School of Business: Accounting; Finance; Information, Risk, and Operations Management; Management; and Marketing. The Assembly passed the proposal unanimously, and it was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3105b, 2/1/06)

Chair Parker introduced a proposal, supported by the Academic Committee to establish a dual degree program for the School of Social Work and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The proposal was passed and was ruled minor legislation.

Parker reported that the committee had approved a Graduate Portfolio Program in Integrated Watershed Science. (D&P 3107a, 3/29/06)

Chair Parker reported the Academic Committee has approved the Graduate Portfolio in the Societal Impacts of Science and Technology and the Graduate Portfolio in Sustainability. (D&P 3109a, 4/26/06)

#### B. Administrative Committee

Chair Hull introduced a proposal regarding the elimination of inactive graduate portfolio programs. The proposal was passed unanimously and ruled minor legislation.

Hull introduced a proposal to merge the Master's and Doctoral Portfolios into a single Graduate Portfolio. The Committee was asked to poll administrators of the various portfolio programs regarding their wishes before the Assembly votes on the proposal. (D&P 3101b, 9/21/05)

Chair Hull re-introduced the proposal to merge the Master's and Doctoral Portfolios into a single Graduate Portfolio. Hull reported that polling each of the portfolio administrators revealed strong support in the merger. The proposal was passed without a dissenting vote and was ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3103a, 11/16/05)

Chair Hull had no report for the Assembly. (D&P 3105b, 2/1/06; D&P 3107b, 3/29/06; D&P 3109a, 4/26/06)

#### C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Chair Arens had no report for the Assembly. (D&P 3101b, 9/21/05)

Chair Arens opened a discussion about the new TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), stemming from a question by Palka. Robert Watkins from the Graduate and International Admissions Center identified the institutional benchmarks that UT will use regarding this test as it is made available globally in spring 2006. (D&P 3103b, 11/16/06)

Chair Arens had no report for the Assembly. (D&P 3105b, 2/1/06, D&P 3107b, 3/29/06; D&P3109a, 4/26/06)

## Other Reports

### Graduate Student Assembly

Erica Whittington reported that the Graduate Student Assembly secured a representative on the University's Presidential Search Committee.

Whittington also reported the Graduate Student Assembly would focus on two major areas this academic year: the building of community and professional development. (D&P 3101b, 9/21/05)

Erica Whittington reported that the Graduate Student Assembly passed a resolution regarding the retention of the responses in the course instructor survey (CIS). There was considerable discussion on the CIS issues in the Graduate Assembly.

Whittington reported that the Graduate Student Assembly has passed new bylaws, resulting in a change in officer structure. (D&P 3103b, 11/16/06)

Geier reported on President Powers' interest in building a stronger sense of community and increased "interdisciplinarity" among graduate students. Geier reported that Professional Student Appreciation week would be April 3-8, 2006, with a half-day conference highlighting graduate students' scholarship. Geier also reported on the status of the Mitchell Awards for Excellence and the Livingston Award competitions. Geier concluded with an update on changes in the Graduate Student Assembly structure, allowing campus-wide election of the GSA president. (D&P 3105b-3105c, 2/1/06)

Erica Whittington announced Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, April 3-7, 2006, and various social and academic activities to highlight their academic and professional achievements and to build collegiality among graduate students. She also introduced Amy Forestell, incoming president of the Graduate Student Assembly for 2006-2007. (D&P 3107b, 3/29/06)

Jessica Geier thanked the Assembly on behalf of the Graduate Student Assembly for ensuring graduate students' participation in important decisions about graduate education at UT.

Amy Forestell echoed Geier's appreciation and reported on various topics being addressed by the Graduate Student Assembly at the end of the school year. (D&P 3109b, 4/26/06)

Annual Report prepared by Karen Bancroft, Office of Graduate Studies