

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
JULY 2008**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY  
2007-2008**

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 2007-2008. The report summarizes pages 3121 – 3131b 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 2007-2008

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
<b>ACADEMIC COMMITTEE</b>		
Susan Heinzelman, Chair	English	2006-2009(1)
Lesley Dean-Jones	Classics	2006-2009(2)
Dean Neikirk	Electrical & Computer Engineering	2005-2008(2)
Stephen Slawek	Music	2005-2008(1)*
Alexandra Loukas	Kinesiology & Health	2005-2008(1)
Richard Markovits	Law	2006-2009(2)
Paula Murray	Information, Risk, & Operations Management	2005-2008(1)
Martha Ovando	Ed. Administration	2007-2010(2)
Elmira Popova	Mechanical Engineering	2006-2009(1)
Patricia Stout	Advertising	2005-2008(1)
Randall Parker	Special Education	2005-2008(2)

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

David Hull, Chair	Aerospace Engineering	2007-2010(2)
Alan Cline	Computer Sciences	2007-2010(2)
Kerry Kinney	Civil Engineering	2006-2009(1)
Mona Mehdy	Molecular Biology	2006-2009(2)
James Wilson	Pharmacy	2006-2009(1)
Michael Lauderdale	Social Work	2007-2010(2)*
Linda Golden	Marketing	2006-2009(2)
Peter Hess	Germanic Studies	2006-2009(2)*
Ted Odell	Mathematics	2007-2010(1)

## ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Karen Browning, Chair	Chemistry	2006-2009(2)
Shama Gamkhar	LBJ School	2007-2010(1)
Pamela Haunschild	Management	2006-2009(1)
Steven Kachelmeier	Accounting	2005-2008(1)
James Sprinkle	Geological Sciences	2006-2009(1)
Pat Carter	Nursing	2007-2010(1)
Tom Edgar	Chemical Engineering	2007-2010(1)
Clement Henry	Government	2006-2009(1)
Nancy Kwallek	Architecture	2005-2008(1)*

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

No Committee Assignment

Pauline Strong, Chair of the Graduate Assembly  
Philip Doty, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

## ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Sarah Ferguson  
Peter Marlantes

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Bradley Carpenter  
Brian Gatten

## ADMISSIONS &amp; ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Natalie Jones  
Travis Witherspoon





- The Assembly unanimously approved the proposal to waive the GRE for the dual MD/PhD degree and to replace it with the MCAT. (D&P 3127b, 1/30/08)
- The Assembly approved a proposal to change the name of the major in Science and Technology Commercialization to Technology Commercialization and the name of the degree from Master of Science in Science and Technology Commercialization to Master of Science in Technology Commercialization.
- The Assembly approved the proposal to create a dual degree masters program in Social Work from UT Austin and in Public Health from the UT Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health.
- The Assembly approved the proposal to create a dual degree program in Law and Social Work.
- The Assembly approved the proposal to create the five-year program to earn the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Computer Science. (D&P 3129a, 3/26/08)

#### Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Rodríguez began by welcoming all new and continuing members of the Assembly. She reported on the results of several small retreats in the Graduate School office, resulting in a number of changes in the Graduate School's organization, including hiring a new development person, consolidation of graduate fellowships under one administrative umbrella, and the renaming of graduate fellowships to make their intentions plainer.

In terms of services for students, OGS has put more emphasis on electronic recruiting of graduate students, and all but six graduate programs can now accept electronic letters of recommendation for applicants.

The Dean also reported on the ongoing deliberations of the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee, regarding a recommendation about flat rate tuition to the Graduate Student Assembly as well as the Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3123-3123a, 9/19/07)

Dean Rodríguez asked Vice Provost John Dollard to provide an extended look at the rationale for and substance of the recommendation of the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee. (D&P 3125b, 11/14/07)

Graduate Dean Rodríguez reported on five items: (1) recommendations following the SACS accreditation review, (2) the SACS request to set the maximum number of allowable transfer credits for the doctoral degree at six, (3) the Regents' desire to cap tuition rates for undergraduate state residents, (4) the Graduate School's "Come to Texas" event, and (5) the new Graduate School brochure for recruitment. (D&P 3127-3127a, 1/30/08)

Graduate Dean Victoria Rodríguez focused her report on graduate recruitment and fellowships.

Dean Rodríguez also noted that UT-Austin hosted the annual meeting of the Council of Southern Graduate Schools in February in conjunction with the meeting of the Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools. (D&P 3129, 3/26/08)

Dean Rodríguez had four elements in her report. She mentioned the Graduate School awards, specifically identifying winners of some of these awards and thanking the members of the Assembly who served on the selection committees.

The second item in her report was the announcement of the time and new place for the graduate convocation.

The third element of her report was Assistant Dean Tom Belinoski's discussion of the legislation passed by the Graduate Assembly this academic year

The final element in the Dean's report was her summary discussion of SACS re-accreditation, an effort led by Neal Armstrong in the provost's office. (D&P 3131-3131a, 4/23/08)

### Report from the Chair

Chair Strong started her report by thanking Randy Parker, the immediate past chair of the Assembly. Strong noted that a focus of her service as chair will be improved communication with graduate advisors. She briefly discussed salaries for TAs and RAs. (D&P 3123a, 9/19/07)

Chair Strong briefly discussed the final report and accompanying memo from Kevin Hegarty, VP and Chief Financial Officer, summarizing the results of the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee's deliberations and recommendations.

Strong invited Brian Gatten, President of the Graduate Student Assembly, to discuss his letter to President Powers about the disposition of the Brackenridge tract and impact on graduate student housing.

The Assembly unanimously voted to support the letter. (D&P 3125-3125a, 11/14/07)

Chair Strong reported the on-going deliberations in the Faculty Council Executive Committee about an honorary grade of A+. Further discussion followed during the report of the Administrative Committee. (D&P 3127a, 1/30/08)

Assembly Chair Strong reported that the silent phase of the capital campaign has begun, with the university interested in involving the faculty more fully in the campaign. Strong also informed the Graduate Assembly that the Faculty Council had passed a motion to institute the grade of A+ for undergraduate courses, contingent upon the Graduate Assembly's adoption of a similar motion for graduate courses. (D&P 3129a, 3/26/08)

The first part of her report involved two items pertinent to both the Faculty Council and the Assembly: (1) the honorary grade of A+ for undergraduate courses that the Council will not vote on given the Graduate Assembly's lack of interest and (2) the potential revision to the Handbook of Operating Procedures so that the grievance process for teaching assistants and assistant instructors is largely parallel to that for faculty members.

The last item in the chair's report involved the election for the offices of chair-elect (and thereby the chair of the Academic Committee) and secretary of the Assembly for the 2008-2009 academic year. The Assembly voted first for Murray as the new chair-elect for the 2008-2009 academic year and then for Mehdy as secretary for the two-year term, 2008-2010 academic years. (D&P 3131a, 4/23/08)

### Standing Committee Reports

#### A. Academic

Chair Susan Heinzelman reported that the committee tabled the proposal to create a master's degree of Interior Design from the School of Architecture. The proposal will be considered in early October. (D&P 3123a, 9/19//07)

Chair Heinzelman reported that the committee approved a proposal to create a graduate portfolio program in Indigenous Studies. The Assembly voted unanimously to accept the proposal as minor legislation.

The committee introduced three proposals to create dual master's degree programs with Global Policy Studies in the LBJ School of Public Affairs: (1) Global Policy Studies and Law, (2) Global Policy Studies and Energy and Earth Resources, and (3) Global Policy Studies and Latin American Studies. The proposals were passed unanimously and classified as minor legislation. (D&P 3125a, 11/14/08)

Chair Heinzelman reported that the committee had reviewed the report of the Science and Technology Commercialization Option III master's program written by the program's new GSC chair, Bob May. The committee was satisfied that concerns raised in earlier internal and external reviews of the program are being successfully addressed. (D&P 3127a, 1/30/08)

Heinzelman introduced a motion to change the name of the major in Science and Technology Commercialization to Technology Commercialization and the name of the degree from Master of Science in Science and Technology Commercialization to Master of Science in Technology Commercialization. The Assembly passed the motion and identified it as minor legislation.

Heinzelman presented a proposal to create a dual degree master's program in Social Work from UT-Austin and in Public Health from the UT Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health. The Assembly approved the Proposal, and it was deemed as minor legislation.

The proposal from the Academic Committee for a dual degree program in Law and Social Work (JD/MSSW) was approved, and it was ruled minor legislation.

The proposal from the Academic Committee to create an integrated five-year program to earn the Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science degrees in Computer Science was approved and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3129a-3129b, 3/26/08)

Chair Heinzelman reported that the committee had reviewed the Option III MBA programs in Houston and Dallas. The committee approved the programs as currently constituted. (D&P 3131a, 4/23/08)

## B. Administrative Committee

Chair David Hull introduced a proposal to change the coursework requirement for the master's degree without thesis or report from a minimum of 27 graduate hours to a minimum of 24 graduate semester hours, with the total number of required credit hours remaining at a minimum of 30. The Assembly voted unanimously in favor of the proposal and deemed it minor legislation.

Hull introduced a proposal to change the minimum GPA to earn a master's degree from 3.0 overall at graduation to 3.0 overall and 3.0 on the Program of Work. The proposal passed unanimously and was identified as minor legislation. (D&P 3125a-3125b, 11/14/07)

Chair Hull focused his report on the committee's current discussions: the time limit for a graduate student to file a grievance and the honorary A+ grade. (D&P 3127a-3127b, 1/30/08)

Chair Hull explained the Administrative Committee's actions responding to the proposal for an honorary grade of A+ for undergraduate courses passed by a committee of the Faculty Council and contingent on the Graduate Assembly supporting a similar proposal for graduate classes. Hull discussed the results of a survey taken with some graduate programs responding. The members of the Assembly discussed the A+ grade, and, since the Administrative Committee had no proposal regarding A+ for the Assembly as a whole and no member of the Assembly expressed interest in such a proposal, the matter was dropped. (D&P 3129b, 3/26/08)

## C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Darlene Grant, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, speaking for absent chair Chair Browning, informed the Assembly of the Graduate School's intention to invite admitted diversity students to visit UT on March 6 and 7. There was discussion on how this initiative might be coordinated and timed with existing programs in the various schools and colleges. (D&P 3123a, 9/19/07)

Chair Browning introduced a motion to make the waiver of the GRE for the dual MD/PhD degree permanent, using the MCAT instead. The Assembly unanimously passed the proposal and identified it as minor legislation.

Associate Dean Grant reported on the number of graduate applications received to date and the rate of review at GIAC this year.

Grant also mentioned a conference of associate deans and deans of graduate programs from about 60 historically black colleges to be held at UT in late February. (D&P 3127b, 1/30/08)

### Graduate Student Assembly

Brian Gatten, President of the Graduate Student Assembly, reported on several items: GSA's proposal of flat-rate tuition for graduate students, implications of the development of the Brackenridge tract for graduate students, the establishment of a department of statistics at UT, graduate fellowships, health insurance, and in-state tuition waivers. (D&P 3123b, 9/19/07)

Gatten reported on the upcoming conference of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students to be held at UT this year. He also reported on the ongoing discussion about graduate students' needs for additional statistics courses. (D&P 3125b, 11/14/07)

Gatten reported on the plans for the annual Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. He also noted that a committee is forming to continue research the provision of more statistics courses for graduate students, including the potential role of the Division of Statistics and Scientific Computation. (D&P 3127b, 1/30/08)

Bradley Carpenter, incoming President of the Graduate Student Assembly, introduced himself and incoming External Vice President Katherine Haenschen. Carpenter thanked the Assembly for giving graduate students and the Graduate Student Assembly a voice in graduate affairs at UT. Carpenter then mentioned the two themes for the GSA's work the coming academic year: increased participation of graduate students throughout the campus and the establishment of relationships with graduate student organizations at peer institutions. (D&P 3131b, 4/23/08)

### Other Business

In response to the chair's request for any business from the floor, members began a discussion over concerns about the teaching load of teaching assistants. Dean Rodríguez expressed her awareness of this problem and ended the discussion with a commitment for the graduate school and representatives of the GSA to explore this problem together with the Graduate Assembly in the next academic year. (D&P 3131b, 4/23/08)