

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
 AUGUST 1999

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
 1998-1999

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, 1998-1999; the report summarizes pages 3027-3035c 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 1998-1999

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE		
Edward Odell, Chair	Mathematics	1997-2000(1)
Jacqueline Angel	LBJ – Public Affairs	1998-2001(1)
Kay Avant	Nursing	1998-2001(1)
Dean Neikirk	Electrical & Computer	1997-2000(1)
Shelley Payne	Microbiology	1997-2000(2)
Loriene Roy	Library & Info Science	1996-1999(2)*
Patricia Stout	Advertising	1997-2000(1)
Samuel Wilson	Anthropology	1997-2000(1)

*Serving balance of term of an elected member.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Edmund Emmer, Chair	Educational Psychology	1996-1999(1)
Alan Cline	Computer Science	1998-2001(2)
Linda Ferreira-Buckley	English	1998-2001(1)
David Hull	Aerospace Engineering	1998-2001(1)
Cory Juhl	Philosophy	1996-1999(1)*
William Kibler	French & Italian	1996-1999(1)*
Donald Paul	Chemical Engineering	1998-2001(2)
Janet Staiger	Radio Television Film	1996-1999(2)

ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Laura Starks, Chair	Finance	1996-1999(1)
Jacqueline Barnitz	Art History	1997-2000(1)
Annie Brooks	Curriculum & Instruction	1998-2001(1)
Darlene Grant	Social Work	1998-2001(1)
Kirsten Belgum	Germanic Languages	1997-2000(1)*
Karen Rascati	Pharmacy	1997-2000(1)
Kamy Sepehrnoori	Petro & Geosystems	1998-2001(1)
Lonnie Wagstaff	Educational Administration	1998-2001(2)

No Committee Assignment

Terry Kahn, Chair of the Graduate Assembly

Jennifer Brodbelt, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student Members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Denise Gobert

John St. Lawrence

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Erard
Travis Metcalfe

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Cheryl Browne
Marilyn Espitia

Ex Officio Members, with Vote

Shelley Payne Chair, Faculty Council

Ex Officio Members, without Vote

Larry R. Faulkner	President
Teresa A. Sullivan	Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies
Sheldon Ekland-Olson	Executive Vice President and Provost
Steve Monti	Executive Vice Provost
Robert May	Dean, College of Business Administration
Ellen Wartella	Dean, College of Communication
Manuel J. Justiz	Dean, College of Education
Ben Streetman	Dean, College of Engineering
Charles Roeckle	Dean, College of Fine Arts
Judith Langlois	Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Mary Ann Rankin	Dean, College of Natural Sciences
Steven Leslie	Dean, College of Pharmacy
Lawrence Speck	Dean, School of Architecture
Barbara W. White	Dean, School of Social Work

Dolores Sands
Edwin Dorn
Glynn Harmon

Dean, School of Nursing
Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Interim Dean, Graduate School of Library &
Information Science

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (1998-1999)

Chair: Terry Kahn, Architecture
Chair-elect: Edward Odell, Mathematics
Secretary: Jennifer Brodbelt, Chemistry

Meeting Dates:

September 30, 1998
December 2, 1998
February 3, 1999 (Cancelled)
March 31, 1999
April 28, 1999

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

No items of major legislation were considered by the Assembly during 1998-1999.

Minor Legislation

The Assembly approved adding to the catalog a statement that the final oral exam is open to the University community and the public, unless otherwise restricted by the Graduate Studies Committee. (D&P 3028a, 9/30/98)

The Assembly approved changing full time summer registration to three hours rather than six. (D&P 3028a, 9/30/98)

The Assembly approved four proposals submitted to the Academic Committee: the Family Nurse practitioner Certificate Program, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, the name change of American Civilization to American Studies, and the name change of Germanic Languages to Germanic Studies. (D&P 3030b, 12/2/98)

The Assembly approved two proposals presented through the Administrative Committee: a proposal recommending the elimination of the distinction between the major or minor courses, having only one overall GPA of 3.0 required for graduation and calculating the graduate GPA based only on graduate courses; and a proposal to allow advance electronic distribution of the agenda and the minutes of the previous Assembly meeting to all members of the Graduate Assembly, eliminating a statement in the Policy Memoranda that required minutes to be distributed only to members of the Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3030b, 12/2/98)

The Academic Committee approved the Doctoral Portfolio Program in Mexican American Studies; no action by the full Assembly was required. The Graduate Assembly provisionally approved the Master of Science in Engineering degree proposal Option III program with a major in Engineering Management, subject to reapproval of the Academic Committee during the third year of operation. The Assembly approved a proposal setting the limit up to 14 long semesters for appointment as a RA, GRA, TA, Assistant (Graduate), and Academic Assistant instead of 12 semesters. The Assembly also approved the waiver of the GRE requirement for admission to the M.F.A. program in Studio Art and the establishment of a UT Graduate School Select Admission Program, allowing graduate programs to nominate with the approval by the Graduate School top students either in their junior or senior year for admission into the graduate school with application fees and GRE scores waived. (D&P 3033a-3033b, 3/31/99)

The Graduate Assembly approved the department name change of Speech Communication to Communications Studies. At the recommendation of the Academic Committee, the Assembly approved the joint degree proposal, MD degree from UT Medical Branch at Galveston and the Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from UT Austin.

The Assembly also approved a proposal to expand the opportunity for undergraduates with a minimum of 90 undergraduate hours and a 3.0 overall UT grade point average to reserve graduate courses for graduate credit with numerous approving signatures required, and a proposal allowing the election of representatives to the Graduate Assembly only by members of their own college or school rather than by members of the whole group (A, B, or C). (3035b-3035c, 4/28/99)

Report from the Chair

Chair Terry Kahn raised the issue of putting all Graduate Assembly materials on the Web. There was discussion and suggestion of changing the By-laws to allow the minutes to be considered public information. No further action was taken at the time. (D&P 3028a, 9/30/98)

Chair Kahn reported that the reapportionment of the Assembly voting groups as described in the By-laws will be reflected in the spring 1999 elections. He reminded members to call for excused absences from Assembly meetings. Chair Kahn raised the issue of naming the Graduate School as part of the Capital Campaign. (D&P 3030a, 12/2/98)

Chair Kahn reported that the election process had been completed and new members would be invited to attend the April meeting. Discussion of the election process and the formulation of the various groups followed; the chair asked the Administrative Committee to review election procedures, including the groupings of representatives, for future consideration. (D&P 3033a, 3/31/99)

Chair Terry Kahn announced the nominations for Chair Elect and Secretary, Laura Starks and Kit Belgum respectively. Both nominees were unanimously elected and will take office as of September 1, 1999. Kahn thanked the members of the Graduate Assembly for their work the past year. (D&P 3035a, 4/28/99)

Reports of the Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Sullivan reported that the summer meeting of the Black Graduate Student Association was very successful. Sullivan announced that a letter drafted by Sullivan and signed by President Faulkner was sent to Vice Chancellor Ed Sharpe regarding the 99 hour rule. The letter asked the Regents to approve charging nonresident tuition rates to students with more than 99 semester credit hours, effective with the next new Graduate catalog, with the 99 hour rule applicable for students entering under the new catalog or subsequent catalogs. Also under consideration is a plan to change full-time summer enrollment to three hours, regardless of type of appointment. Sullivan indicated that the Professional Development program over the summer was oversubscribed and received good feedback. The ITA course offered off-campus in previous years will be offered on-campus and can be counted as normal course work. Preemptive fellows will be encouraged to visit the UT campus and will receive a \$500 travel voucher. Dean Sullivan also announced Pedro Reyes will oversee a new program to send faculty members on external recruiting visits to attract graduate applicants. Sullivan anticipates a "top 10%" bill in the State Legislature that will offer automatic graduate admission to the top 10% of undergraduates, a possible ban on the use of GRE or other standardized tests and a limit on foreign students admitted to graduate programs. Sullivan also announced plans for the fall will include work on the Option III registration process, the first ever "Homecoming Hooding", the funding of interdisciplinary programs, the distance learning report, the AAU report on best practices for graduate education and post-doctoral education. Also, a plan to admit honors-quality juniors and seniors to the Graduate program will be considered. (D&P 3028-3028a, 9/30/98)

Dean Sullivan announced that the Regents had approved the proposed policy sent forward on the 99 Hour Rule: graduate students matriculating in the fall 1999 semester or in subsequent semesters who accumulate more than 99 doctoral hours will be charged nonresident tuition rates. Sullivan indicated efforts to make permanent changes via the Legislature will continue and Graduate Advisers have been authorized to offer a one credit course for the summer of 1999 to allow students who are admitted for fall 1999 to begin their program prior to the fall 1999 semester, thus preceding the initiation of the 99 Hour Rule. While some confusion still remains within the Coordinating Board about the 99 Hour Rule and some possible exemptions, Associate Dean Dollard and Dean Sullivan

will meet with the Commissioner of Higher Education Don Brown. Dean Sullivan reported that the Coordinating Board staff had also proposed exempting any doctoral program that competes with a similar doctoral program at a state supported medical school or health science center, which could impact about fifteen programs. Senator Ratliff is expected to introduce a bill involving formula funding of medical schools and health science centers and capping their doctoral programs the same way as for nonhealth-science related institutions' doctoral students. In addition, full-time summer enrollment has been changed to three hours during any summer term. With regard to the FICA exemption for student employees, President Clinton signed a budget bill that would make this allowance, resulting in a 7.5% increase in take home pay for graduate students. Sullivan also stated that a proposal by the Coordinating Board regarding residency requirements would allow an out-of-state student to declare the intention to be a Texas resident and then to become a Texas resident after one year. There is also some consideration of increasing the tuition supplement that TAs receive. Dean Sullivan announced that UT Interactive will be a campus-wide event on March 6, 1999, and departments are being encouraged to make that weekend coincide with the weekend that admitted graduate students are invited to campus. Admissions are running smoothly, and UT has become the test site for Internet delivery of GRE scores. (D&P 3030-3030a12/2/98)

Dean Sullivan announced that the Coordinating Board had approved exemptions to the 99 Hour Rule for programs in Clinical Psychology Educational Psychology, School Psychology and Counseling Psychology, plus 74 individual students. Sullivan summarized House bills of special interest regarding tuition, formula funding, and admissions criteria. Sullivan noted that early feedback about graduate student recruiting was negative and she requested documentation to support a letter to be sent to the House and Senate Higher Education Committee. (D&P 3033a, 3/31/99)

Dean Sullivan expressed her satisfaction with the productivity of the Graduate Assembly for the 1998-1999 year. Sullivan reported on the status of bills before the State Legislature, including one that stipulates twenty-eight factors that may be considered for

graduate admissions and one that states that “the applicant’s performance on a standardized test may not be used in admissions of competitive scholarship process, (1) as the sole criteria for consideration of the applicant or in conjunction with other criteria”, the syntax suggesting that standardized tests can’t be used at all. Sullivan also hoped to alter the bill to require the submission of a report on the available data about the demographic composition of the applicants admitted and enrolled, according to race, ethnicity and gender, rather than those just admitted. Sullivan noted that a variety of important bills were left pending. (D&P 3035-3035a, 4/28/99)

Standing Committee Reports

I. Academic Committee

Chair Odell announced the Academic Committee recommendation for approval of four proposals: the Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, the name change of American Civilization to American Studies, and the name change of Germanic Languages to Germanic Studies. All four proposals passed unanimously. (D&P 3030b, 12/2/98)

Chair Odell stated that the Academic Committee reviewed and approved the doctoral portfolio program in Mexican American Studies and recommended provisional approval of the Master of Science in Engineering degree proposal Option III program with a major in Engineering Management, subject to reapproval of the Academic Committee during the third year of operation. The motion was passed unanimously. (D&P 3033a, 3/31/99)

Chair Odell announced the recommendation by the Academic Committee to approve the name change request of Speech Communication to Communications Studies. The proposal was approved unanimously. Odell indicated five suggestions to the Office of Graduate Studies including having the individual GSCs conduct their own internal reviews, presenting these to the College Review Committee; colleges and departments

should be advised well in advance of the scheduled reviews and review procedures; the committee should be informed as to the advantages of such review and how the review will be used; the assignment of a full time person by OGS to help with the reviews; and college deans should be strongly involved in the review process. The Academic Committee approved the Doctoral Portfolio Program in Urban Studies pending submission of an updated proposal with course catalog descriptions added and verification that courses are listed with the approval of the instructor and the instructor's department, college or school, as appropriate. No action by the full Assembly was required. Chair Odell also presented the joint degree proposal, MD degree from UT Medical Branch at Galveston and the Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from UT Austin. The joint MD/PhD proposal was passed unanimously. (D&P 3035a-3035b, 4/28/99)

II. Administrative Committee

Emmer made a motion regarding the change to the language on the public nature of the final oral exam to give some control to GSCs over the organization and administration of final exams. The motion was passed to add a statement to the catalog that the final oral exam is open to the University community and the public, unless otherwise restricted by the GSC. A motion regarding changing full time summer registration to three hours rather than six was passed also. The issue of the current requirement for students to attain three separate 3.0 grade point averages (major, supporting work, and overall) was mentioned and Emmer indicated this would be discussed further at a future meeting. (D&P 3028a-3028b, 9/30/98)

Chair Emmer reported that the procedure for calculating grade point averages in the graduate school was under review. Dean Tom Griffy explained the current rule requiring both a 3.0 GPA in the major work and a 3.0 GPA in the minor. The proposal recommended would eliminate the distinction between the major or minor courses, having only one overall GPA of 3.0 required. Chair Emmer also discussed the proposed change to the Policy Memoranda to allow the agenda of the Assembly to be distributed electronically in advance to all members of the Graduate Assembly and eliminating the statement that required minutes to be distributed only to members of the Graduate Assembly. This would allow publishing the agenda and minutes by electronic means. (D&P 3030b, 12/2/98)

Chair Emmer presented a proposal from the Graduate School to change the graduate student appointment limit to 14 semesters for appointment as a RA, GRA, TA, Assistant (Graduate) and Academic Assistant. The Assembly passed the motion unanimously. (D&P 3033a-3033b, 3/31/99)

Chair Ed Emmer announced two proposals: the first to expand the opportunity for undergraduates to reserve graduate courses for graduate credit; and the second, regarding the election by college or school of representatives to the Graduate Assembly rather than by the whole group. Both proposals passed unanimously. (D&P 3035b-3035c, 4/28/99)

III. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Associate Dean Cherwitz indicated that the committee is considering a proposal for a select admissions program, allowing undergraduate students at UT to be admitted prior to their senior year and to take graduate coursework with existing mechanisms. (D&P 3030b, 12/2/98)

Chair Starks reported on a proposal to waive the GRE requirement for admission to the M.F.A. program in Studio Art and a proposal for the UT Graduate School Select Admission Program. The Assembly passed both motions unanimously. (D&P 3033b, 3/31/99)

Other Reports

Associate Dean Rick Cherwitz reported on fall admissions. Cherwitz stated that he was compiling selectivity data that would be available in October. He cited a State bill that would exempt TAs and RAs from FICA. Dean Cherwitz also indicated that foreign enrollment had increased. (D&P 3028a, 9/30/98)

Graduate Student Assembly

Denise Gobert reviewed summer activities, which included the creation of two position statements that address the restriction on the length of time to degree and the financial support of students. The Graduate Assembly agree to form an ad-hoc committee to consider the Assembly's reaction to the position statements of the Graduate Student Assembly. (D&P 3028b, 9/30/98)

Gobert described a three-point initiative that the Graduate Student Assembly will undertake, involving the Graduate Home Town Project to dispense information about graduate students' lives and graduate work. Information can be submitted through the Internet. Gobert also reminded that the Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week will be March 1-6; and in conjunction with the UT initiative, a graduate research symposium will be held. (D&P 3030b, 12/2/98)

Gobert reported that the Graduate Student Assembly was preparing a wish list of things that might be changed for TA and AI positions, to include such things as preparation of students for teaching positions and consistency in the responsibilities of positions throughout campus; and she invited suggestions from the Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3033b-3033c, 3/31/99)

Gobert introduced the new incoming co-chairs of the Graduate Student Assembly: Tracy Hamilton from Art History and Travis Metcalfe from Astronomy. (D&P 3035c, 4/28/99)

Annual Report prepared by Karen Bancroft, Office of Graduate Studies.