

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUGUST 2000

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
1999-2000

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, 1999-2000. The report summarizes pages 3037-3045c 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 1999-2000

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE		
Laura Starks, Chair	Finance	1999-2002(2)
Charlotte Canning	Theatre and Dance	1999-2002(1)
Linda Ferreira-Buckley	English	1998-2001(1)
Lynn Miller	Speech Communication	1999-2002(1)
Dean Neikirk	Electrical & Computer	1997-2000(1)
Alba Ortiz	Special Education	1999-2002(1)
Kamy Sepehrnoori	Petroleum & Geosystems	1998-2001(1)
Samuel Wilson	Anthropology	1997-2000(1)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Shelley Payne, Chair	Microbiology	1997-2000(2)
Alan Cline	Computer Science	1998-2001(2)
David Hull	Aerospace Engineering	1998-2001(1)
Michael Oden	Architecture	1999-2002(1)
Irene Owens	Library & Info Science	1999-2002(1)
Donald Paul	Chemical Engineering	1998-2001(2)
Glenn Peers	Art History	1997-2000(1)*
Patricia Stout	Advertising	1997-2000(1)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Karen Rascati, Chair	Pharmacy	1997-2000(1)
John Allison	MSIS	1999-2002(1)
Jacqueline Angel	LBJ School of Public Affairs	1998-2001(1)
Kay Avant	Nursing	1998-2001(1)
Ann Brooks	Curriculum & Instruction	1998-2001(1)
Edmund Emmer	Ed. Psychology	1999-2002(2)
Darlene Grant	Social Work	1998-2001(1)
Lonnie Wagstaff	Ed. Administration	1998-2001(2)

No Committee Assignment

Edward Odell, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Kirsten Belgum, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Alex Garcia
Douglas Rathbun

*Serving balance of term of an elected member.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Jason Earle
Travis Metcalfe

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Ryan Carey
Justin Laird

Ex Officio Member, with Vote

Martha Hilley Chair, Faculty Council

Ex Officio Member, without Vote

Larry R. Faulkner	President
Teresa A. Sullivan	Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies
Sheldon Ekland-Olson	Executive Vice President and Provost
Juan Sanchez	Vice President for Research
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
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
Lawrence Speck	Dean, School of Architecture
Barbara W. White	Dean, School of Social Work
Dolores Sands	Dean, School of Nursing
Edwin Dorn	Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Michael Sharlot	Dean, School of Law
Roberta Shaffer	Dean, Graduate School of Library & Information Science

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (1999-2000)

Chair: Edward Odell, Mathematics
Chair-elect: Laura Starks, Finance
Secretary: Kirsten Belgum, Germanic Studies

Meeting Dates: September 29, 1999
December 1, 1999
February 2, 2000 (Cancelled)
March 29, 2000
April 26, 2000

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

No items of major legislation were considered by the Assembly during 1999-2000.

Minor Legislation

The Assembly approved the recommendation of the Academic Committee in agreement with the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Review Committee on the Master of Science in Science and Technology Commercialization Program, reconstituting the Graduate Studies Committee for that program to consist of graduate faculty members at UT Austin who are active instructors in the program. (D&P 3038b, 9/29/99)

The Assembly approved the recommendation of the Academic Committee in agreement with the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Review Committee that starting with the summer 2000 cohort, a majority of the courses offered by the Science and Technology Commercialization Program should be taught by UT Austin graduate faculty members. (D&P 3038b, 9/29/99)

The Assembly further approved the recommendation of the Academic Committee in agreement with the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Review Committee that the GSC for the Science and Technology Commercialization Program should appoint an admissions committee composed of GSC members to admit the next class and subsequent classes, that no more than 25% of the students admitted should have GPAs below the minimum for admission to the Graduate School, and that no student without a bachelor's degree should be admitted. (D&P 3038b, 9/29/99)

The Assembly approved a motion from the Administrative Committee to allow registration in Affiliated Studies to satisfy the continuous registration requirement for doctoral students in candidacy. (D&P 3038c, 9/29/99)

The Assembly approved a motion from the Admissions and Enrollment Committee to waive the GRE admissions requirement for students applying to graduate music performance majors. (D&P 3038c, 9/29/99)

The Assembly approved the recommendation of the Academic Committee to change the name of the MA and Ph.D. programs in Child Development and Family Relationships to Human Development and Family Sciences, as requested by the Department of Human Ecology. (D&P 3040a, 12/1/99)

The Assembly approved the recommendation of the Administrative Committee to increase the number of members of the Graduate Assembly from 26 to 30 and to add the representative of the Law School GSC to Group A. (D&P 3040a, 12/1/99)

The Assembly also approved two Administrative Committee motions regarding the Graduate Catalog:

To clarify the wording of the Graduate Catalog regarding enrollment requirements, the residency statement shall be removed from the Graduate Catalog. Registration requirements are described elsewhere in the catalog. (D&P 3040b, 12/1/99)

To change the wording under Degree Requirements in the Graduate Catalog to omit the section on “Additional Degrees at the Same or a Lower Level.” With the endorsement of the Office of Graduate Studies, this action moves the determination for admission of students “seeking a second master’s degree in the same or closely related field” and “[h]olders of the doctorate seeking an additional graduate degree from the graduate dean to the admitting graduate studies committee. (D&P 3040b,12/1/99)

The Assembly also approved the Administrative Committee’s proposal that an advising bar be placed on the registration of students who have completed the master’s degree, necessitating communication between students and their respective GSCs about student progress or permission to work toward the doctorate. This measure would ensure that the student has met with the graduate adviser, that the graduate program has admitted the student into the doctoral program and that the student should continue to enroll. (D&P 3040b, 12/1/99)

The Graduate Assembly approved the proposal from the Academic Committee for a Master’s Portfolio Program similar in concept to the existing Doctoral Portfolio Program. This would allow master’s degree students to engage in cross-disciplinary study in a particular area. (D&P 3043b, 3/29/00)

The Assembly approved the proposed Master’s Portfolio Program in the area of Dispute Resolution as recommended by the Academic Committee. (D&P 3043b, 3/29/00)

The Graduate Assembly approved the Academic Committee’s proposal to delegate the review and approval of all Masters’ Portfolio Programs in the future to the Academic Committee, as is done with Doctoral Portfolio Programs. (D&P 3043b, 3/29/00)

The Administrative committee’s proposal that the grading system for theses, reports, master’s recitals, dissertations, and treatises be changed from letter grade to credit/no credit basis was approved by the Assembly (D&P 3043b, 3/29/00)

The Graduate Assembly approved the request from the Department of Marine Science as recommended by the Academic Committee to change its degree title from Master of Arts

to Master of Science in Marine Science. The approval was in the interest of students entering the job market as many potential employers will not accept the MA and most federal agencies hiring in Marine Science prefer an MS. (D&P 3045a, 4/26/00)

Report from the Chair

Chair Odell reminded members of the Assembly policy that members are allowed no more than two unexcused absences. He noted the Assembly tried to honor requests for committee assignments to the extent possible. Odell pointed out that the agenda is mailed out to members one week in advance of each meeting and that the agenda and the minutes are available on the website for the Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3038a, 9/29/99)

The Chair reported in the March 26,2000, meeting that the election process had been completed and new members would be invited to attend the April meeting for introduction at that time. (D & P 3043a, 3/29/00)

The Chair introduced newly elected members of the Graduate Assembly who were present. Odell announced the nominees for the positions of Chair-Elect, Alba Ortiz, and Secretary, Charlotte Canning, for the next Graduate Assembly. Both nominees were unanimously elected and will take office as of September 1, 2000. (D&P 3045a, 4/26/00)

Report of the Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Sullivan reported that the Graduate School was able to increase tuition benefits for TAs and AIs to cover about 2/3 of the average cost of tuition. She announced the formation of four new GSCs: one in the Law School and three in Biological Sciences (Plant Biology, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior). The three in Biological Sciences will replace the four current GSCs; but they will co-exist with them until students in old areas complete their programs. Sullivan announced the program reviews for the year: the Graduate School of Business, the Master's Program in Architecture and four others tentatively under consideration. It was reported that during the admissions and recruitment season Pedro Reyes will send representatives of the

Graduate School to some 60 schools. "Grad Advantage" will be dropped due to insufficient use by applicants. Sullivan indicated the Graduate School is reorganizing its focus groups for minority students this year in order to monitor the experience of first-year students. There was great success in activities during graduate orientation: the ice cream social, the lunches for new graduate coordinators and advisers, a fellowship coffee and fair, and a workshop on applying for NSF scholarships. Sullivan reported that there was one contested dissertation, which she adjudicated by meeting with the committee, reading the dissertation herself, and conducting discussions with the faculty concerned. She decided with the majority and the degree was granted in May 1999. (D&P 3038, 3038a, 9/29/99)

Dean Sullivan reported that in December, at the conclusion of the recruitment season, Pedro Reyes cited visits to some 6 graduate fairs. She stated that the Regents had approved the Select Admissions Program, expanding the reservation of credit for graduate work. The Graduate School together with other UT System schools has been discussing the development of a common electronic application for the UT System. Sullivan indicated that such an application will not cost our programs good students but will widen the pool. Dean Sullivan reported on the Supreme Court's recent reinstatement of a summary judgment in the case of LeSage vs. the University of Texas. LeSage was an applicant to the Department of Educational Psychology who was denied admission and then filed a suit charging that the Department had inappropriately taken race into account in the admissions process. The judge in the trial ruled LeSage was not admissible. The Appeals Court vacated the judgment; but on the University's appeal of that decision, the Supreme Court reinstated the initial summary judgment. (D&P 3040, 3040a, 12/1/99)

Graduate Dean Sullivan reported an increase in the number of NSF fellow applications from UT-Austin Students. She credited this increase to a new program of the Graduate School which included holding a workshop in the fall and offering to pay the \$30 application fee for any student who qualified and chose to apply. The Graduate School contributed about \$900 in application fees. Sullivan reported having participated in accreditation visits for five graduate programs this year: Library and Information Science, Nutrition, Child Development and Family Relations, Master's of Architecture,

and Community and Regional Planning. She noted that there are no outstanding concerns about the Graduate School or the graduate program on the part of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. However, the SACS accreditation committee is returning to campus in April due to some concern about the assessment of the outcomes of baccalaureate degrees, particularly in Natural Sciences and Liberal Arts, where they would like to see exit tests administered. Dean Sullivan also reported that the University has won the LeSage vs. the University of Texas case. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the University since the trial judge had found that Mr. LeSage (an applicant to the graduate program in Educational Psychology) was not eligible for admission, and there was no case. She noted that this was a good finding and an important decision since the same ruling was made by the trial judge in the Hopwood case involving the Law School. Sullivan also reminded the departments not to list in their admissions requirements as a combined minimum score for GRE exams, since ETS will not stand behind such an addition. Departments should instead mention norms or averages of applicants and admitted students. (D&P 3043a, 3/29/00)

Dean Sullivan announced the retirement of Tom Griffy as of May 31, 2000. She recognized him for his decades of work on the Graduate Assembly and in particular as Associate Dean of the Graduate School for the past five years. Sullivan also announced that the Department of Curriculum and Instruction has asked to discontinue its Option I program in adult and organizational learning and that she has requested the relevant GSCs for a formal vote to that effect. The Library Science master's Degree was reviewed recently per Dean Sullivan, and a request for a name change is forthcoming. With the admission season over, Dean Sullivan estimates the graduate student body will remain about the same size. She also noted some changes in the Graduate School convocation this year, with separate ceremonies recognizing master's and doctoral students. Awards for outstanding dissertations, alumni, graduate advisers, graduate coordinators, and graduate teaching will be made. In closing, Sullivan invited members to remain after the meeting for refreshments. (D&P 3045a, 4/26/00)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee

Chair Starks reported on three items from the Academic Committee: 1) the committee approval of the proposal for a Doctoral Portfolio Program in Interdisciplinary European Studies; 2) minor format changes to streamline the application process for doctoral portfolio programs; and 3) committee approval of a request from the Professional Accounting program to change the maximum number of semester hours for the Master of Professional Accounting degree from 60 to 42, with the minimum of 36 hours still adhering to the minimum set by the Graduate School. Additionally, Starks noted the Committee's review of a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Master of Science in Science and Technology Commercialization, citing the following recommendations:

- The GSC for the program should be reconstituted to consist of graduate faculty members at UT Austin who are active instructors in the program.
- Starting with the summer 2000 cohort, a majority of the courses offered by the program should be taught by UT Austin graduate faculty members.
- The GSC for the program should appoint an admissions committee composed of GSC members to admit the next class and subsequent classes, that no more than 25% of the students admitted should have GPAs below the minimum for admission to the Graduate School, and that no student without a bachelor's degree should be admitted.

The three recommendations of the Academic Committee were unanimously approved. (D&P 3038b, 9/29/99)

Chair Starks reported on a request from the Department of Human Ecology and the subsequent recommendation from the Committee to change the name for the MA and the Ph.D. programs in Child Development and Family Relationships to Human Development and Family Sciences. The motion was approved unanimously. (D&P 3040a, 12/1/99)

Chair Starks reported that the committee had received and reviewed the report of the Human Resource Development Leadership Master's Degree Program and that no action was taken. The committee learned the program has been discontinued. Three proposals were forwarded from the Academic Committee: (1) Starks reported that the committee had approved the Dispute Resolution Doctoral Portfolio Program submitted. (2)The

committee recommended approval of a Master's Portfolio Program similar in concept to the existing Doctoral Portfolio Program. This would allow master's degree students to engage in cross-disciplinary study in a particular area. It was agreed that the 12 hours of coursework outside the student's main department would usually count as part of the student's supporting coursework and thus not constitute an additional load, increasing time to the degree. (3) The committee moved that the Graduate Assembly delegate the review and approval of all Masters' Portfolio Programs in the future to the Academic Committee. All three proposals were passed unanimously. (D&P 3043b, 3/29/00)

Chair Starks reported the committee's recommendation for the Graduate Assembly to approve a request from the Department of Marine Science to change its degree title from Master of Arts to Master of Science in Marine Science. The change was unanimously supported by the GSC and was based on a petition from their students whose major argument was that the job market distinguishes between Marine Science MS and Marine Science MA and many potential employers will not accept the MA. The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the change in degree title. (D&P 3045a, 4/26/00)

B. Administrative Committee

In the absence of Chair Payne, committee member Alan Cline presented a proposed change in the wording of the rules for continuous registration of graduate students. A motion was made by the committee to allow registration in Affiliated Studies to satisfy the continuous registration requirement for doctoral students in candidacy. The motion was passed unanimously. (D&P 3038c, 9/29/99)

Chair Payne presented a proposal from the Administrative Committee as a continuation of the process to move away from electing members to the Graduate Assembly by group and toward electing them by College or School. In order to do this and to make a small increase to the size of the Graduate Assembly, it was proposed that the number of members of the Graduate Assembly shall be increased from 26 to 30 and the representative of the Law School GSC shall be added to Group A. The motion passed unanimously. The Committee proposed a change in the wording in the Graduate Catalog to clarify the enrollment requirement: the residency requirement shall be removed from

the Graduate Catalog. The motion passed unanimously. The next item for discussion concerned the wording under Degree Requirements in the Graduate Catalog. The Committee recommended that the determination for admission be made by the admitting GSC rather than by the graduate dean. To achieve this end, and with the endorsement of the Office of Graduate Studies, the committee proposed that the section on “Additional Degrees at the Same or a Lower Level” shall be omitted from the Graduate Catalog. The motion passed unanimously. With regard to programs of work and continued enrollment of graduate students after completion of a master’s degree, the Committee proposed that an advising bar shall be placed on the registration of students who have completed the master’s degree. This bar is to ensure that the student has met with the graduate adviser, that the graduate program has admitted the student into the doctoral program, and that the student should continue to enroll. The motion passed unanimously. (D&P 3040a, 3040b, 12/1/99)

Chair Payne reported the committee had reviewed the current system of assigning letter grades for the completion of theses and dissertations. Since the grade assigned is almost always an “A” and yet since no grade is required for a student to receive his or her degree, this can often lead to a student receiving a permanent incomplete for this coursework when the faculty member fails to turn in a grade. Ultimately this grade appears to have little meaning. Therefore, the Administrative Committee proposed that the grading system for theses, reports, master’s recitals, dissertations, and treatises be changed from letter grade to credit/no credit. The motion passed unanimously. (D&P 3043b, 3/29/00)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Chair Rascati introduced a motion of the Admissions Committee to waive the GRE requirement for Graduate Performance Majors in the School of Music. The department suggested that the requirement of a GRE in the application might deter qualified students from applying to the program. It was cited that fifteen comparable programs at other institutions do not require the GRE. The motion was passed unanimously. (D&P 3038c, 9/29/99)

Other Reports

Dean Sullivan asked Rick Cherwitz to comment on admissions, and he reported that in general Graduate School enrollments are up about 6%. The Graduate School is continuing to make progress with regard to minority enrollment, and there has been a significant increase in international applications and enrollment. (D&P 3038, 3038a, 9/29/99)

Dean Sullivan asked Tim Brace to provide an update on the issue of submitting dissertations in electronic format. Brace reported that the current goal is to have all dissertations submitted in electronic format by May 2001, but as many as possible submitted electronically by May 2000. UMI will continue to be the major publisher of UT dissertations; however some other organization could be the publisher of these electronic dissertations in the future. UT Libraries might play a role as repository. Sullivan pointed out that one drawback to the Libraries' active involvement in preservation of such documents is that it would take funds away from the Libraries' acquisition budget. Ultimately it is up to the Office of Graduate Studies to decide what constitutes proper publication. (D&P 3040a, 12/1/99)

The report from the Second Ad Hoc Committee on Digital Dissertations was given by Alan Cline. Cline reviewed the history of the committees that have existed to deal with the transition to digital dissertations. The current committee was formed in 1996. Cline reminded the Assembly that students will be required to submit dissertations in digital form in May 2001. He then outlined several advantages of allowing students to produce and submit digital dissertations, including the ability of students to include a variety of data, various media and extensive links to their own and other research within their electronic dissertations. He also outlined the current drawbacks in existing publishing possibilities for digital dissertations, such as the poor quality of the material that is published by UMI and the high cost of publication with Dissertations.com.

Support of this proposal as well as concerns were expressed by Assembly members. Overall, it was agreed that students will have more options for publication in the future than they have had for their work. If the University were to become the publisher, the

Libraries would have to develop their own indexing software. This would bring about budget concerns. Tom Griffy pointed out that budgetary questions are not the domain of the Graduate Assembly and appropriate offices in budget areas should be consulted. (D&P 3045b, 4/26/00)

Graduate Student Assembly

Co-chair Metcalfe reported that 48 graduate programs are represented in the Graduate Student Assembly, He encouraged members of the Graduate Assembly to urge graduate students from their programs to participate (D&P 3038c, 9/29/99)

Metcalfe reported on the activities of the Graduate Student Assembly, including providing information to graduate students about propositions and issues prior to the GSA elections, administering a new fellowship through the College of Liberal Arts, and offering a proposal to endorse the closing Speedway next year (a part of the University's master plan). (D&P 3040c, 12/1/99)

Co-chair Metcalfe reported that the University Cooperative Society had given \$8,000 to the University, earmarked to reward graduate excellence. The Graduate Student Assembly has formed a committee to make awards of \$1,000. Metcalfe also reminded the Assembly that April 3-7 is National Graduate and Professional Student Week and that a series of daily events had been organized for the occasion, including a TA appreciation reception on Wednesday, April 5, 2000. (D&P 3043b, 3/29/00)

Melcalfe reported that there had been greater participation from more departments in the Graduate Student Assembly this year than in the past, and he encouraged members to urge their departments to continue to support student involvement in the Graduate Student Assembly. (D&P 3045b, 4/26/00)

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