

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
 AUGUST 2002

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
 2001-2002

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, 2001-2002. The report summarizes pages **3057-3065d** 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 2001-2002

Graduate Assembly Member	Graduate Studies Committee	Term of Office
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE		
Linda Ferreira-Buckley, Chair	English	2001-2004(2)
Bruce Palka	Mathematics	2000-2003(1)
Jennifer Brodbelt	Chemistry	2000-2003(1)
Kay Avant	Nursing	2001-2004(2)
Kamy Sepehrnoori	Petroleum & Geosystems	2001-2004(2)
Katherine Arens	Germanic Studies	2000-2003(1)
Janet Dukerich	Management	2000-2003(1)
Salomon Stavchansky	Pharmacy	2000-2003(1)
David Herrin	Cell & Molecular Biology	2001-2004(1)
Dean Neikirk	Electrical & Computer Engineering	2001-2004(1)
Peter Green	Chemical Engineering	2001-2004(1)
Ken Flamm	LBJ School of Public Affairs	2001-2004(1)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

John Allison, Chair	Management Science & Information Systems	1999-2002(1)
David Bogard	Mechanical Engineering	2000-2003(1)
Irene Owens	Library & Information Science	1999-2002(1)
Michael Oden	Architecture	1999-2002(1)
Laura Starks	Finance	1999-2002(2)
Austin Gleeson	Physics	2000-2003(1)
Scot Powe	Law	2000-2001(1)
Vance Holloway*/Naomi Lindstrom	Spanish & Portuguese	2000-2003(1)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Edmund Emmer, Chair	Educational Psychology	1999-2002(2)
Mark Alpert	Marketing	2000-2003(1)
Darlene Grant	Social Work	1998-2001(1)
Michael Stoff	History	2000-2003(1)
Lynn Miller	Speech Communication	1999-2002(1)
Desmond Lawler	Civil Engineering	2000-2003(1)
Mark Smith	American Studies	2000-2003(2)
James Scheurich	Educational Administration	2001-2004(1)

No Committee Assignment

Alba Ortiz, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Charlotte Canning, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Eric Opiela
Craig Carroll

*Serving while elected member on leave fall semester only

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Cara Cashon
Baris Guler

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Shawn Rosenzweig
Lori Stone

Ex Officio Member, with Vote

Bruce Palka 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
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
Frederick Steiner	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
William Powers	Dean, School of Law
Andrew Dillon	Dean, Graduate School of Library & Information Science

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (2001-2002)

Chair: Alba Ortiz, Bilingual Education
Chair-elect: Linda Ferriera-Buckley, English
Secretary: Charlotte Canning, Theatre & Dance

Meeting Dates: September 26, 2001
November 28, 2001
January 30, 2002
March 27, 2002 (cancelled)
April 24, 2002

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

There was one item of major legislation considered by the Assembly during 2001-2002. The proposal for a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture, presented by the School of Architecture, was unanimously approved by the Graduate Assembly and ruled major legislation. (D&P 3065b, 4/24/02)

Minor Legislation

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal presented by the Administrative Committee to assign CR or NC rather than an asterisk (in progress) as a grade for 698A. (D&P 3058c, 9/26/01)

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved a proposal presented by the Academic Committee for the Engineering Circuit Design Option III Program. (D&P 3065b, 4/24/02)

Report from the Chair

In the absence of Chair Ortiz, Chair-elect Ferreira-Buckley reminded members of the Assembly attendance policy. (D&P 3058b, 9/26/01)

Chair Ortiz reported the results of the 2001-2002 Graduate Assembly election and introduced those new members attending. The new chair-elect and secretary for the 2002-2003 academic year were elected: Peter Green (Chemical Engineering) and Cindy Carlson, (Educational Psychology) respectively.

Ortiz thanked departing members Canning, Miller, Emmer and Starks for their service on the Assembly. (D&P 3065a, 4/24/02)

Report of the Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Sullivan presented an enrollment report from Rick Cherwitz. Sullivan stated there were a number of program reviews completed during spring and summer of 2001, and Associate Dean Pedro Reyes is the OGS liaison with program reviews. Sullivan also mentioned different types of reviews and stated the Graduate School should be involved in any review that involves a graduate program or should be at least briefed on the results at the end of any review.

Sullivan stated that one issue that will be of concern fall 2001 is the implementation of House Bill 1641, relating to the use of standardized tests in making admissions decisions. The law says that a standardized test can be used only if you compare an applicant with other applicants of a similar socioeconomic background. House Bill 1641 applies both to admissions decisions and the fellowship and financial aid decisions. Sullivan announced the formation of a task force to discuss this issue and develop a plan to comply with the law, which specifies graduate and professional programs. The Coordinating Board has told OGS they will not have time to get out guidelines before the admission season.

Dean Sullivan also mentioned a change in the GRE beginning next year with the current analytic portion of the test being dropped. In its place will be a writing assessment with two essay questions. She described the writing analysis scoring proposed by ETS which

will replace the analytic score departments may have used in the past. ETS has indicated that they will also make the analytic test available as a separate component, priced separately.

Sullivan announced The University of Texas at Austin has been selected by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation as one of sixteen graduate schools to participate in a new program called the Responsive Ph.D. It's a program designed to look at the Ph.D. degree in the twenty-first century. Listening groups will be convened to focus on an aspect of the Ph.D. that is particularly germane to this campus. As a topic, Dean Sullivan has picked "The Dissertation as a Genre."

With regard to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Sullivan commented on the magnificent response by graduate students. She is proud of the way that the campus has reacted to the tragedy both here in working with younger undergraduates in their dealing with the experience and in reaching out to help people on the East Coast. (D&P 3058-3058b, 9/26/01)

Dean Sullivan discussed three matters: international students, new research professor title, and House Bill 1641. The Office of Graduate Studies sent out an advisory to all the graduate advisers and coordinators about students leaving the country during the semester break, informing them that UT cannot guarantee they'll get back in light of the September 11 disaster.

Sullivan reports the Faculty Council has considered legislation to create the titles Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor and Research Professor, differing from the current set of titles of Research Scientist, etc. This will allow a research professor's duties, though primarily research, to include other faculty-like responsibilities without tenure. GSCs may petition to put research professors on their committees and allow them to supervise dissertations with GSC approval.

Dean Sullivan appointed a task force to review House Bill 1641 and to develop policy to implement that legislation. HB 1641 requires that if GRE scores are used, the applicant must also be compared with others with similar socioeconomic status. (D&) 3060-3060a, 11/28/01)

Graduate Dean Sullivan invited Cherwitz to report on admission. OGS was up significantly in number of applications probably due to what's happening with the economy. It was reported that 90% of applicants this year were filling out electronic applications for that part which can be done electronically, as opposed to last year's number of 60%.

Sullivan reviewed the progress on implementation of House Bill 1641. A letter was prepared for graduate advisers, GSC chairs and coordinators; and a web site set up with the information on HB 1641. Comparative data from the applicant pool for GRE provides mean and median GRE scores, verbal and quantitative, with standard deviations for both domestic and international applicants. The data is derived from everybody who took the test. OGS obtained information for first generation college attenders and later generation which is the socioeconomic measure. OGS constructed comparable data from graduate students who entered UT the summer or the fall of 2000. The third piece of information OGS has is from the national survey of earned doctorates, which shows successful PhDs by parental education. This gives people several kinds of information to use as they make their admissions decisions. OGS is asking questions only on an information basis.

Dean Sullivan asked Dollard to report on the infrastructure fee. The infrastructure fee will be charged beginning next year and is currently at \$180.00 a semester for students taking seven or more hours. The tuition reimbursement for teaching assistants will be adjusted to take care of this fee.

Sullivan also reported that she had recently received reports, including a review of the graduate program from the Marine Science Institute and the evaluation of the doctoral program in Library and Information Science. (D&P) 3062-3062b, 1/30/02)

Graduate Dean Sullivan thanked the Assembly for their work in the past year.

Sullivan asked Reyes to report on applications. Reyes reported that applications numbers were up significantly from the previous year and the numbers were greater for all populations.

Sullivan asked Dollard to report on fellowships. 60% of the pre-emptive fellowships were accepted, the target percentage set by the Office of Graduate Studies. The Harrington Fellowship program went much better than last year. Sullivan reported that UT has 27 NSF graduate fellows and 28 honorable mentions. Almost all of the honorable mentions will already be in graduate study at UT. Sullivan also discussed the set of eight \$1,000 graduate research fellowships contributed by The University Co-operative Society, for which there were 166 applications this year. Also, for the first time, the Co-op was underwriting the dissertation awards and the annual awards luncheon for both winners of the dissertation award and other awards.

Dean Sullivan announced that the Education Testing Service will close 84 foreign testing centers. Sullivan will chair a board meeting later in April and will find out what alternatives are being proposed.

Sullivan mentioned that GIAC is investigating alternative English language tests on an emergency basis only. If it appears that will be a permanent situation, Sullivan will bring it to the Admissions Committee of the Graduate Assembly.

Sullivan indicated she will be spending some time during the summer with graduate advisers and coordinators, pushing for the significance of the annual review and talking with the deans about this at the upcoming Deans' Council Meeting. The number of grievances OGS gets from graduate students who have been dismissed from the program or have otherwise encountered difficulties is very high.

Sullivan's final comments noted that the faculty of the Graduate School of Library Information Science have voted unanimously to change their name to The Information School. The name change is currently being treated as a non-substantive change and will be making its way through the normal channels. Owens commented that the change is in keeping with other top LIS Programs. (D&P 3065a, 4/24/02)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee

Chair Ferreira-Buckley reviewed the Pharmacy Option II Program and the External Review of the Neuroscience Program, and she indicated the committee would consult with the Graduate Dean as to what kind of action would be required of the committee. The academic committee reported that they approved of the Master's Portfolio in Women's and Gender Studies. (D&P 3058b-3058c, 9/26/01)

The Academic Committee reviewed the review of the Master of Science in Pharmacy Option II Program and accepted the report. (D&P 3062b, 1/30/02)

The Academic Committee approved the proposed Master's Portfolio Program in Gerontology, as reported and summarized in a special mailing to members and interested persons March 13, 2002. (D&P 3063a-3063b, 3/13/02)

The Academic Committee announced their approval of the proposal for Master's and Doctoral Portfolio Program in Philanthropy, Volunteerism and Nonprofit Management. (D&P 3065b, 4/24/02)

The Academic Committee deferred recommendations to the Guidelines for Option III Programs to Fall 2002. (D&P 3065b, 4/24/02)

B. Administrative Committee

Chair Allison presented a proposal on assigning CR or NC rather than an asterisk (in Progress) as a grade for 698A. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved and ruled minor legislation. (D&P 3058c, 9/26/01)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee

Chair Emmer reported the committee's recommendation on the use of the GRE writing test as a criterion for admission to the Graduate School. There were questions about the reliability of the exam which could not be determined since it has yet to be implemented.

Other ReportsGraduate Student Assembly

The September 26, 2002, report from the Graduate Student Assembly was presented to members in written form with the absence of Opiela. The GSA has two main initiatives during Fall 2001: securing the provision of supplemental health insurance for graduate student workers appointed for less than 20 hours per week, and seeking the improvement of TA/AI/RA compensation. Opiela also wrote that the GSA is trying to build community among graduate and professional students at UT by supporting existing departmental graduate student organizations and attempting to build ones in colleges that currently lack organizations. (D&P 3058, handout)

Student member and Graduate Student Assembly Co-chair Opiela reported that the GSA held a workshop on taxes; and a representative from the Austin IRS attended, presenting information to students.

Opiela reported there are two main areas of concern over the infrastructure fee. The first is that graduate students would be disproportionately affected by the fee if there was not a financial aid system in place as has been planned for undergraduates. The second concern is that those uncovered by TA, AI, and GRA fellowships is estimated at about 1,500 students. Opiela added that Steve Monti and others are working right now to try and address the issue. The GSA is formulating a response to the situation. (D&P 3062b-3062c, 1/30/02)

Opiela reported that the GSA had held a Graduate Professional Students week and a TA/AI reception recognizing Teaching Assistants and Assistant Instructors that are outstanding in departments across campus. They hope to have more nominations next year by improving the information process.

The April GSA meeting included discussions that students would like to see add/drop procedures changed in OGS to allow graduate students up to the 12th class day to be able to add/drop courses on line using text rather than having to have papers carried across

campus. There have been discussions with Dean Kahn and others about some of the policy changes and technical changes that would need to occur.

In 2002-2003 the GSA will have co-chairs Opiela and Banks. (D&P 3065c, 4/24/02)

Annual Report prepared by Karen Bancroft, Office of Graduate Studies