

**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

DATE: October 4, 2012
TIME: 2:35 pm
PLACE: San Saba Room, University Center
PRESIDING: Beverly Black, Presiding Chair

ATTENDING: Saimak Ardekani, Pranesh Aswath, Donelle Barnes, Krystal Beamon, Rebecca Bichel, Joan Blakey, Philip Cohen, Jennifer Gray, Rod Hissong, Raymond Jackson, Christopher Kribs-Zaleta, Steve Mattingly, Taner Ozdil, Sophia Passy, Mark Ricard, Marianna Vallejo

Guest(s): Andrea Fisher, Alisa Johnson, Paul Krawietz

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Graduate Assembly was called to order at 2:35 pm by Presiding Chair, Dr. Beverly Black.

II. Introductions

Dr. Black welcomed and introduced guests to the Graduate Assembly.

III. Consideration of Minutes

Minutes from the April 5, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. Report from the Graduate Dean – Dr. Philip Cohen

Dean Cohen thanked Graduate Assembly Members for serving on the assembly and welcomed proposals and feedback from the departments.

Report from the Graduate School – Alisa Johnson, Director, Graduate Recruiting

Ms. Johnson provided the Assembly a preliminary report on graduate student enrollment from Fall 2011 (8,020) and Fall 2012 (7,471) and noted that the Fall 2012 numbers were actually higher than forecasted. Although there was a -6.8% decrease, a double-digit decrease was forecasted. Ms. Johnson noted that the Fall 2012 enrollment decrease was due to a decline in the Academic Partnership programs in nursing and education and continuing Master's (non-AP) programs.

Graduate degree conferrals have shown a steady increase.

| | Graduate Degree Conferrals | | |
|----------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| | AY 2009-10 | AY 2010-11 | AY 2011-12 |
| Master's | 1,860 | 2,417 | 3,072 |
| Doctoral | 127 | 127* | 164* |
| Total | 1,987 | 2,544 | 3,236 |
| | | | |

*AY 2010-11 doctoral includes two DNP degrees, and AY 2011-12 doctoral includes 4 DNP degrees

Ms. Johnson also extended an invitation to Grad Fest 2012, a Graduate and Professional School Fair for undergraduate and new graduate students planning to attend graduate programs both at UT Arlington and other universities in the State.

V. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Program Creation – Dr. Jennifer Gray, Chair

Dr. Gray reported that the committee met and has received several proposals. It is currently working with the various departments to make revisions on their proposals.

B. Committee on Graduate Students – Dr. Pranesh Aswath, Chair

Dr. Aswath reported that the committee met and is in the process of discussing a Milestone Agreement Form and establishing a Doctoral Candidacy Policy. The committee will bring its proposals to a future meeting.

C. Committee on Program Revision – Dr. Mark Ricard, Chair

1. Proposal on Probationary admission – Unanimously approved.

The purpose of the proposal is to streamline the most common type of probationary admission conditions (B or better in X hours) so that the records of most students with a Probationary admission condition can be automatically monitored and updated. The proposal requires that all students receiving a probationary admission must maintain a 3.0 GPA for the first two long semesters of enrollment. Under this

condition, students with the 3.0 GPA condition who maintain a 3.0 in their first two semesters of enrollment will be automatically upgraded to Unconditional admission status

2. Proposal to Allow Programs to Waive Doctoral Courses and Credit Hours – Unanimously approved

The proposal states that Graduate-level coursework completed in a student's major area of doctoral study at institutions of recognized standing that grant doctoral degrees in those subject areas may serve to establish the student's competency in equivalent UT Arlington courses. Competency demonstrated by successful completion of equivalent courses may provide a basis for waiving some UT Arlington course requirements and the credit hours associated with those courses. Waivers must be recommended by the student's graduate advisor and current supervising professor and their recommendation must be approved by both the Committee on Graduate Studies of the student's major area and the Office of Graduate Studies. Only courses in which the student has earned a B or better (or a P if the UTA course is also graded P/F) will be considered for purposes of a waiver. In no case will final semester Dissertation course (6x99 or 7399) requirements be waived. Waived courses must be shown on the student's academic plan.

VI. Report of Graduate Student Senate Representative – Mariana Vallejo

Ms. Vallejo invited the Graduate Assembly and Graduate Student and Faculty Mixer hosted by the Graduate Student Senate, Office of Research Administration and Office of Graduate Studies on Wednesday, October 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. in the Rio Grande, University Center.

Ms. Vallejo informed the Graduate Assembly that Student Governance will begin paying stipends to GSS Executive Board to increase participation.

The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved the addition of one non-voting student seat on the Committee on Graduate Students.

VII. New Business

No report.

VIII. Old Business

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectful Submitted
Jennifer Knight
Executive Assistant to the Dean
Office of Graduate Studies
GA 04052012

Probationary admission proposal

Background

Each student who submits a completed application for admission to a graduate program at UT Arlington is subject to a review by the graduate advisor or admissions committee in the academic department. Admission decisions are reviewed and finalized by the Office of Graduate Studies. Admission decisions may fall under one of the following categories: Unconditional, Probationary, Provisional, Probationary & Provisional, Deferred, or Denied.

The Probationary admission status applies to applicants who do not meet program requirements for unconditional admission but who show promise for successful graduate study. Probationary students are required to take deficiency courses or remedial English courses or students, or make a specific grade in a certain number of courses as determined by the academic department. The conditions set by the academic departments may vary, but the large majority (87%) of students admitted on probation have the condition that they must make a B or better in each of the next 6, 9 or 12 hours of enrollment.

| Number of students admitted on Probation and condition type | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Spring 2012 | | | | | | | |
| | <u>B6</u> | <u>B9</u> | <u>B12</u> | <u>Def</u> | <u>EL</u> | <u>Other</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| TOTAL | 47 | 225 | 1191 | 103 | 34 | 79 | 1679 |
| <p><u>KEY</u></p> <p>B6 Student must earn a B or better in next 6 hours of enrollment</p> <p>B9 Student must earn a B or better in next 9 hours of enrollment</p> <p>B12 Student must earn a B or better in next 12 hours of enrollment</p> <p>Def Student must pass one or more deficiency courses</p> <p>EL Student must meet an English language requirement</p> <p>Other Other specific GPA or grades required</p> | | | | | | | |

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academic department must monitor each student admitted on Probation and notify the graduate school when that student either meets or fails to meet the conditions of his or her probation. The Graduate School staff then updates the student’s record to reflect the new admission status. Because the records of students on Probationary admission must be individually monitored and manually updated, many graduate students remain coded with a Probationary admission status even if they previously met their admission conditions. In some cases, students spend their entire graduate careers on Probationary admission because the admission status is neither evaluated nor updated until the student applies for graduation. This problem could be greatly reduced if monitoring and updating these student records were automated. However, it is not possible to automatically monitor or enforce the most common admission conditions in a manner that is certain to capture the intention of the recommending department. For example, a full time student may take 9 hours in his first semester and 9 hours in his second semester. If he is on a B12 condition, the hours taken in the second semester that should be evaluated or excluded from the assessment would need to be specified for an automated evaluation process. The decision to consider some but not other hours to determine whether the B12 condition has been met would likely be arbitrary.

Proposed solution:

In order to more effectively monitor admission conditions, maintain more accurate student records and alleviate the processing burden on departments and graduate school staff, we propose streamlining the most common type of probationary admission conditions (B or better in X hours) so that the records of most students with a Probationary admission condition can be automatically monitored and updated. Instead of recommending probationary admission with “B or better” for 6, 9 or 12 hour conditions, we propose that departments impose a “

3.0 GPA condition". Specifically, this condition states that students **must maintain a 3.0 GPA for the first two long semesters of enrollment**. Under this condition, students with the 3.0 GPA condition who maintain a 3.0 in their first two semesters of enrollment will be automatically upgraded to Unconditional admission status. Petitions for readmission by a student who fails to meet the 3.0 grade-point average will only be approved by the department and the Dean of Graduate Studies under exceptional circumstances.

The 3.0 GPA condition captures the intent of the B6, B9 and B12 conditions and if used in place of those decisions will allow us to manage about 87% of all probationary admission decisions automatically. Student records can be monitored and updated electronically in a non-arbitrary manner because the 3.0 GPA condition is based on semester-by-semester performance rather than on performance in a certain number of credit hours. Adopting this policy will greatly reduce the need for the academic departments to notify the graduate school when students meet the terms of their probationary admission and increase the accuracy of student records and improve student service.

The 3.0 GPA condition is also aligned with the current academic standing policy which states that students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good academic standing. Students who make lower than a 3.0 after one semester are given another semester to bring up their GPA and return to good standing. Students who do not return to good standing are not permitted to enroll in future semesters unless a petition and an enrollment plan is submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies and approved. Under the proposed model, students admitted under the 3.0 GPA condition would be held to the same standard as all other graduate students.

By streamlining admission conditions as proposed, we can maintain academic standards and more effectively monitor students admitted on probation. More accurate student records and reduction the burden of manual processing on departments and graduate school staff will also result from adopting this proposal.