

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

DATE: April 7, 2016
TIME: 2:36 pm
PLACE: San Saba Room, University Center
PRESIDING: Rod Hissong, Presiding Chair

ATTENDING: Bradley Davis, Rod Hissong, Raymond Jackson, David Keller, Peter Kroll, Ann McFadyen, Andrew Milson, Diane Mitschke, Sophia Passy, Edmund Prater, Barbara Raudonis, Eusebius Small, Vivian Ta

Guest(s): T. Hearne for Loraine Phillips

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Graduate Assembly was called to order at 2:36 pm by chair, Dr. Rod Hissong.

II. Introductions

Dr. Hissong welcomed guests to the Graduate Assembly.

III. Consideration of Minutes

The minutes from the February 4, 2016 Graduate Assembly meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. Dr. Duane Dimos, Vice President for Research

Not in attendance due to meeting conflict.

V. Update from Associate Graduate Dean – Dr. Raymond Jackson

Dr. Jackson reminded the GA of the university's goal to graduate 200 Ph.Ds. Currently, there is a very strong push to graduate as many spring and summer eligible Ph.Ds. as possible to meet this goal. The goal, however is not to graduate more students at the expense of the quality or rigor of the work. Rather, it is to try to assure that any student who has or can fully satisfy degree requirements in this academic year has every opportunity to complete and receive his or her degree. Going forward, the Office of Graduate Studies would like to explore ways in which it can help facilitate doctoral degree completion. Members of the Graduate Assembly were asked to seek suggestions from colleagues regarding what the university might do to help dissertation students who are close to completing complete and graduate.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Program Creation – Dr. Peter Knoll, Chair

1. Fast Track for Master of Arts in Political Science

Two revisions were recommended: 1) the college determines if the foundation class requirement has been met and 2) the undergraduate degree is not impeded.

The recommendation was supported and proposal was unanimously approved.

2. Graduate Certificate in Economics

Proposal is withdrawn.

B. Committee on Program Revision – Dr. Barbara Raudonis, Chair

No report.

C. Committee on Graduate Students – Dr. David Keller, Chair

No report.

VII. Report from the Graduate Student Senate – Vivian Ta, President

Ms. Ta reported under her leadership, the GSS passed their first resolution since 2007.

VIII. New Business

1. Election for Graduate Assembly Chair Pro Tem:

Dr. Peter Knoll and accepted the nominated to the position of Chair Pro Tem.

Dr. Knoll was unanimously approved to serve as Chair Pro Tem.

2. The use of plus/minus grading was discussed. It was noted that Dr. Dunn did a comprehensive study of the matter some time ago and the decision was made not to pursue it.

3. The GA was asked to develop and review a grade forgiveness policy by subcommittee. A motion was made, but not seconded. The motion died.

4. Dr. Jackson initiated discussions on, what defines candidacy. An accepted

framework defining this term is lacking. The question is can we do a better job identifying what candidacy means, and then use candidacy to encourage and track student progress. Dr. Jackson requested placing this topic on committee review for fall 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Knight
Executive Assistant
Office of Graduate Studies
GA 04/07/2016 draft