

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

DATE: October 5, 2017

TIME: 2:30 pm

PLACE: San Saba, University Center

PRESIDING: Peter Kroll, Presiding Chair

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Ali Abolmali; Ard Anjomani; Karabi Bezboruah, Matthew Brothers; Jinny Choi; Bradley Davis; Lauri John; David Jorgensen; Soo-Hong Kim; Peter Kroll, Prajal Mishra; Diane Mitschke, Edmund Prater; Barbara Raudonis; Peggy Semington; Panos Shiakolas; Kamesh Subbarao; Mark Tremayne; Mahmut Yasar; Bijan Youssefzadeh.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING: Pranesh Aswath; Raymond Jackson; Kelly Visnak

I. Call to Order

- The meeting of the Graduate Assembly was called to order at 2:35 pm by chair, Dr. Peter Kroll.

II. Introduction of members of GA for the AY 2017-18

- Dr. Kroll introduced the newly elected Secretary, Dr. Karabi Bezboruah, and the chair pro tempore, Dr. Barbara Raudonis. Members then introduced themselves.
- Dr. Kroll noted that the College of Education and College of Business lack a third member in the Graduate Assembly.
- Dr. Kroll stated that the School of Social Work has one representative when there should be two, and asked Dr. Jackson how representation is decided. Dr. Jackson said that there is an allocation algorithm based on the annual weighted graduate credit hour production as specified in the Handbook of Operating Procedures in section 4-303.

III. Consideration of Minutes

- The minutes from April 13, 2017 Graduate Assembly were unanimously approved.

IV. Dr. Duane Dimos, Dean of Graduate School, Vice President for Research

- Dr. Dimos was at a Conference, and will present his updates in the November Graduate Assembly meeting.

V. Report from Graduate Studies – Dr. Joe Jackson

- Dr. Jackson acknowledged and appreciated the work of faculty in graduating/awarding 207 doctoral degrees in the 2016-2017 academic year.

- Discussed the role of the Emeritus faculty and ongoing service to the faculty. Suggested that the limits of what the emeriti can do need to be defined, and called for broadening the scope.
- Dr. Jackson said that there has to be a resolution on the role of non-tenured faculty. He suggested further discussions on the topic of whether clinical and research faculty be promoted to full graduate faculty. There were questions from members about the role of qualified non-tenured faculty in supervising/ advising Ph.D. students. Dr. Jackson said that non-tenured cannot supervise Ph.D. students, but can serve on the committee. Non-tenured faculty can supervise Masters students as they are short term, but Ph.D. takes longer, so non-tenured may not be able to serve that long. Further, Professor of Practice can serve as the Co-Chair, if students wish to work with them.
- Dr. Jackson said that the Graduate Assembly has the power to adjust the Handbook of operating Procedures in a way to give Units the decision to provide graduate faculty with privileges. He urged the Graduate Assembly to evaluate options and recommend to the UTA Administration.

VI. Introduction of Prajal Mishra, President of Graduate Student Senate

- Prajal Mishra reported that the Student Senate was discussing the issue of minimum enrollment for classes, which has increased to 10. Dr. Aswath clarified that it is 5 students for graduate classes, and 10 for undergraduate. However, it is flexible and based on needs and budget during long semesters. If it is a required course, and students need to graduate, then the course can be offered.
- Dr. Jackson and Dr. Aswath discussed Ombudsman, who is a dispute resolution specialist between students and Graduate office. These are independent neutral parties specialized in mediation. Proposals went from graduate students to have a position for UTA. Have a neutral 3rd party who tries to find a mutually acceptable solution for both faculty and students.
- Prajal Mishra mentioned another issue being discussed – decision on GRE scores. No further discussion on this.

VII. Announcement of Committee Chairs

A. Committee on Program Creation, Edmund Prater

- There are seven proposals to be discussed.

B. Committee on Program Revision, Barbara Raudonis

- No report

C. Committee on Graduate Students Diane Mitschke

- Discussion on Ph.D. candidacy to continue. Dr. Jackson talked about the series of milestones to track Ph.D. students' progress. Units have different measures to decide candidacy. For some, it's passing the comprehensive exam. It's important to have markers of progress, give students better guidance, and track systematically. Dr. Aswath said all PhD student must be provided individualized Milestone form. Students must reach each milestone within a specified time to maintain progress.

The DS-Pro can help track milestone for individual students. Milestone agreement is done in the first year of Ph.D. appointment.

VII. Old Business

- No report

IX. New Business

A. Discussion of the new policy of “UT Arlington Dean’s Doctoral Assistantship (DDA) for Teaching Assistants”

- Dr. Aswath reported that a graduate student task force met to come up with a plan to support graduate students – separate the STEM vs non-STEM fields. The DDA requires a five years commitment. Non-STEM receives five years but do not get tuition support. This policy was presented at the Deans’ council, and the VP of Research communicated this via email.
 - There was some discussion on DDA vs GTA. Dr. Aswath said that DDA is similar to EGTA, but EGTA were paid 100% tuition, and GTA were paid 85%, statutory tuition not covered. For the College of Science, College of Science, DDA is the GTA with 85% of the tuition covered.
 - Dr. Dimos will clarify this policy in the next meeting.
 - Dr. Anjomani requested that such policies be published somewhere so that faculty can access it. Dr. Kroll said this is the responsibility of the Deans, and tabled it for next meeting.
- Dr. Jackson reported that the Rand report has certain implications for graduate education including graduate certificates. Even if programs are accredited, they will be affected by the Rand report.

X. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

XI. Next Meeting

- November 2, 2017 at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karabi Bezboruah
Secretary, Graduate Assembly
College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs
10/11/2017