

**Graduate Assembly Meeting
Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2020**

Thursday, November 5, 2020

2:30 pm

Virtual via Teams

Submitted by Patti Parker

PRESIDING: Ali Abolmaali, Chair of the Graduate Assembly

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Patti Parker, Anjomani Ardeshir, Matthew Brothers, Monee' Carter-Griffin, Jinny Choi, Candiss Henking [graduate student council]; Hong Jiang, David Jorgensen, Jared Kenworthy, Bahram Khalili, Cynthia Kilpatrick, Subhrangsu Mandal, Rebecca Mauldin, Kathryn Pole, Regina Praetorius, Panos Shiakolas, Bin Srinidhi, Kamesh Subbarao, Kimberly Tate, Mahmut Yasar, Jennifer Zhang, Yi Zhang

GUESTS ATTENDING: Sara Ridenour, Rebecca Lewis, Hanan Boukhaima

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING: Joe Jackson; Pranesh Aswath, Jim Grover, Amber Smallwood

Call to Order - The meeting of the Graduate Assembly was called to order at 2:32 pm by Chair, Dr. Ali Abolmaali

I. Introductions

Welcome by the Chair

II. Members and Committees Introduced

Committee on Graduate Students—Dr. Matthew Brothers

Committee on Program Revision—Dr. Jared Kenworthy

Committee on Program Creation—Dr. David Jorgensen

III. Consideration of Minutes

Minutes from October 8, 2020

Motion called to approve previous notes. The motioned was approved without opposition.

**IV. Provost Dr. Pranesh B. Aswath Provost and Vice president for Academic Affairs, Ad Interim
(Bulleted items below were not on original agenda)**

- Provost Aswath opens the discussion by reminding us that there is no special body to change standards for admission or number of minimal hours for a graduate degree—no general oversight committee
 - Provost brings up the question—should there be an oversight committee?
 - Currently, Provost Aswath and Dr. Raymond “Joe” Jackson are our resource for issues related to graduate school standards
 - Committee of Program Revision has been handling such issue—should this committee continue handling such issues?
 - Discussion centered upon the Committee for Program Revision to be utilized for this process

- Provost reminds us that our current admission policy is now very flexible [because of the pandemic] and will be something that will change in the future
 - For Spring of 2021, the UT System has waived all standardized testing for admissions; the GRE is waived—this is a limited waiver
 - For future changes—should this be looked at by an ad hoc committee of Graduate Assembly—or the Committee on Graduate Students?
 - Discussion centered about Committee on Graduate Students to be involved in this process
- Provost reminded us—that program directors and chairs should know that 900 sections can be utilized for international students
 - Currently, no mechanism of scholarship for international students that have never lived in the United States

**V. Dr. James Grover, Dean of Graduate School, Interim Vice President for Research
(Bulleted items below were not on original agenda)**

- Dr. Grover noted that Covid-19 is still affecting things at all levels of the graduate school
 - International enrollments are down, yet domestic enrollments have been up—which has made to headway to offset the decrease in international students
- Dr. Grover’s office is currently working on new documents and a process for details for new and changes in certificates for degrees and programs—templates, if you will, to assist in streamlining the process when changes do have to be made
- More on Dr. Grover’s ideas/comments/concerns from our last meeting will be presented later by Dr. Brothers and his committee

VI. Candiss Henking, Graduate Student Council

- Membership is increasing
- Ms. Henking asked about a website for Graduate Student Council
 - Provost Aswath was able to give her some contact information
 - Dr. Mauldin asked that Ms. Henking share the graduate student newsletter with her, so that she could post it to the School of Social Work leadership program
 - Dr. Grover also requested that his office receive a copy, so that he could post it

VII. Old Business

1. Committee on Program Creation

- i. Certificate in Business Analytics from the College of Business was approved
- ii. From the School of Social Work—3 program certificates were approved last meeting, pending some clarification in the wording
 1. The clarifications had been previously sent to all members of the committee and they approved the wording revisions

2. The full committee approved:
 - a. Certificate in Policy Leadership [School of Social Work]
 - b. Certificate in Organizational Leadership [School of Social Work]
 - c. Certificate in Community Leadership [School of Social Work]

VIII. New Business

1. Committee on Graduate Students—Dr. Matthew Brothers
 - i. At our last meeting, Dr. Grover submitted concerns/comments/issues for graduate school going forward and these were submitted to Dr. Brothers and this committee
 1. Issues from Dr. Grover:
 - a. Assess the impact of CoVid-19 on graduate students—status, progress, recruitment, and support of the under-represented groups that are in graduate school**
 - b. Survey Graduate Students—much like what is done in undergraduate programs here at UTA*
 - c. Evaluate how we can support our graduate students going forward
 - d. Flexibility/Changes to admission due to CoVid-19***
 - ii. The committee recommended that Issue B, be addressed through the Institutional Effectiveness Office—a survey of graduate students will require that the tool used for undergraduate students be altered, and then initiated for all graduate students
 1. Dr. Bahram Khalili volunteered to work on this endeavor, along with Dr. Joe Jackson and Dr. Grover
 - iii. The committee recommended that Issue A, be address next
 1. Dr. Panos Shiakolas volunteered to work with the committee on this endeavor
 - iv. The committee recommended than Issue D be addressed 3rd
 1. There was some short discussion related to Duolingo or other English proficiency options for GTAs and ITAs and GRE requirement or waiving this going forward—again this will be further address by Dr. Grover’s office and Dr. Brothers’ committee
2. Committee on Program Revision—Dr. Jared Kenworthy
 - i. Revision of Certificates submitted from the College of Engineering
 1. Certificate in Big Data Management
 2. Certificate in Cybersecurity and Privacy
 3. Certificate in Artificial Intelligence
 4. Certificate in Deep Learning
 5. Certificate in Unmanned Vehicle Systems
 - ii. The College of Engineering would like to alter the pre-existing certificates in order to attract working professionals—would do not feel the need to return to university to obtain another degree
 1. Dr. Kenworthy and the Committee on Program Revision had questions around one course—CSE 5300—how it could be both a pre-requisite for these certificates, yet also be a component of the certificate
 2. Lengthy discussion ensued
 3. Dr. Jackson suggested that these revised certificates be as follows:
 - a. For working professionals—those with CSE degrees and non-CSE degreed; 5 courses are required for each certificate; and if the

