**Graduate Assembly Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2022**

Thursday, November 3, 2022

2:30 pm

*Virtual via Teams*

**PRESIDING**: Panos Shiakolas, Chair Pro Tempore of the Graduate Assembly

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**: Panos Shiakolas, Ivonne Audirac, Philip Baiden, Shawn Christensen, Paul Componation, Chris Durham, Sophia Fantus, Leonidas Fegaras, Desiree Henderson, Subhrangsu Mandal, Patti Parker, Kathryn Pole, Catherine Robert, Terry Skantz, Christian Vazquez, Mahmut Yasar

**GUESTS ATTENDING:**  Rachel Baldridge, Scott Elbert, Perry Fuchs, Arthur Go, Scott Hanson, Nicolette Hass, Arne M Winguth, Debra J Woody

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING**: Teresa Taber Doughty, James Grover, Raymond L. Jackson, Rebecca J. Lewis, Scott D Ryan, Amber M. K. Smallwood, Kimberly Tate, Tamara Brown

**Call to Order -** The meeting of the Graduate Assembly was called to order at 2:30 pm by Panos Shiakolas, Chair Pro Tempore

**I.** **Members and Committees Introduced**

Dr. Shiakolas invited the members to introduce themselves.

* Committee members, Ex Officio members, and guests introduced themselves,

Dr. Shiakolas introduced into the record the names of the chairs of the subcommittees.

* Committee on Graduate Students — Dr. Matthew Brothers (not present today)
* Committee on Program Revision — Dr. Mahmut Yasar
* Committee on Program Creation — Dr. Terry Skantz

**II.** **Consideration of Minutes**

Minutes from October 6, 2022

Mr. Durham moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Yasar seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**III.** **Greeting and message of appreciation to the assembly members from Provost Dr. Tamara Brown**

1. **Updates from Dr. James Grover, Dean of Graduate School and Interim Vice President for Research**

* Announced a program to provide some matching grants to support visits to campus by doctoral students.
* Working on revising the program review manual and welcome comments/suggestions.

1. **Updates from Graduate Student Council, Mr. Durham**

* Graduate Student Council is holding three social events with the goal of listening to and representing students.
* Starting in the Spring 2023 semester, a graduate student lounge will be in the library.

1. **Old Business**
   1. **Report from Committee on Graduate Students— Dr. Paul Componation standing in for Dr. Matthew Brothers**

Status of grade replacement and grade forgiveness proposal for graduate students: modeled after the undergraduate grade forgiveness policy.

* The committee suggests that the policy be a university wide policy to ensure consistency across colleges.
  + - The committee suggests that the policy should allow up to two grade forgiveness/replacements during a student’s graduate career at UTA, regardless of program or switching between programs. The clock in not reset upon switching programs.
    - Of note is that at UTA B.S. to Ph.D. students are treated as Master’s students for their first 30 hours. Allowing two grade replacements during one’s first 30 hours works for both MS and BS-PhD students. The committee did not discuss the policy with respect to MS-PhD students.
    - A grade replacement form would need to be filled out and signed by the advisor, and submitted to the university so records could be updated.
    - Undecided if students could use the two grade replacements on a single course.
* Dr. Mendal initiated a discussion positing that grade forgiveness just delays the letting go of weak students.
* Dr. Componation, Dr. Aswath, and Mr. Durham mentioned that the university considers a C a passing grade. Getting too many C grades makes a student fall below 3.0 and onto academic probation.
* Dr. Kilpatrick asked if a department could opt out of the grade replacement policy, either across the board or for not allowing grade replacement on a particular course.
  + - Dr. Componation replied that the committee discussed the issue and did not come to consensus. Dr. Aswath stated that it is important, equity wise, to remain consistent across the institution.
    - Dr. Aswath was unsure if any accreditation issues arise from not being consistent. Dr. Kilpatric stated some courses serve as prerequisites for the next courses in a series. These prerequisite courses are only offered once a year. A failing student would not be allowed to take the next courses in the series and that would leave a student lacking suitable courses to take. The timing of the course thus makes grade replacement problematic. It is unclear if allowing grade replacement is compatible with timely progression through a program and graduation.
    - After some discussion with Dr. Aswath and Dr. Componation, Dr. Shiakolas suggested that Dr. Kilpatrick joins the committee on graduate students during their deliberations on grade forgiveness. Dr. Componation agreed that this would be a good idea.
    - Dr. Robert stated that it would be best if the students with a failing grade/academic probation be required to meet with their academic advisor to make a recovery plan. Dr. Robert was also worried about keeping weak students. Dr. Aswath agreed about meeting with an advisor and stated that an academic advisor signature is required. Dr. Parker stated that most of their students on academic probation are not D/F students but rather students that got too many Cs.
  1. **Report from Committee on Program Creation: Dr. Terrance Skantz**

University of Dallas and UTA 4+1 MSEE Fast Track Program (College of Engineering)

* **Marketing Department: MSRR Fast Track**
  + - Dr. Scott, Dr. Hanson, and Dr. Shiakolas discussed clarification on to what extent undergraduate courses from other institutions could be transferred in and used in the fast track. UTA policy is that fast track courses must be taken at UTA. If a student has taken a required course at another institution the student would not need to take the course, but another course of the fast-track advisor's choosing would be taken instead.
    - Dr. Hanson moved that deliberations end and a vote be taken to approve the fast-track program. Mr. Durham seconded.
    - Vote results: 15 in favor of accepting the fast-track program, 1 abstention, 0 against. Fast-track program is accepted.
* **Master of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology (College of Science)**
  + - Dr. Skantz stated that the committee on program creation had voted to recommend that the proposal be approved.
    - Dr. Yasar motioned that the recommendation be approved. Dr. Shiakolas seconded the motion.
    - Dr. Hass (representing Psychology and the MS IOP proposed program) clarified how the internship portion of the degree works and answered related questions: The department has mechanisms to ensure that students can fulfill their internship requirement. The internship has been part of the pre-existing program for 15 years without internship issues.
    - Vote initiated by Dr. Shiakolas.
    - Vote results: 17 in favor of accepting the degree program, 0 abstentions, 0 against.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Report from Committee on Program Creation: Dr. Terrance Skantz**
      1. Earth and Environmental Sciences: BS Geology to MS EES Fast Track, (2) BS Environmental ES to MS EES Fast Track.

* Dr. Skantz states that the Committee on Program Creation had no objection to either fast-track program and recommends adoption of the two programs.
* Dr. Shiakolas asked for a motion to discuss. Dr. Skantz motioned and Dr Shiakolas seconded.
* Dr. Smallwood asked for confirmation that the programs would adhere to the 3.3 GPA rule for fast-track eligibility. Dr. Winguth confirmed that the programs would adhere to the 3.3 GPA standard and has 14 hours of screening courses.
* Dr. Shiakolas called for a vote.
* Vote results: 17 in favor of accepting the fast-track programs, 0 abstentions, 0 against.
  + 1. Social work: Doctorate in Social Work.
* Dr. Skantz states that the Committee on Program Creation did not get a chance to discuss or vote on this doctoral program due to human error.
* Dr. Ryan (Social work representative) fielded questions about the doctoral program including if there is overlap with other area doctoral programs. Answer: no or minimal local overlap.
* Dr. Grover proposed that we allow time for the members of the program Creation Committee and the Assembly voting members to look at the supporting documents but also plan to hold a Graduate Assembly vote by e-mail after several weeks.
* Dr. Shiakolas proposed we give the Assembly voting members a week or two to read over the doctoral program materials and to ask the Program Creation Committee questions if needed. Assembly voting members will be asked to vote by e-mail or electronic poll the first week of December.
* Vote for approval of the Doctorate in Social Work program was taken by electronic poll (Microsoft Forms administered by Drs. Christensen, Shiakolas, and Skantz): 17 approved, 0 Opposed, 1 Abstained. The program was approved.
  1. **Report from Committee on Program Revision: Dr. Mahmut Yasar**
     1. Lowering GPA requirements for Fast Track BS-MS Programs for Earth and Environmental Sciences (file available on Teams).
* The issue was resolved. The Earth and Environmental Sciences program will adhere to UTA’s 3.3 GPA rules.
* Dr. Aswath and others provided additional discussions and clarifications as to why the 3.3 is the benchmark.

1. **Adjournment**

* Dr. Shiakolas asked for a motion to adjourn.
* Dr. Christensen motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shiakolas.
* The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

**Teams Meeting:**

* Chat feature should be used for questions or comments during the meeting.
* The Master of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology document is available in the Graduate Assembly’s meetings files in Teams.

**Meeting Minutes Submitted by GA Secretary:** Dr. Shawn Christensen