**Graduate Assembly Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2023**

Thursday, April 6, 2023

2:30 pm

*Virtual via msTeams*

**PRESIDING**: Kathryn Pole, Chair of the Graduate Assembly

**MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Kathryn Pole, Ivonne Audirac, Philip Baiden, Matthew Brothers, Dennis Chiessa, Shawn Christensen, Paul Componation, Chris Durham, Sophia Fantus, Leonidas Fegaras, Desiree Henderson, Jiyoon Yoon, David Jorgensen, Subhra Mandal, Jacqueline Michael, Patti Parker, Catherine Robert, Panos Shiakolas, Terry Skantz, Mahmut Yasar, Jie (Jennifer) Zhang

**GUESTS ATTENDING:** Laura Kunkel, Arthur Gonzalez

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Casey Brown, Tamara Brown, James Grover, Raymond (Joe) Jackson, Amber Smallwood, Kimberly Tate

**Call to Order -** The meeting of the Graduate Assembly was called to order at 2:30 pm by Kathryn Pole, Chair

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

Dr. Pole invited the members to introduce themselves.

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

For the record the names of the chairs of the subcommittees are:

* Committee on Graduate Students — Dr. Matthew Brothers
* Committee on Program Revision — Dr. Mahmut Yasar
* Committee on Program Creation — Dr. Terry Skantz

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

Minutes from February 2, 2023

Dr. Panos Shiakolas moved to approve the minutes pending fixing a few typographical errors. Dr. Roberts seconded the motion. Dr. Christensen fixed several typos as the voting was ongoing. 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**

* Almost done selecting awardees for the new scholarship for master students. The scholarship is being funded by the Department of Education through a grant that was awarded late last year and is part of an initiative that the Department of Education has to improve the numbers and success of Hispanic master students.
  + - given our institutional characteristics we have great opportunities to become a leader in training, graduating, and improving representation of Hispanics in the professions that require graduate degrees.
* There will eventually be a graduate student center with a lot of resources and professional development programming available. There will be more to say about that as we get into the work of building all that programming.

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

* The Graduate Student Council is having brunch with the Dean on April 28th from 11:30 to 1:00, If anybody would like to participate.
* The Graduate Student Lounge (Library 521) is now open. We will be getting new furniture soon.
* We are at the end of my term as president of the student council, it's been great serving.

1. **Old Business**
   1. **Report from Committee on Graduate Students: Dr. Matthew Brothers**

* **Grade Forgiveness proposal for graduate students.** Final proposal posted to Grad Assembly Team > General > Files > April 2023 Documents. **Are there any questions prior to voting?**
  + - Dr. Tamara Brown asked about the terminology of grade forgiveness as opposed to grade replacement.
      * Dr Tate responded that the wording comes from the historical wording used at UTA for the existing similarly titled undergrade policy.
    - Dr. Fegaras inquired about the procedure for international students and the wording that international students should seek guidance from international office.
      * Dr. Brothers stated that the guidance is to encourage the student to check in with the international so that there are not unintended visa issues that the graduate advisor and student were not aware of. The policy is to protect us and the students.
      * Dr. Jackson stated that If the original grade was a D or F, then the situation is essentially the same as prior to the forgiveness policy. The student would need to retake the course (same or different) to get a passing grade in order to make progress in their degree. Classes taken must be in furtherance of the degree. Dr. Jackson suggests that the international office might give some thought to retaking a C and how, if needed, to advise students.
      * Dr. Componation posits that if the original grade was a C and the student is retaking the course because of being on academic probation, then, the retake is in furtherance of the degree.
    - Dr. Fegaras and Dr Michael asked if departments that currently have policies that one cannot retake a course, do they have to change their rules? For example, what happens if the department considers the course a predictor of future success.
      * Dr. Brothers and Dr. Jackson responded that the grade forgiveness policy will become a university policy. Departments/programs will not be able to opt in/out or change the grade forgiveness policy. Unforeseen exceptions can be handled on a case-by-case basis through petitions. In addition, the policy can always be reviewed and revised in the future.
      * Dr. Jackson stated that one way to look at this, if you have a litmus type course which you think is strongly predictive of future success, the department could look at their definition of adequate academic progress. If that litmus course defines a failure to make adequate academic progress in the program, then failure in that course could result in the student’s dismissal from the program. This line of thought would be one way of handling the situation.
    - If approved, the policy will become effective in Fall 2023.
    - Dr. Shiakolas motioned for approval of the grade forgiveness proposal as written. Dr. Componation seconded the motion.
    - **Vote taken** via msForms with some email votes: **Approved**.
      * **20 approved, 1 opposed, 0 abstained**
  1. **Report from Committee on Program Creation: Dr. Laura Kunkel filling in for Dr. Terrance Skantz.**
* **BS Exercise Science to MS in Athletic Training 3+2.** Final Proposal posted to Grad Assembly Team > General > Files > April 2023 Documents. **Are there any questions prior to voting? Dr. Laura Kunkel will be fielding questions.**
  + - Dr. Panos Shiakolas inquired about a possible typographical error and asked for clarification on GPA rules for entry into the program and its deviation from the uta 4+2 programs.
      * Dr Kunkel replied that students need to have a cumulative GPA of C or better (like the 4 + 2 programs), but the Exercise Science 3+2 program students will also need to earn a ≥ 3.3 combined GPA in the prerequisite courses (unlike the typical 4 + 2 students).
    - Motion to vote. Seconded
    - **Vote taken** via msForms: **Approved**
      * **19 Approved, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained**
  1. **Report from Committee on Program Revision: Dr. Mahmut Yasar**
* **Health Care Administration (HCAD) Graduate Certificate Program.**
  + - Description of current program and proposed changes.
      * The current program allows students to choose three courses from 4 electives. The proposed amended program will allow the students to choose 3 courses from 13 electives. The committee wanted to make sure that this change is not substantive.
    - A finalized revised program document to be voted on is located in the files section of teams.
    - Opened for questions.
      * Dr. Robert asked for clarification of course content and overlap between courses. Are the courses unique enough to keep students from essentially taking the same content multiple times and the toll on advisors if advisors need to oversee if students are taking classes of too similar content.
      * Dr. Gonzalez states that the syllabi are available and that the chair of the department is not concerned because the number of classes with significant overlap is currently manageable. But one will need to continue to reassess the situation as time goes on.
      * Dr. Shiakolas suggested that a list of duplicates be generated and given to students and advisors.
      * Dr. Smallwood states that it is Dr. Jackson’s, in consultation with others, that the changes to the program are not significant and thus do not need outside approval.
    - Motion to vote. Seconded.
    - Vote taken by msForms: **Approved**.
      * **18 Approved, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained**

1. **New Business**
   1. Report from Committee on Graduate Students: Dr. Matthew Brothers
      1. No new business
   2. **Report from Committee on Program Creation: Dr. Terrance Skantz**
      1. No new business
   3. **Report from Committee on Program Revision: Dr. Mahmut Yasar**
      1. No new business.
   4. **Report Graduate Student Council: Mr. Chris Durham**
      1. Mr. Durham proposed the idea of a Graduate Fresh Start modeled somewhat after the undergraduate Fresh Start program where an academic history can be expunged under certain conditions.

* A document with the Graduate Students Council’s brainstorming ideas is in the files section of the Team.
  + - * Mr Durham summarized the document and ideas contained therein.
* After a small discussion, Dr. Pole suggested that the proposal be worked on and sent to the creation committee for consideration next year.

1. **Adjournment**

* Dr. Pole asked for a motion to adjourn.
* Dr. Shiakolas motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christensen and Mr. Durham.
* The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

**Teams Meeting:**

* Chat feature should be used for questions or comments during the meeting.
* Votes are taken using msForms. Links to the forms are supplied within the meeting chat feature.

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