**Graduate Assembly Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2023**

Thursday, February 2, 2023

2:30 pm

*Virtual via Teams*

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

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**: Panos Shiakolas, Philip Baiden, Matthew Brothers, Dennis Chiessa, Shawn Christensen, Paul Componation, Chris Durham, Leonidas Fegaras, Desiree Henderson, David Jorgensen, Cynthia Kilpatrick, Jacqueline Michael, Patti Parker, Linda Perrotti, Kathryn Pole, Catherine Robert, Terry Skantz, Mahmut Yasar

**GUESTS ATTENDING:**

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING**: Teresa T. Doughty, James Grover, Rebecca J. Lewis, 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
* Committee on Program Revision — Dr. Mahmut Yasar
* Committee on Program Creation — Dr. Terry Skantz

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

Minutes from November 3, 2022

Dr. Catherine Robert 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**

* Notice that graduate enrollment in down a little bit
* Reminder that the Graduate School provides some matching grants to support visits to campus by doctoral students.
* Reminder that Maverick Merit and Maverick Bridge fellowships are intended for incoming graduate students and can be used as a recruiting tool.
* Graduate students can apply for federal grants and last year we ran workshops for students interested in writing competitive grant applications. There are some initial indications of success. We plan to continue these workshops.
* We have restarted travel grants after a hiatus for the pandemic.
* We have dissertation enhancement grants for graduate students.
* Please remind your departments and graduate programs about the availability of the Graduate School resources. One can find these resources on the Graduate School website.

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

* Graduate Student Council conducted a poll related to GTA and GTA Pay. Participation was lower than hoped for, but overwhelmingly students were concerned about health care costs and wanted health insurance covered.
* Starting in the Fall 2023 semester, a graduate student lounge will be in the library.

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

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

* Dr Brother’s provided a recap of the proposed policy.
  + - The policy would allow two grade forgiveness/replacements during a Master student’s graduate career at UTA, regardless of program or switching between programs. The clock in not reset upon switching programs.
    - 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.
    - Could use the two grade replacements on different courses or on a single course.
* Discussion on if C grades can be replaced: The consensus being that it is useful to replace C grades. A fair number of students that fall below a 3.0 GPA do so by getting several C grades as opposed to getting a singular failing grade.
* Dr. Dennis Chiessa asked if a different but very similar course could be used as the replacement course and grade.
* Dr. Kimberly Tate initiated a discussion on if on retake a class and they scored worse. Consensus is that students could choose the higher grade. This would include if the original grade was a D and the retake grade was an F.
* Drs. Componation, Brothers, Aswath, Chiessa, and Shiakolas discussed if the policy should state number of credit hours allowed to be replaced or is “two courses” regardless of what the credit hours are for those two courses. More thought needed, but folks are leaning toward two courses regardless of credit hours, which would be a difference from the undergraduate policy.
* Drs. Henderson, Parker, Shiakolas, Christensen, Tate, and Grover asked and discussed if there were a mechanism like the Acedemic Fresh Start program for undergraduates that wipes out a previous failed attempt at a university degree (due to extremely poor GPA). Graduate students are not eligible for the Acedemic Fresh Start program (undergraduate only). Dr Grover stated that perhaps, on a case-by-case basis, something could be done via petitions for extra time to fix overall GPA issues (from a prior failed degree program). It was requested that links to the undergraduate fresh start program be put into the minutes.
  + - * <https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._educ._code_section_51.931>
      * <https://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/admissions/undergraduate/>
  1. **Report from Committee on Program Creation: Dr. Terrance Skantz**
* **Not much to report so we will put off any discussions to a later date.**
  1. **Report from Committee on Program Revision: Dr. Mahmut Yasar**
* **Grade of B indication of exceptional student for Fast Track**
  + - At other institutions, the convention is 3.3 or higher, and in most cases it's 3.5 or higher for the GPA requirement.
    - Drs Lewis and Smallwood asked for clarification if there was a formal proposal or if this is an informal general discussion. Others gave the history of how the subject came up, but all agreed that there is no longer a formal proposal tied to the subject and that the subject will be treated as a general discussion.
    - Dr Lewis: At UTA there's often multiple GPA's that are used. There is an overall GPA and then there is a GPA for what some programs refer to as foundational courses or “in the last certain number of hours”.
      * So when we're talking about a 3.0 versus a 3.3 as a minimum in a Fast Track at UTA it is for an overall GPA.
      * But for the foundational courses or those “in the last so many hours” that they've taken the minimum is 3.3 or 3.5 with one exception of 3.25.
    - Dr. Lewis showed a table summarizing UTA’s various fast track programs and their requirements.

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.



1. **Adjournment**

* Dr. Shiakolas asked for a motion to adjourn.
* Dr. Michael motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shiakolas.
* The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 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