**Graduate Assembly Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2024**

Thursday, April 1, 2024

2:30 pm

*Virtual via msTeams*

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

**MEMBERS ATTENDING (voting):** Drs. David Arditti, Philip Baiden, Shawn Christensen, Paul Componation, Sophia Fantus, Leonidas Fegaras, John Garrigus, Robin Jocius\*, David Jorgensen, Donald Mcconnell, Jacqueline Michael, Patti Parker, Kathryn Pole, Panos Shiakolas, Jiwon Suh, Christian Vasquez; Mr. Chris Durham.

\*Dr. Robin Jocius was a voting member, but now has a new job as associate dean of academic affairs: not sure if voting member, guest, or ex officio.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING (non-voting):** Frank Foss, Raymond (Joe) Jackson, Rebecca Lewis, Kimberly Tate.

**GUESTS ATTENDING (non-voting):** Drs. Candice Calhoun-Butts, Mark Cooper, Ann Eckhardt, Mahmoud Jawad.

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Call to order**
   1. The meeting of the Graduate Assembly was called to order at 2:30 pm by Kathryn Pole, Chair
2. **Members and Committees Introduced.** 
   1. Dr. Pole invited the members to introduce themselves.
      1. Committee members, ex officio members, and guests introduced themselves
   2. For the record the names of the chairs of the subcommittees are
      1. Committee on Graduate Students — Dr. Matthew Brothers
      2. Committee on Program Creation — Dr. Subhra Mandal. Note: Dr Mandal
      3. Committee on Program Revision — Dr. Patti Parker
3. **Consideration of Minutes**
   1. Dr Christensen states that as the minutes from November 2023 were not voted on last in February, we will need to vote on both November 2023 and February 2024 minutes.
      1. Motion to approve both November and February minutes.
      2. Vote taken: Approved (15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain).
4. **Greeting and message of appreciation to the assembly members from Provost Dr. Tamara Brown**
   1. Not present.
5. **Updates from Dr. James Grover, Dean of Graduate School and Interim Vice President for Research**
   1. Dr. Jackson (present) speaking for Dr. Grover (not present). Dr. Grover sends his regrets that he could not attend. There is no updates from the graduate school at this time.
6. **Updates from Graduate Student Council, Mr. Durham**
   1. Graduate Student Council is having elections this month. I am finishing up my MBA and my time as president of the student council. I have enjoyed my time here.
7. Old Business
   1. Report from Committee on Program Creation: Dr Subhra Mandal.
      1. No Old Business.
   2. Report from Committee on Graduate Students: Dr. Matthew Brothers
      1. The idea of a Fresh Start for graduate students, which we have talked about several times, has been shelved for now. We need more time to think about if such a policy is needed as the new grade forgiveness policy seems to go a long towards giving students an avenue to recover from a poor grade(s).
   3. Report from Committee on Program Revision: Dr. Patti Parker
      1. No Old Business.
8. New Business
   1. **Report from Committee on Program Creation: Drs. Shawn Christensen, Frank Foss, and guests standing in for Dr. Subhra Mandal**
      1. Fast-Track Proposal BSN to MSN from CONHI
         1. Dr. Christensen shared Dr. Mandal’s meeting notes on the proposal and the submitted BSN to MSN proposal from CONHI.
         2. Dr. Candice Calhoun-Butts, from CONHI, introduced the BSN to MSN proposal
            * The MSN program has 10 specialty tracks.
            * The current RN to MSN program only gives access to only three (administration, education, and family nurse practitioner) of the 10 specialty tracks. The proposal that we have here today is to expand the RN to MSN program to include the other MSN specialty tracks.
         3. Motion to approve, motion carried, vote to approve held on msForms,
            * Vote: Approved (16 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain)
      2. Applied Statistics Data Science (ASDS) Fast Track BS to MS.
         1. Dr. Christensen shared Dr. Mandal’s meeting notes on the proposal and the submitted Applied Statistics Data Science Fast Track BS to MS ASDS proposal.
         2. Drs. Frank Foss and Mahmoud Jawad introduced the BS to MS ASDS proposal
            * The Fast Track program offers senior undergraduate Data Science (BS DS) students the chance to fulfill the prerequisites leading to a Master of Science in Applied Statistics and Data Science (MS ASDS) while concurrently working towards their bachelor's degrees. This program is specifically designed to support our exceptionally talented students in attaining an MS ASDS degree from the College of Science, University of Texas at Arlington. It is structured to provide financial and time-saving incentives. Additionally, we aspire for this program to cultivate a bond with these students, increasing the likelihood that they will persist in their academic pursuits and pursue doctoral degrees in Statistics and Data Science.
            * Data Science is an increasingly popular degree in the US and internationally. This proposal is going to allow UTA to recruit from students better and to bridge the gap between undergraduate and graduate programs.
            * Includes a capstone research project requirement.

Several questions were fielded with respect to the capstone requirement. The capstone projects are done during the summer and there is enough TT and NTT professors to accommodate the capstone project requirements. Student can also fulfill part of their capstone project requirements through an internship. UTA analytics has also offered to provide several internships.

* + - * + Several questions were fielded on how this program differs from the MS in Engineering. It was determined that the two programs were synergistic and catered to different disciplines (science vs engineering) which helps with recruiting. Prospective students will be directing to each other’s programs if we come across students that fit better in the other program.
      1. Motion to approve, motion carried, vote to approve held on msForms
         * Vote Results: Approved (14 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain).
  1. **Report from Committee on Program Revision: Dr. Patti Parker**
     1. No New Business.
  2. **Report from Committee on Graduate Students: Dr. Matthew Brothers**
     1. No New Business.

1. **Additional Items**
   1. **Elections.**
      1. Election of Chair (presided over by Dr. Joe Jackson).
         1. According to the HOP, the chair duties include presiding over the Graduate Assembly meetings, caste deciding votes as necessary, represent the graduate assembly at meetings of the Undergraduate Assembly. The Chair conducts the election of the chair Pro Tem and Secretary of the assembly. Also, in consultation with the Dean of graduate studies, the Chair appoints ad hoc committees.
         2. Call for Nominations for the position of Chair of the Assembly.
            * Dr. Shawn Christensen was nominated by Dr. Kathryn Pole.
            * No other nominations were put forward
         3. Call for motion to close nominations.
            * Motion to close by Dr. Panos Shiakolas; Motion Seconded.
            * Nominations closed.
         4. Vote held to elect the nominee, Dr. Shawn Christensen, to the position of Chair. Vote taken by msForms overseen by Dr. Robin Jocius.
            * Result: Dr. Shawn Christensen is Elected (16 votes in favor, 0 against).
      2. Election of Chair Pro Tem (presided over by Dr. Kathryn Pole).
         1. The Chair Pro Tem helps the Chair and take over the duties of the chair, as needed, when the Chair is absent.
         2. Call for Nominations for the position of Chair Pro Tem of the Assembly.
            * Dr. Patti Parker was nominated by Dr. Kathryn Pole.
            * No other nominations were put forward
         3. Call for motion to close nominations.
            * Motion to close by Mr. Chris Durham; Motion Seconded
            * Nominations closed.
         4. Vote held to elect the nominee, Dr. Patti Parker, to the position of Chair. Vote taken by msForms overseen by Dr. Robin Jocius.
            * Result: Dr. Patti Parker is Elected (12 votes in favor, 0 against).
      3. Election of Secretary (presided over by Dr. Kathryn Pole).
         1. Call for Nominations for the position of Secretary of the Assembly.
            * Dr. Jacqueline Michael was nominated by Dr. Kathryn Pole.
            * No other nominations were put forward
         2. Call for motion to close nominations.
            * Motion to close by Dr. Panos Shiakolas; Motion Seconded
            * Nominations closed.
         3. Vote held to elect the nominee, Dr. Jacqueline Michael, to the position of Chair. Vote taken by msForms overseen by Dr. Robin Jocius.
            * Result: Dr. Jacqueline Michael is Elected (12 votes in favor, 0 against).
         4. Please note that Dr. Jacqueline Michael serving as Secretary is contingent upon her currently serving her penultimate three-year appointment. If she is ending her final three-year term, then the vote will be void and we hold a new election in Fall 2024.
2. **Adjournment**
   1. **Dr. Pole asked for a motion to adjourn.**
      1. Dr. Jacqueline Michael motioned to adjourn.
      2. Dr. Panos Shiakolas seconded.
      3. Adjourned at 3:52 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