

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

October 19, 2000

The Graduate Assembly meeting of October 19, 2000 was called to order by Chair Khosrow Behbehani at 2:30 p.m. in the Palo Pinto Room, University Center.

ATTENDANCE: Members present included: K. Behbehani, R. Buttimer, N. Cobb for M. Barrett, J. Cornehl, D. Gray, S. Grove, J. Grover, C. Funkhouser, C. Jordan, J. Matthys, S. Payne, B. Wright, and M. Yardley

D. Cook, E. Gerloff and R. Mellgren were not in attendance.

Ex Officio members present: K. McDowell, P. Cohen, T. Wilding and Graduate Student Council Representative Kristen Lunden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April 13, 2000 meeting were approved as published.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ELECTION OF SECRETARY: J. Cornehl was elected Secretary of the Graduate Assembly. He will serve a two-year term ending in 2002.

REPORT OF THE DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

K. McDowell introduced himself as the new Dean of the Graduate School and Phil Cohen as Associate Dean. He stated that they are reviewing rules and policies of the Graduate School and may be bringing some issues to the Assembly for discussion and review. These will be mostly procedurally based.

He also reintroduced the issue of incomplete grades. His recommendation is to change the grade to a permanent incomplete at the end of the next long semester and to remove the rule that says students cannot graduate with an incomplete grade. He requested that the Committee on Graduate Students reexamine this. A motion was made and seconded to send this issue back to the committee. The motion passed.

K. McDowell also recommended deleting the associate graduate faculty membership designation. This issue has been assigned to the Committee on Program Policy and it is currently under review.

K. McDowell stated that a report prepared by Karl Petruso addressing certificate programs would be provided to the members of the Graduate Assembly and forwarded to the Committee on Program Policy for review. Members were asked to send their comments to Dr. Grove (grove@uta.edu).

Data regarding fellowships awarded for 2000-2001 was distributed. Information concerning Fall 2001 fellowships will be announced after a review of fellowship funding.

K. McDowell reported that an on-line application system is forthcoming and that electronic data base systems are still being reviewed.

P. Cohen discussed the process for review of theses and dissertations. This is now a labor intensive and costly process. He would like to form an Ad hoc committee to review these policies and procedures. Suggested composition of this committee would include P. Cohen, D. Myrick (non-voting), Dr. James Grover (member of Committee on Graduate Students), a representative from the Library and Graduate Student Council Representative Kristen Lunden. The estimated time of review is one year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Graduate Students:

Chair J. Matthys reported on following issues.

Page 29 of the UTA Graduate Catalog reads: “Students are eligible to take the comprehensive examination after giving evidence to their doctoral committee of adequate academic achievement by having completed all or most course work requirements and by having met the language or language substitute regulation if required in the degree program”.

On the graduate school’s form “Request for The Comprehensive Examination” it states:

“...has completed the formal course work as required...”

The Committee believes the wording in the catalog is intended to give the student and program flexibility – Example – it is very common that a student may be enrolled in the last semester during which the student takes the comprehensive exam. The student’s committee has control over when the student takes the exam. Based on the result of the exam the student committee may require additional formal course work.

It is the Committee’s recommendation that the wording on the “Request for The Comprehensive Examination Form” be changed as follows:

“...has completed all or most of the formal course work...”

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A motion was made for approval. Motion passed.

The Committee also agreed with the need to review the current thesis and dissertation process. J. Grover was elected to serve on the Ad hoc committee, as indicated earlier.

Recommendation on the foreign language requirement was deferred until the November 16th meeting.

Committee on Program Policy:

Chair S. Grove reported committee recommendations regarding the following degree proposals.

BA or BS in Psychology and Master of Business Administration – approval recommended. A motion was made and seconded for approval. The motion passed.

BA or BS and Master of Psychology with Industrial/Organizational Emphasis – approval recommended with minor revisions. A motion was made and seconded for approval. The motion passed.

Non-Thesis Masters Degree in Psychology, with emphasis in Industrial/Organizational Psychology – approval recommended with minor revisions. A motion was made and seconded for approval. The motion passed.

BA in Psychology and Masters of Health Care Administration – approval recommended. A motion was made and seconded for approval. The motion passed.

Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience – approval recommended. A motion was made and seconded for approval. The motion passed.

Master of Education in Counseling – tabled until the November 16 meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

K. Behbehani introduced himself as the incoming chair of the assembly. He briefly discussed the importance of approving certificate programs. He stated that these programs enhance the visibility of UTA and therefore, potentially increase enrollment.

REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Kristin Lunden introduced herself as representative and reported that vigorous work is in progress to revive the Graduate Student Council which had some membership problems last year.

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NEW BUSINESS

The suggestion was made that all announcements, agendas, minutes, etc. for the Graduate Assembly be sent electronically. K. Behbehani stated that every effort will be made to send these electronically. Work is also in progress to get the minutes on the web.

K. Behbehani suggested that the new version of the Power Systems degree proposal be submitted to the Committee on Program Policy for review. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Secretary