

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

October 11, 2001

The Graduate Assembly meeting of October 11, 2001 was called to order by Chair K. Behbehani at 2:30 p.m. in the Palo Pinto Room, University Center. Chair Behbehani asked for a moment of silence in observance of the World Trade Center tragedy.

ATTENDANCE: Members present included: K. Behbehani, R. Buttimer, M. Dunn, C. Funkhouser, D. Gray, J. Grover, S. Hekman, C. Jordan, J. Matthys, S. Payne and M. Yardley

M. Barrett, J. Cornehl, J. Matthys, and R. Mellgren were not in attendance.

Ex Officio members present: P. Cohen, T. Wilding
Associate Dean Jackson was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April 19, 2001 meeting were approved as published.

REPORT OF THE GRADUATE DEAN:

A) P. Cohen reported that fall enrollment would have increased significantly if DISD had not cancelled their program. Consequently, enrollment is about the same as fall 2000. He also stated that there was a surge in masters degrees conferred and a modest increase in Ph.D. degrees.

B) P. Cohen also requested the Assembly to consider the following change in the current policy regarding the grade of "C" and Programs of Work.

Current Graduate School policy allows regularly enrolled graduate students to apply courses in which a grade of "C" was earned to their programs of work. Other than maintaining a "B" average, no other factors restrain the use of "C" grades. Thus a graduate student's program of work may include courses in which a "C" was earned as long as an "A" to maintain the "B" average needed to earn a graduate degree balances each "C".

Undergraduate, degreed undergraduates and special students who earn "C's" in graduate courses, however, cannot apply these courses to their programs of work when they subsequently enroll as graduate students. This policy seems unfair and inconsistent. It is unfair because it allows regularly enrolled graduate students to include courses with "C" grades in a program of work but does not allow students who earned "C" grades in graduate courses before they were regularly enrolled to do so as well. The policy is inconsistent because it allows courses in which "C's"

were earned to affect a student's graduate GPA but prohibits students from including these courses in a program of work even if the student has an overall GPA of 3.0.

Specifically, Dr. Cohen proposed that the rule for "C" grades earned by regularly enrolled graduate students also apply to "C" grades earned by degreed undergraduates, undergraduates and special students. After some discussion, this issue was sent to the Committee on Graduate Students for review.

C) The Dean reported that the Office of Information Technology would be very involved with improving admission processes in an effort to increase enrollment and student services. A secure web site will be established where a student can check his status during the admission process. E-mail notifications to students regarding their admission will also be added as well as on-line applications.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Graduate Students

Committee recommendation on four items submitted by the Graduate School are listed below:

A) Changes in the use of GRE and GMAT tests in the admissions process that allows Graduate Studies Committees of a graduate program to determine satisfactory scores for unconditional and probationary admission, proposing these to the Graduate Dean for review and approval, and publishing these approved satisfactory scores in its own recruiting and admissions materials. The Graduate School would publish these approved scores in its recruiting and admissions materials and possibly in the catalog.

The committee recommended approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change. The motion passed.

B) Adopt a new policy that allows the Graduate Studies Committee of a graduate program to propose to the Graduate Dean a detailed plan for using standardized tests in its admissions process.

The committee recommended approval with a required review in four years. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change. The motion passed.

Amended to review in five years.

C) Increase the number of transferable hours for graduate students in our master's programs over the current limit of 9 hours. A 36 hour program would allow 9 transfer hours and a 48 hour program would allow 12 transfer hours.

The committee recommended approval with approval by the Graduate Studies Committee of each unit. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

The committee recommended approval with the following added verbiage.

This does not invalidate prior written or preexisting agreements.

The motion passed.

D) Revision of our maximum undergraduate credit policy that states “No more than nine hours of advanced baccalaureate course work (***not used as credit for another degree***) may be used for graduate degree credit. Such work may be applied to a graduate degree program only with approval of the appropriate Committee on Graduate Studies and the Graduate Dean.”

Revision: To allow these undergraduate hours to be either from UTA or another institution with the approval of the appropriate Committee on Graduate Studies and the Graduate Dean. If the undergraduate courses were from another institution, our normal criteria for allowable transfer courses would apply. These hours cannot have been used toward a prior degree.

The committee recommended approval with the following notation.

Note: There are no SACS, Coordinating Board, or UT System policies that would prevent us from adopting these policies.

A motion was made to approve. The motion passed.

Committee on Program Policy

The committee recommended approval of the following proposals.

Master of Arts in Modern Languages, with Concentration in Dual Language Competence
Dual Degree Proposal – M.S. in Health Care Administration and MS in Nursing

A motion was made and seconded to approve these proposals. The motion passed.

Note: Two certificate programs from SUPA will be sent to Assembly after review by the Committee on Program Policy on October 16. Votes should be sent electronically.

- 1) Graduate Certificate in Development Review***
- 2) Graduate Certificate in Law and Public Policy***

Committee on Program Review

The Assembly considered an issue brought forward by the Graduate Studies Committee of the COBA Doctoral Program. Their proposal is to amend graduate faculty membership rules to allow a scholar from another university to serve as one of the five voting members of a Ph.D. dissertation committee. The outside scholar would only serve on a dissertation committee and

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he/she must be nominated/recommended by the doctoral graduate studies committee to the Dean of the Graduate School. Appropriate documentation should accompany the nomination. The Dean of the Graduate School would have final approval of these nominations.

Amendment: Initiate a similar policy change for Master's Theses Committees.

Motion was made and seconded. The motion passed. ***Note: Dean Cohen emphasized that this requires a revision to the Handbook of Operating Procedures and must be approved by UT System.***

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

K. Behbehani reported that D. Cook is on leave this year. J. Dyson will replace her as Chair of the Committee on Program Review.

REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

No representative present.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Secretary