

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

November 15, 2001

The Graduate Assembly meeting of November 15, 2001 was called to order by Chair K. Behbehani at 2:30 p.m. in the Palo Pinto Room, University Center.

ATTENDANCE: Members present included: M. Barrett, K. Behbehani, R. Buttimer, J. Cornehl, M. Dunn, J. Dyson, C. Funkhouser, D. Gray, S. Grove, J. Grover, C. Jordan, J. Matthys, M. Yardley

S. Hekman, R. Mellgren, S. Payne and B. Wright were not in attendance.

Ex Officio members present: P. Cohen, J. Jackson, T. Wilding

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October 11, 2001 meeting were approved as published.

REPORT OF THE GRADUATE DEAN: A draft version of a joint memo from the Graduate Dean and the Chair of the Graduate Assembly reviewing guidelines for Graduate Assembly approval of program creation and changes was distributed. P. Cohen stated that clarification has been requested on which proposals and/or certificate programs require the approval of the Graduate Assembly. He asked the Assembly for revisions or suggestions. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve distribution of the memo. The motion passed. The memo will be distributed to Deans, Chairs, Graduate Studies Committee Chairs and Graduate Advisors.

Dean Cohen also discussed House Bill 1641 that was recently passed. This Bill states that standardized tests such as the GRE or the GMAT may not be used in the admissions or competitive fellowship or scholarship process for a graduate or professional program as the sole criterion for consideration of the applicant. The law also states that institutions may not assign a specific weight to any one factor being considered in the admissions or competitive scholarship process. The applicant's performance must also be used to compare the applicant's test score with those of other applicants from similar socioeconomic backgrounds to the extent that those backgrounds can be properly determined and identified by the general academic teaching institution. A University Task Force has been formed to recommend policies for UTA. The Task Force will prepare an initial solution to HB 1641 by December 1, 2001.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Program Policy

a) Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Public Policy

Chair S. Grove discussed the proposed Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Public Policy degree. Since this proposal was submitted after the deadline, it will be referred to Committee for review. Dr. Cornehl, the author of the proposal and the Secretary of the Graduate Assembly, described the urgency of the consideration of the proposal. He indicated that another component of the University of Texas System is also contemplating submission of a similar proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Hence, waiting for the Graduate Assembly to vote on the proposal in its next scheduled meeting in February 2002 would jeopardize the approval of the UTA proposal. Hence, the GA members agreed to vote electronically on the recommendation of the Program Policy Committee, upon its review of the proposal.

b) Certificate in Performance – Department of Music

Committee recommended approval. Motion made to approve. The motion passed.

Committee on Graduate Students

Grades and Programs of Work – Chair J. Matthys discussed changes regarding C grades and Programs of Work. His Committee suggests the following revisions to the graduate catalog:

1. **Page 34** – Reservation of Courses for Graduate Credit.
Item 5 – Replace “only courses in which the student earns grades of A or B may be applied to a master’s degree”
with “ Courses taken at UTA reserved for graduate credit may be applied to a master’s degree program subject to the grades of scholarship conditions on page 31 of catalog”.
2. **Page 34** – Enrollment in Graduate Courses by an undergraduate student holding a Bachelor’s degree.
Item 2 – Replace “only courses in which the student earned grades of A and B may be so applied”
with “Graduate courses taken at UTA are subject to the grades of scholarship conditions on Page 31 of catalog”.
3. **Pages 44-45** – Special Students
 Replace “Credit earned-----to end of paragraph” **with:**
 “Credit earned on graduate courses taken at UTA as a special student may be applied to a degree program only with the approval of the appropriate committee on Graduate Studies and the Dean of the Graduate School. No more than nine semester hours (now 12) of work earned as a special student may be applied to a graduate degree at The University of Texas at Arlington, subject to the grades of scholarship condition on Page 31 of catalog. A grade in any course taken as a special student will be considered in computing a student’s graduate grade point average.

These changes were approved with minor revisions. (already incorporated into text above)

Committee on Program Review

No Report

REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

No representative present.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

K. Behbehani proposed a change in the role of the Graduate Assembly Committees. He explained that the Committee on Program Policy was overloaded with multiple degree proposals. He suggested that some of the proposals be routed to the Committee on Program Review. After a discussion, it was mentioned that the Handbook of Operating Procedures might have to be revised if committee structure is changed. Another suggestion was to split the committee and appoint two chairs, one for certificate programs and one for degree proposals. A motion was made and approved to have K. Behbehani investigate these issues and devise a plan for discussion at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Secretary