

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

DATE: November 6, 2003
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: San Saba – University Center
PRESIDING: Susan K. Grove, Chair

ATTENDING:

Vicky Cereijo
Rex Crick
Ernest Crosby
Mark Dunn

James Grover
Nancy Hadaway
Rebecca Hegar
David Jones

Farhad Kamangar
Gary McMahan
James Teng

EX OFFICIO Dr. Phil Cohen

Dr. Raymond Jackson

EXCUSED Marjie Barrett
Diane Cook

Susan Hekman
Charla Markham-Shaw

Robert Mellgren
Sherman Wyman

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Dr. Susan Grove, Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Ernest Crosby moved to approve the Graduate Assembly (GA) minutes from the October meeting, Dr. Gary McMahan seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Report of the Graduate Dean

Dr. Cohen made the following announcements:

- The tuition for Engineering and Nursing is being increased on a trial basis.
- A portion of the graduate tuition increases will go to financial aid to provide need based grants for students who can demonstrate need. This is for resident students only.
- Tuition increases will allow new hires and faculty/staff raises.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Graduate Students

1. *GTA/GRA Status During Academic Probation*

No Report.

B. Committee on Program Policy

1. Master of Science in Systems Engineering

Dr. James Grover reported that the Program Policy Committee had met and the members recommend approval of the Master of Science in Systems Engineering with some minor revisions, Dr. Rebecca Hegar seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. PhD in Education: Under Committee Review

Dr. James Grover stated that the Program Policy Committee will be meeting early in December to review the proposal for the PhD in Education.

C. Committee on Program Review

No Report.

V. Report of the Chair

Dr. Susan Grove thanked the members for their attendance.

VI. Report of Graduate Student Senate Representative

Dr. Susan Grove announced that she had emailed the student organization requesting the appointment of a student representative. She has not yet received a response.

VII. New Business

A. Proposal for Course Grading Change

Dr. Gary McMahan stated that the Ad Hoc Committee's first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2003. The committee members will discuss and potentially develop a proposal for changing to a plus and minus grading system in the University.

Dr. Susan Grove stated that she had asked the Graduate Studies Committee members (GSC) in Nursing about a plus and minus grading system and they were not supportive of this proposal. Dr. Grove suggested that each committee member take the idea of a plus and minus grading system to their GSC for input.

B. Brain Storming Session

Dr. Phil Cohen asked for a short brain storming session to discuss ways to improve retention and completion rates for masters and doctoral students.

Some of the suggestions were:

- Expand UTA's Research Day to include the press and potential employers. Expand the ways to recognize students' research activities.
- Graduate students need to feel that the department is as committed to them as they are to the department. Nursing has scheduled classes to promote communication among new doctoral students and hold frequent brownbag lunches with faculty and doctoral students to increase communication and promote support to doctoral students.
- Need for additional faculty to provide quality programs and chair theses and dissertations.
- Encourage students and faculty to attend dissertation defenses to expand the communication of student research projects.
- Computer Science Engineering requires students to enroll in a graduate seminar class and attend other student's dissertation presentations in order to receive a grade.
- Graduate School could work with units to develop a separate thesis/dissertation

- seminar to better assist students with this process – support more thoroughly.
- Should there be a single enhanced Thesis/Dissertation seminar to deal with mechanics or college specific ones?
 - Creating public service announcements about graduate programs
 - To develop an international recruiting plan to organize the undergraduate and graduate recruitment efforts for international students.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectively Submitted:

Sheri Decker
Administrative Assistant
School of Nursing