

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

DATE: November 11, 2004
TIME: 2:35 pm
PLACE: San Saba Room, University Center
PRESIDING: Dr. James Grover

ATTENDING: Marjie Barrett Susan Hekman
Vicky Cereijo Charla Markhan-Shaw
Farhad Kamangar Gary McMahan
Nancy Hadaway Roger Mellgren
Rebecca Hegar James Teng
Raymond Jackson and Gerald Saxon, Ex Officios

EXCUSED: Phil Cohen Rick Crick Sherman Wyman
Susan Grove

GUEST: Provost Dunn
Daniel Detz

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Dr. James Grover, Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Rebecca Hegar moved to approve the Graduate Assembly (GA) Minutes from the October meeting. The GA Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

III. Remarks of Provost Dunn

Remarks on the plus/minus grading system were shared by Provost Dunn. Dr. Dunn noted she supports the move to a plus/minus grading system. She noted discussions with the undergraduate assembly would be necessary as a grading scheme change would affect undergraduate students. Dr. Dunn made the following observations:

- The grades noted as A+ and C- will need to be explored and discussed.
- The grade of A+ is problematic since it exceeds 4.0 and presents GPA calculation problems. She expressed no reservations regarding the grade of C-.

- Encouraged a UG/GS Task Force to work in Spring '05 with reps from both Assemblies – Gary McMahan volunteered to work with the UG/GS Task Force
-
- Dr. James Grover will contact other individuals to serve on the Task Force and create a memo for consideration for student participation
 - Dr. James Grover will ask Michael George to serve on the Task Force as a non voting member
 - The task force should meet, discuss and resolve the matter in Spring 05 to allow time for implementation of any proposed changes in the new SIS.
 - Dr. Susan Hekman – Suggested polling faculty on this issue
 - It was suggested that an email comment site be established to obtain input on grading scheme from the academic community.
 - Issues regarding fairness of grading systems, College/School/faculty/student acceptance of new grading systems were briefly discussed.
 - It was suggested that any changes in the grading system should be adopted by all units.
 - Concern regarding impact on Financial aid was raised.

IV. Report of the Graduate Dean – Dr. Raymond Jackson

Dean Jackson took opportunity to thank GA members for their efforts in the Fall '04 for substantive and non-substantive proposals.

V. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Graduate Students – Dr. Marjie Barrett, Chair Proposal on admissions of Honors Students

One revision was made by committee to #3. C by adding, “with the appropriate indication of completion of Honors Program or Degree.” Item #3 C would read in full: “Senior students in their final year of studies may be granted advanced admission provisionally, with the final admission decision contingent upon successful completion of remaining work and award of the bachelor’s degree with the appropriate indication of completion of Honors Program or Degree.”

Dr. Barrett moved to approve. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Committee on Program Policy – Dr. Nancy Hadaway, Chair Masters of Science in Quantitative Finance

Dr. Nancy Hadaway presented the proposed program, Master of Science in Quantitative Finance.

Motion made by Dr. Hadaway to approve as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Committee on Program Review – Dr. Roger Mellgren, Chair

Nothing to report

VI. Report of the Chair – Dr. James Grover
Proposal on committees of the Assembly

Dr. James Grover discussed consideration to the reorganization of three committees to carry out work (see handouts). The proposed committees included:

1. Committee on Graduate Program Creation - to review proposals for new degree or certificate programs.
2. Committee on Graduate Program Revision – to review substantive and non-substantive revisions of existing degree or certificate programs.
3. Committee on Graduate Students – to review policies concerning admission, retention and other matters relating to graduate students.

Implementation of new committee roles would begin in Fall 05.

Motion made by Dr. Mellgren to accept the new committees and their roles. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. Report of the Graduate Student Council Representative

No one present to report.

VIII. New Business

None to report.

IX. Old Business

None to report.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Knight
Executive Assistant
Graduate School