

**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**DATE:** October 6, 2005  
**TIME:** 2:30 pm  
**PLACE:** San Saba – University Center  
**PRESIDING:** Dr. Nancy Hadaway, Presiding Chair for Dr. James Grover

**ATTENDING:**

Mark Cichock	Ski Hunter	Mary Schira
Vicky Cereijo	Susan Hekman	James Teng
Earnest Crosby	Farhad Kamangar	Phil Cohen, Ex Officio
Brian Fontenot	Mohan Kumar	Gerald Saxon, Ex Officio
Greg Frazier	Gary McMahon	Collins Watson, Graduate Student
Nancy Hadaway	Roger Mellgren	

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Dr. Nancy Hadaway, Presiding Chair.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the March 31, 2005 Graduate Assembly Meeting were not available for consideration.

**III. Report of the Graduate Dean**

Dr. Cohen made the following announcements:

- Introduced Mike Acosta, new Director of Graduate Recruiting
- International Student enrollment has declined; Enrollment in PhD programs has increased and master's programs have decreased
- Continuing to develop and improve international recruiting initiatives and developing cost share initiatives.
- ACES – Continues to grow and improve. Provost Office has added ACES Steering Committee as a UTA Standing Committee.
- Implementation of Peoplesoft continues as a major project for the University to development and implement while possessing challenges for the departments to do more with less labor and time.
- Discussed departments experiencing delays processing admissions applications that result in students paying admissions/readmissions fees which are expensive for the student and some instances lose quality students to competing universities.
- Discussed International Recruiting Trip to Thailand and Viet Nam and the possible cost sharing programs
- Discussed the implementation of STEM GRA's in Engineering and Science in Fall 05 noting this initiative is not extended GTA positions since funding is from internal funding and GRA's are funded externally.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. Committee on Graduate Students – Ernest Crosby, Chair**

1. Discussion of satisfactory academic standing policy for international students. The Definition of Good Academic Standing is 3.0 GPA. Office of International Education is drafting a "one time only" policy.

No Committee Report.

**B. Committee on Program Creation – Dr. Nancy Hadaway, Chair**

No Committee Report

**C. Committee on Program Revision – Dr. Roger Mellgren, Chair**

No Committee Report

**V. Report of the Chair – Dr. Hadaway for Dr. Grover**

Dr. Nancy Hadaway presented the Final Report on the UTA Task Force Investigating Plus Minus Grading. The Task Force requested submitting the report to the Undergraduate Student Congress and Graduate Student Senate for vote and commit. It was noted the UG Student Congress and the Graduate Student Senate were opposed to proposal. Several questions were raised including faculty support, impact on student receiving financial aid, impact on the complete job market and subjective grading. Also discussed was conducting a survey to determine faculty support prior to a final vote with a question and answer forum prior to the survey. Questions such as what constitutes a set standard of grading by department to avoid litigation. It was recommended that the GA read the proposal in its entirety and prepare to discuss at the November meeting. Ad Hoc Committee to present a one page summary.

**VI. Report of Graduate Student Senate Representative**

Collins Watson reported the GSS is becoming very active with 50 senators and meetings with attendance of 15 students or more. The GSS is more active and is providing support to various campus functions including Graduate Forums Week, various campus meetings and providing speakers. Currently organizing a coalition of contacts with SMU, TCU, UNT and UTD.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Plus Minus Grading Proposal**

Dr. Roger Mellgren proposed and the GA unanimously approved to submit a request to the Provost to conduct a survey of the faculty regarding the Plus Minus Grading Proposal and recommends taking into account the undergraduate and graduate student councils recommendations and resolutions.

**VII. Old Business**

Nothing to report

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectively Submitted:  
Jennifer Knight  
Executive Assistant to the Dean  
Office of Graduate Studies  
GA:F10062005