In accordance with the Handbook of Operating Procedures of The University of Texas at Austin, the Secretary submits the following report of the activities of the Graduate Assembly during the Regular Session 2018-2019. The report summarizes pages 3243 – 3252d of the Documents and Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly.

I. Membership of the Assembly

For the period covered by this report the faculty members were as follows:

Elected members with vote and their terms of office, serving 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Assembly Member</th>
<th>Graduate Studies Committee</th>
<th>Term of Office</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMIC COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Daigle</td>
<td>Petroleum &amp; Geosystems</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Dunn</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>2018-2021 (1)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Jolly</td>
<td>Nutritional Sciences</td>
<td>2018-2021 (1)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Juenger</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>2016-2019 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Limberg</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>2018-2021 (2)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Matouschek</td>
<td>Molecular Biosciences</td>
<td>2016-2019 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francisco Polidoro</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Strover</td>
<td>Radio Television Film</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Weaver, Chair</td>
<td>Public Affairs</td>
<td>2016-2019 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Worthy</td>
<td>Curriculum &amp; Instruction</td>
<td>2016-2019 (2)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hina Azam</td>
<td>Middle Eastern Studies</td>
<td>2018-2021 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Buhler</td>
<td>School of Music</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Deigh</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>2016-2019 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Frazier</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>2018-2021 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Gershoff, Chair</td>
<td>Human Dev. &amp; Family Sci.</td>
<td>2016-2019 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Golden</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hassenbein</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>2016-2019 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Hunt</td>
<td>Kinesiology &amp; Health Ed.</td>
<td>2018-2021 (1)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Mickenberg</td>
<td>American Studies</td>
<td>2018-2021 (1)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loriene Roy</td>
<td>Information Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Tasha Beretvas, Chair  Educational Psychology  2017-2020 (1)
Allan Cole  Social Work  2016-2019 (1)
Sue Cox  Dell Medical School  2017-2020 (1)
Catharine Echols  Psychiatry  2018-2021 (2)
John Hatfield  Finance  2017-2020 (1)
Michael Holleran  Architecture  2017-2020 (1)**
Wonsuck Kim  Geosciences  2018-2021 (2)
Jack Lee  Electrical & Computer Engineering  2018-2021 (1)*
Christina Markert  Physics  2018-2021 (1)*
Kavita Radhakrishnan  Nursing  2016-2019 (1)

*Newly elected/appointed members.
**New member serving out the term of a member who resigned or is on leave.

No Committee Assignment

James Cox, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Karen Rascati, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student members, with Vote

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Jennifer Follen  Information

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Samantha Fuchs  Civil Engineering

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Payton Anderson  Educational Leadership and Policy

Ex-Officio Member, with Vote

Charlotte Canning  Chair, Faculty Council
Ex-Officio Members, without Vote

Greg Fenves  President
Maurie McInnis  Executive Vice President and Provost
Mark Smith  Dean of the Graduate School and Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Daniel T. Jaffe  Vice President for Research
Michelle Addington  Dean, Architecture
Jay Bernhardt  Dean, Moody College of Communication
Lynn Crismon  Dean, Pharmacy
Doug Dempster  Dean, Fine Arts
Randy Diehl  Dean, Liberal Arts
Angela Evans  Dean, LBJ Public Affairs
Ward Farnsworth  Dean, Law School
Paul Goldbart  Dean, College of Natural Sciences
Jay Hartzell  Dean, McCombs School of Business
Clay Johnston  Dean, Dell Medical School
Charles Martinez  Dean, College of Education
Eric Meyer  Dean, School of Information
Sharon Mosher  Dean, Jackson School of Geosciences
Alexa Stuifbergen  Dean, School of Nursing
Sharon Wood  Dean, Cockrell School of Engineering
Luis Zayas  Dean, Steve Hicks School of Social Work

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers (2018-2019)

Chair:  James Cox, English
Chair-Elect:  Catherine Weaver, Public Affairs
Secretary:  Karen Rascati, Pharmacy

Meeting Dates:  September 26, 2018  March 27, 2019
                  November 14, 2018  April 24, 2019
                  February 20, 2019

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation
No major legislation was passed by the Assembly academic year 2018-2019.

Minor Legislation

- The proposal to create a Graduate Portfolio in Language Teaching and Program Coordination was approved and passed unanimously by the Academic Committee. (D&P 3244b, 9/26/18)
- The proposal to create an online (Option III) MSCS degree program was approved unanimously by the Academic Committee. (D&P 3244b, 9/26/18)
- The proposal to create a graduate portfolio in Middle Eastern Studies
was approved unanimously by the Academic Committee. (D&P 3246b, 11/14/18)

- The proposal to update Graduate School policy to require maintenance and provision of graduate student handbooks by Graduate Studies Committees was approved unanimously. (D&P 3246b, 11/14/18)

- The proposal to update Graduate School policy related to annual progress reviews of graduate students was unanimously approved with the exception of one abstention. (D&P 3246b, 11/14/18)

- The proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for select applicants to the Master of Science in Energy Management (MSEMA) self-funded (Option III) degree program was approved unanimously. (D&P 3246c, 11/14/18)

- The proposal to waive the GRE requirement for all applicants to the Michener Center for Writers’ (MCW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Writing was approved unanimously. (D&P 3246c, 11/14/18)

- The proposal to create a graduate portfolio in Health Communication was approved unanimously. (D&P 3248a, 2/20/19)

- The proposal to create an integrated program in Biomedical Engineering was unanimously approved. (D&P 3248a, 2/20/19)

- The proposal to create a Graduate Portfolio in Digital Studies was unanimously approved. (D&P 3248a, 2/20/19)

- The proposal to create a Master of Music degree with a major in Conducting was unanimously approved. (D&P 3248b, 2/20/19)

- The proposal to institute a deadline for final oral exams (dissertation defenses) that is two weeks before the final submission deadline for dissertations was approved unanimously. (D&P 3248b, 02/20/19)

- The proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirements for selective applicants to the MBA Option II (Evening & Executive) and Option III (Dallas & Houston) programs was approved unanimously. (D&P 3248c, 2/20/19)

- The proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for selective applicants to the Masters in Identity Management & Security Option III program was approved unanimously. (D&P 3248c, 2/20/19)

- The proposal to create a Master of Arts (MA) Option III degree in Design was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250b, 3/27/19)

- The proposal to establish Graduate School policy related to the graduate certificate programs was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250c, 3/27/19)

- The proposal to add an Option III tract to the Doctor of Education (Ed.D) degree in Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP) was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250c, 3/27/19)

- The proposal to create a graduate portfolio program in Integrated Behavior and Health was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250c, 3/27/19)

- The proposal to create a five-year, integrated program in Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250c, 3/27/19)

- The proposal to waive the GRE admissions test-score requirement for select applicants to the Women’s & Gender Studies BA/MA integrated-degree program was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250d, 3/27/19)
• The proposal to add a self-supported (Option III) track to the Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) degree in Petroleum Engineering was approved unanimously. (D&P 3252a, 4/24/19)

• The proposal to update the Guidelines for Option III Degree Programs was approved unanimously. (D&P 3252b, 4/24/19)

• The proposal to establish an MD/MA (Design) dual-degree program with Dell Medical School was approved unanimously. (D&P 3252b, 4/24/19)

• The proposal to lift the 50% limitation on the GRE waiver for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) - Option III program was approved unanimously. (D&P 3252c, 4/24/19)

• The proposal to waive the GRE requirement for select applicants to the Kinesiology – Option III program was approved unanimously. (D&P 3252c, 4/24/19)

• The proposal to waive the GRE requirement for select applicants to the Master of Arts (MA) self-funded (Option III) degree program in Design was approved unanimously. (D&P 3252c, 4/24/19)

Report from the Dean of the Graduate School and Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Dean Smith reported that in the well-respected Times Higher Education World University rankings, we have moved up 10 points from 49 to 39. In terms of the US institutions rankings, we are number 23, and in terms of public institutions, we are number 7.

Dean Smith also mentioned that there has been a change in contractors for the new graduate housing complex, but it is now moving forward again.

Dean Smith commented that our recruitment and admission numbers for 2018 did not change much compared to last year. Shannon Neuse will provide specific numbers with previous years’ data for comparisons.

Dean Smith discussed the need for follow-up on graduate program reviews. After the first year, the third year and the fifth year from the review, programs will complete a status update.

Dean Smith also reported that the Faculty Innovation Center (FIC) which used to report through Project 2021, now reports through the Graduate School, and Molly Hatcher will be the director. (D&P 3244a, 9/26/18)

Dean Smith reported that the Task Force for Graduate Education is working on finding permanent solutions to supporting graduate students. It will assemble innovations taking place in some departments to share and stimulate creative thoughts about the issues.

Dean Smith spoke with Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, who oversees the housing office, and she reaffirmed the goal of affordable living spaces for 5000 graduate students.
(versus 1200 currently). The building of the East Campus housing facility was delayed, but is moving along.

Dean Smith announced a new initiative called “Constrained Optimization” which assists in sifting through a large number of applications. Instead of culling down the number of applications based on one rubric (like GRE scores), different constraints can be imbedded into an algorithm for a more holistic approach to paring down the applications for further review. (D&P 3246, 11/14/18)

Dean Smith reported that applications for admissions are up 4.45% overall (about 2% domestic and 6.77% international).

Dean Smith reported on the Graduate Education Task Force. Chris Kirk and Tonya Paull will be faculty co-chairs. The objective of the committee is to look holistically at ways to support graduate education across campus, using constrained optimization, in order to come up with a strategic approach that can be sustained.

Dean Smith stated that in 2017-2018, a climate survey was conducted, and results will be released soon. Some of it may be useful to the Task Force, as it can highlight areas with the most need. He noted that the next capital campaign might provide some increased resources for graduate education. (D&P 3248, 2/20/19)

Dean Smith reported that a pilot program will be tested where PhD graduates get hooded by their major professor during the PhD graduate ceremony.

Dean Smith reported that climate survey results have been shared and the Graduate Education Task Force will be using some of the results to inform their decision making.

Dean Smith reported that UT is a member of the California Alliance (AGEP) which has a program called Science Futures Alliance, whose goal is to increase the number of underrepresented minority PhD graduates who seek faculty positions.

Dean Smith reported that applications have increased compared to last year – 5.2% overall and 7.3% for international applications. (D&P 3250, 3/27/19)

Dean Smith reported that overall graduate applications are up by 5.4% compared to last year – 3.3% domestic and 7.6% international.

Dean Smith also reported that a new project is in the works where students will have audio files associated with their pictures so TAs and instructors will be able to pronounce their names.

Dean Smith reported that the university is looking to collaborate with sister institutions on various areas including ethics, innovative teaching, and faculty hiring practices.
Dean Smith reported that the Graduate Education Task Force has been charged with recommending changes in terms of how we support graduate education. (D&P 3252, 4/24/19)

Report from the Chair

Chair Cox reported on an administrative change. Shannon Neuse is now the Director of the Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC).

Chair Cox announced that President Fenves will attend the Graduate Assembly meeting on February 20, 2019 and Provost McInnis will attend the Graduate Assembly meeting on April 24, 2019. (D&P 3244a, 9/26/18)

Chair Cox spoke about a graduate student summer funding opportunity where PhD candidates can earn $1600 for 10 days of work in the summer by helping to grade AP exams. (D&P 3246a, 11/14/18)

Chair Cox reported on the Resource Guide to Mental Health Services for Graduate Students and Graduate Programs which was posted to the graduate school’s webpage.

Chair Cox reported on Imagine PhD, which is a tool created for graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences to help with career planning. (D&P 3248a, 2/20/19)

Chair Cox introduced President Fenves and opened the floor for questions/comments. Details can be found in the minutes (D&P 3250a, 3/27/19)

Chair Cox introduced Provost McInnis and opened the floor for questions/comments. Details can be found in the minutes (D&P 3252a, 4/24/19)

Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic

Steve Limberg and James Cox spoke on behalf of Catherine Weaver. Chair Cox provided an update on the guidelines for closure of graduate level programs. The proposal was sent out for comments/feedback, none were received, so the proposal went to Dean Smith and Provost McInnis for consideration.

Next, Chair Cox asked for approval of the proposal to establish policies governing the delivery of graduate certificate programs. The proposal was sent out for comments, and none were received.
Steve Limberg presented a proposal for a graduate portfolio in Language Teaching and Program Coordination. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Steve Limberg presented a proposal for an online (Option III) MSCS degree program. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3244b, 9/26/18)

Chair Weaver presented a proposal for a graduate portfolio in Middle Eastern Studies. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3246b, 11/14/18)

Chair Weaver presented a proposal for a graduate portfolio in Health Communication. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Chair Weaver presented a proposal for a five-year, integrated program leading to the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Engineering degrees in Biomedical Engineering (BME). The proposal was approved unanimously.

Chair Weaver presented a proposal for a graduate portfolio in Digital Studies. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Chair Weaver presented a proposal to create a Master of Music degree with a major in Conducting. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Chair Weaver reported on the Graduate Certificate Policy Development. Certificate programs would be offered for between 9 and 15 credit hours. Degree seeking students can also pursue a certificate. Non degree-seeking students also must satisfy admissions criteria. These criteria are defined by each program.

Friendly amendment number one was to change the cap from 15 to 18 hours, so a person with two 9-hour certificates could transfer those courses to the MS, as they may be the same courses required for an MS.

Friendly amendment number two recommends that instead of limiting the 15 or 18 hours, limit the number to 50 percent of the credits for an MS. The example was the Master’s in Public Policy, which is 48 hours. Approval of this amendment would allow 24 credits from stacked certificates.

Friendly amendment three for consideration: for the limit on transfer credits, use a maximum of 18 hours or up to 50% of the total MS credit requirement. (D&P 3248b, 2/20/19)

Sharon Strover spoke on behalf of Catherine Weaver. Strover presented a proposal to create a Master of Arts (Option III) degree in Design. The proposal was approved unanimously.
Strover presented a proposal to establish Graduate School policy related to the delivery of graduate certificates. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Strover presented a proposal to add a self-funded (Option III) track to the Doctor of Education (Ed.D) degree in Educational Leadership and Policy. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Strover presented a proposal to create a graduate portfolio program in Integrated Behavior and Health. No comments or objections were received, and a vote of the Assembly is not required. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Strover presented a proposal to create a five-year, integrated program in Women’s and Gender Studies. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250c, 3/27/19)

Chair Weaver presented a proposal to add a self-funded (Option III) track to the Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) degree in Petroleum Engineering. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Chair Weaver presented updates to the Guidelines for Option III Degree Programs. The updates were approved unanimously.

Chair Weaver presented a proposal to establish an MD/MA (Design) dual-degree program with Dell Medical School. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Weaver reported on Option III Annual Progress Reports and that additional questions will be added in the future.

Elizabeth Gershoff (Human Development and Family Sciences) was nominated to serve as Chair of the Academic Committee for the Academic Year 2019-2020. The Graduate Assembly voted unanimously in favor of electing Elizabeth Gershoff as Chair of the Academic Committee, and thus Chair-elect of the Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3252c, 4/24/19)

B. Administrative Committee

Chair Gershoff reported on requiring graduate programs to do annual student reviews; requiring graduate programs to have a student handbook; and on moving up the thesis and dissertation submission deadline. She asked that members take these issues back to their Department and provide feedback to the Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3244c, 9/26/18)

Chair Gershoff presented a proposal to update Graduate School policy to require maintenance and provision of graduate student handbooks by Graduate Studies Committees. The proposal was approved unanimously.
Gershoff additionally presented a proposal to update Graduate School policy related to annual progress reviews of graduate students. The proposal was unanimously approved with the exception of one abstention. (D&P 3246b, 11/14/18)

Chair Gershoff presented a proposal to institute a deadline for final oral exams (dissertation defenses) that is two weeks before the final submission deadline for dissertations. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3248b, 2/20/19)

Chair Gershoff reported on the Graduate Assembly bylaws, noting that a revised draft would be generated over the summer with the intent to review them in the Administrative Committee in the fall. (D&P 3252b, 4/24/19)

C. Admission and Enrollment Committee

Chair Beretvas presented a proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for select applicants to the Master of Science in Energy Management (MSEMA) self-funded (Option III) degree program. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Beretvas additionally presented a proposal to waive the GRE requirement for all applicants to the Michener Center for Writers’ (MCW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Writing. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3246c, 11/14/18)

Chair Beretvas presented a proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT admission test-score requirement for selective applicants to the MBA Option II (Evening) and Option III (Dallas & Houston) programs. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Beretvas additionally presented a proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for selective applicants to the Master of Science in Identity Management & Security (MSIMS) Option III program. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3248d, 02/20/19)

Chair Beretvas presented a proposal to waive the GRE admissions test-score requirement for select applicants to the Women’s & Gender Studies BA/MA integrated-degree program. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3250d, 3/27/19)

Shannon Neuse spoke on behalf of Tash Beretvas. Neuse presented a proposal to lift the 50% limitation on the GRE waiver for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Option III program. The proposal was approved unanimously.
Neuse presented a proposal to waive the GRE requirement for select applicants to the Kinesiology Self-Funded (Option III) program. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Neuse presented a proposal to waive the GRE requirement for select applicants to the Master of Arts (MA) self-funded (Option III) degree program in Design. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3252c, 4/24/19)

**Graduate Student Assembly**

GSA President Samantha Fuchs reported on encouraging graduate students to register to vote. (D&P 3244c, 9/26/18)

President Fuchs reported on universal TA training, stating that there is a need for some type of TA training for incoming graduate students. This would include topics such as information about library and campus resources, ADA, and Title IX compliance, how to set a grading schedule with the instructor etc. GSA is asking for feedback on this issue, and legislation to request new policies may follow.

Fuchs also spoke about a survey that was conducted in spring with results from over 700 students from 15 colleges. The results showed that stipends vary from $9000 to $27000. Rent is taking about 40% of the stipend (the rent for one-bedroom in Austin runs about $1000/mo). Full report was submitted to Dean Smith, the Provost and the President. (D&P 3246c, 11/14/18)

President Fuchs noted the GSA’s support of Graduate Education Task Force.

Fuchs spoke about working on mandated TA training issue.

President Fuchs also mentioned problems with portfolio programs folding without notification. (D&P 3248d, 2/20/19)

Payton Anderson spoke on behalf of Samantha Fuchs. She reported on the GSA elections, noting that Christina Baez was elected President and Lucy Blevins Vice President.

Anderson reported on GSA’s invest in Texas efforts at the Legislature and the latest Legislative efforts in GSA.

Anderson also reported on the need more information about what is offered already in various Colleges/Schools for TA training. (D&P 3250d, 3/27/19)

Fuchs provided a highlight and summary of GSA activity for the past year. She reported that the Graduate Student Assembly completed an overhaul of the election code for all five organizations that participate in campus-wide elections; they added two students to the Graduate Education Task Force; they traveled to
DC to advocate for graduate education policies; and they passed legislation in support of the zero-waste sustainability master plan. President Fuchs also reported that the housing situation is still being worked on and that the GSA is still seeking a $20,000/year minimum stipend.

Finally, Fuchs introduced the incoming GSA President, Christina Baze. (D&P, 3252e, 4/24/19)