Chair James Cox called the first meeting of the Graduate Assembly for the 2018 - 2019 academic year to order on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 1:30 PM in the Harry Ransom Center Tom Lea Room, 3.206.

**Faculty Members Present:** James Cox, Tasha Beretvas, James Buhler, John Deigh, Andrew Dunn, Catharine Echols, Alison Frazier, Elizabeth Gershoff, Linda Golden, John Hasenbein, John Hatfield, Michael Holleran, Thomas Hunt, Christopher Jolly, Maria Juenger, Jack Lee, Stephen Limberg, Christina Markert, Andreas Matouschek, Julia Mickenberg, Kavita Radhakrishnan, Karen Rascati, Sharon Strover, Jo Worthy

**Faculty Members Absent:** Hina Azam, Allan Cole, Sue Cox, Wonsuck Kim, Francisco Polidoro, Lorie Roy, Catherine Weaver

**Student Members Present:** Samantha Fuchs, Jennifer Follen

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Charlotte Canning

**Representatives from the Office of the Graduate Studies Present:** Dean Smith, Marvin Hackert, Michelle Broadway, Dean Neikirk, Shannon Neuse, Rebekah Sylvia, Erin Rhodes, Nancy Riley, Brie Wilson

**Visitors:** Daniel Garza, Laura Marshall, Don Fussell, Amelia Acker, Katie Dahm, Adam Klivans, Tom Garza

**Order of Business**

I. Approval of the minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Report of the Graduate Dean, Mark J T Smith

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.

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

He 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. Every seven years, each graduate program undergoes a review, and important suggestions for changes are formulated.
In order to assess the results of these reviews, the Graduate School will periodically monitor the uptake of recommendations, after the first year, the third year and the fifth year of the reviews.

He 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. The former director of FIC, Hillary Hart, is now the director of the experiential learning experience initiative for the entire campus.

She will also report to the graduate school, and working with the FIC in that activity.

Dean Smith shared an anecdote in which representatives of other Big XII institutions complimented the Graduate School on its new embargo policy.

Maria Juenger (Civil Engineering) asked about implementation of the new embargo policy that now can be extended to seven years.

Dean Neikirk (Graduate Studies) replied that there are three forms online now. There is the initial request form which requires the supervisor's signature; a separate form for an extension of embargo that does not require the supervisor signature, only that of the author of the document; and a third form for ending an embargo early if so requested by author.

III. Report of Chair (James Cox)

A. Administrative change - Shannon Neuse is now Director of Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC).

B. Announcement: 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.

C. Announcement: The 2018 – 2019 Graduate Assembly photo will be taken at the November 14, 2018 meeting, loggia, south side of main building, 1:15 PM. The meeting will be held in Main building, room 212.

D. Introduction/welcome of new members

   Welcome of Laura Marshall, Program Director, Workday Implementation Program
   Slide deck presented by Laura Marshall

After the presentation, there was concern voiced by Graduate Assembly members about the loss of summer health insurance coverage for graduate students who might go on to fellowships, or receive funding from non-UT resources, in the Fall following a Spring semester in which they served as TAs or AIs.

It was suggested that someone from Human Resources should be at the next Graduate Assembly meeting in order to address this.

IV. Academic Committee (Steve Limberg and James Cox on behalf of Catherine Weaver)

James Cox (Chair) 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 now goes to Dean Smith and Provost McInnis for consideration.
Next, he asked for approval of the proposal to establish policies governing the delivery of graduate certificate programs. There are four programs in place already, and we need specific guidelines. The proposal was sent out for comments, and none were received.

Both Prabhudev Konana (Business School) and Daniel Garza (Texas Engineering Executive Education) were there to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

Prabhudev Konana pointed out that the number of credits for a certificate were almost the same as a Masters and there is a lot of competition to offer certificates from other universities, Coursera and EdX.

Daniel Garza said these 'Micro Credentials', or certificate programs, attract students interested in professional development to help them further their career, and many times their employers subsidize this education.

There were questions regarding the possibility of someone in an MS program asking to be granted a certificate retroactively. Prabhudev Konana did not see a reason that a MS student would also want a certificate.

Dean Niekirk expressed concern about non-degree seeking students who amass a number of certificates and take all of the courses required for an MS (i.e. stacking them) without ever being admitted as an MS student.

Michelle Broadway (Graduate School) replied that some programs are interested in creating 'stackable' certificates that can be applied toward a Master’s degree, but students would have to apply successfully to a program before they would be given that option.

B. Proposal to create a Graduate Portfolio in Language Teaching and Program Coordination

Steve Limberg (Business School) summarized the proposal to create a Graduate Portfolio in Language Teaching and Program Coordination, which was approved and passed unanimously by the Academic Committee. If there are no objections, the proposal will go to Dean Smith and Provost McInnis.

Tom Garza (Liberal Arts) said the proposal grew out of circumstances that came about following the dissolution in 2013 of the PhD Program in Foreign Language Education in the College of Education. The closing of that program, which focused specifically on the theoretical and practical pedagogical underpinnings of best practices in language teaching, began to affect our other language graduate programs. In addition, the job market is increasingly asking for our graduates to teach or coordinate programs in national languages.

C. Summary of proposal to create an online (Option III) MSCS degree program

Steve Limberg (Business School) asked the assembly to consider the next proposal.
brought to the Academic Committee, which deals with adding an online (Option III) track to the existing Master of Science in Computer Science (MSCS) degree program. 100% of the curriculum for this program will be offered online through the edX delivery platform. It was supported unanimously by the Academic Committee.

Don Fussell (Computer Science) summarized the need for this on-line MSCS degree option. There is a tremendous demand for this type of training, and the current MS program is not set up to serve that audience. This proposal would help serve that need.

The vote to approve this proposal was unanimous.

V. Administrative Committee (Elizabeth Gershoff- Human Development)
Liz Gershoff (Human Development) asked for feedback on three issues that the Administrative Committee is working on. She asked that members take these issues back to their Department and provide feedback.

   A. Report on requiring graduate programs to do annual student reviews
   B. Report on requiring graduate programs to have a student handbook
   C. Report on moving up the thesis and dissertation submission deadline

VI. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Tasha Beretvas)
   A. No proposal/report

VII. Graduate Student Assembly (Samantha Fuchs)
   A. Encouraging graduate students to register to vote

IX. Adjournment at 3:00 PM

Karen Rascati, Secretary

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