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 2017-2018. The report summarizes pages 3233 - 3242 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 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Assembly Member</th>
<th>Graduate Studies Committee</th>
<th>Term of Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Cox, Chair-Elect</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>2017-2020 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hatfield</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>2016-2019 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Holleran</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prabhudev Konana</td>
<td>IROM</td>
<td>2015-2018 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Matouschek</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>2016-2019 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francisco Polidoro</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavita Radhakrishnan</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>2016-2019 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kui Ren</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2016-2019 (1)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Strong</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>2015-2018 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Strover</td>
<td>Radio Television Film</td>
<td>2017-2020 (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*new member serving out the term of a member who resigned or is on leave
ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Catherine Weaver, Chair  LBJ Public Affairs  2016-2019 (1)
Andrea Alu  Electrical & Computer Engineer  2016-2019 (1)
Tasha Beretvas  Educational Psychology  2017-2020 (1)
James Buhler  School of Music  2017-2020 (1)
Allan Cole  Social Work  2016-2019 (1)
Hugh Daigle  Petroleum & Geosystems  2017-2020 (1)*
Catharine Echols  Psychology  2017-2020 (2)
Wonsuck Kim  Geosciences  2015-2018 (1)
Paula Murray  Business  2015-2018 (1)

*new member serving out the term of a member who resigned or is on leave

No Committee Assignment

Hal Alper, Chair of the Graduate Assembly
Karen Rascati, Secretary of the Graduate Assembly

Elected Student Members with Vote

Jon Bender  Academic Committee
Chemistry
Regina Mills  Administrative Committee
English
Isabel Chou  Admissions Committee
Educational Administration

Ex-Officio Member with vote

Steve Hoelscher  Chair, Faculty Council

Ex-Officio Members without vote

Greg Fenves  President
Mark Smith  Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
Maurie McInnis  Executive Vice President and Provost
Dan Jaffe  Vice President for Research
Jay Hartzell  Dean, Red McCombs School of Business
Jay Bernhardt  Dean, College of Communication
Sherry L. Field  Dean, Interim, College of Education
Sharon Wood  Dean, College of Engineering
Doug Dempster  Dean, College of Fine Arts
Randy Diehl  Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Linda Hicke  Dean, College of Natural Sciences
Lynn Crismon  Dean, College of Pharmacy
Ex-Officio Members without vote (cont.)

Elizabeth Danze  
Dean, Interim, School of Architecture

Luis Zayas  
Dean, School of Social Work

Alexa Stuifbergen  
Dean, School of Nursing

Angela Evans  
Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs

Ward Farnsworth  
Dean, School of Law

Randolph Bias  
Dean, Interim, School of Information

II. Organization of the Assembly

Elected Officers 2017-2018

Chair: Hal Alper  
Chemical Engineering

Chair-Elect: James Cox  
English

Secretary: Karen Rascati  
Pharmacy

Meeting Dates:

September 27, 2017; November 15, 2017; February 14, 2018; March 28, 2018; April 25, 2018

III. Proceedings of the Graduate Assembly

Major Legislation

No major legislation was passed by the Assembly in academic year 2017-2018.

Minor Legislation

- The proposal to establish an MD/MSE Degree Program between the Dell Medical School and the Department of Biomedical Engineering was approved unanimously with one abstention. (Sue Cox abstained because she prepared and submitted the proposal.) (D&P 3233a - 9.27.17)

- The proposal to create a dual-degree program in Social Work/Business Administration was unanimously approved by the Graduate Assembly and deemed minor legislation. (D&P 3235a - 11.15.17)

- The proposal to establish room-share arrangements between MBA (Option I/II/III) programs and various MS (Option III) programs in the McCombs School of Business. The proposal previously received unanimous approval by the Academic Committee and did not require a vote of the Assembly. (D&P 3235a - 11.15.17)

- Proposal to add a Master of Advanced Architectural Design (MAAD)
degree to the graduate program in Architecture. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3237c - 2.14.18)

- Proposal to waive the GRE requirement for MSSW program. The proposal was approved unanimously. (D&P 3237e - 2.14.18)
- Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT for select applicants to the Master of Science in Marketing (Option III) and Master of Science in Finance (Option III) programs. The proposal for waiver approved unanimously. (D&P 3239c - 3.28.18)
- Proposal to waive the GRE for select applicants to the Option III Online Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences (MSNS) program. The proposal for waiver approved unanimously. (D&P 3239c - 3.28.18)
- Proposal for closure of the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree in the College of Natural Sciences. The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved. (D&P 3241a - 4.25.18)
- Proposal to create Master of Science in Health Care Transformation (MSHCT) Option III degree. The proposal passed unanimously. (D&P 3241a - 4.25.18)
- Proposal to create an MD/MSHCT dual-degree arrangement. Proposal to create an MD/MSHCT dual-degree program between McCombs Business School and Dell Medical School passed unanimously. (D&P 3241b - 4.25.18)
- Proposal to create a Master of Science in Energy Management (MSEM) Option III Degree. (D&P 3241b - 4.25.18) Proposal to create a Master of Science in Energy Management (MSEM) Option III Degree passed with one abstention. (D&P, 3241c - 4.25.18)
- Proposal to modify the embargo policy to extend the length of embargo to up to 7 years, and for the student to decide on the length of the embargo at the oral defense in consultation with the supervising committee. (D&P, 3241d - 4.25.18) Proposal was unanimously approved.
- Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for select applicants to the Master of Science in Health Care Transformation (MSHCT). Proposal was unanimously approved. (D&P 3241e - 4.25.18)
- Proposal to waive the GRE requirement for applicants to the Playwriting area of Theatre & Dance. Proposal was unanimously approved. (D&P 3241e - 4.25.18)

IV. Report from the Graduate Dean (Mark Smith)

Dean Smith thanked Marv Hackert and the Graduate School staff for their work. He then gave a brief introduction as to his background. He was a faculty member at Georgia Tech for 18 years, including four in the President’s office, which helped him develop a broader perspective on issues. He then joined Purdue University as head of the school of Electrical and Computer Engineering, which was a challenging balance of working with students, faculty, and upper-level

3243c
administration. He became Dean of the Graduate School at Purdue University, which brought exciting work with a multitude of disciplines, e.g., Philosophy, Nursing, and Liberal Arts.

Dean Smith discussed his goals as Graduate School Dean. The first goal is ‘excellence’ – to become preeminent in as many disciplines as possible. This includes producing preeminent research work, being innovative leaders in education and learning, and preparing our students to excel in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, global workforce. (D&P 3233 - 9.27.17)

Dean Smith mentioned three issues are ‘on the radar’, among many: 1) interdisciplinary programs, such as those involving partnerships with the Dell Medical School; 2) distance/on-line learning, which may include a mix of campus instruction and on-line supplemental offerings; and 3) affordable housing for graduate students.

Dean Smith then commented on the importance of getting feedback from faculty, staff, and students to help improve the learning environment. John Dalton is taking the lead on an updated ‘climate study’. Dean Smith encouraged members of the Assembly to take the time to complete the survey.

Lastly, he summarized national CGS survey results for Fall 2016. Nationally, the number of admissions, enrollments, and graduates increased in 2016. The number of underrepresented minorities, while still low, also increased in 2016. Enrollments of international students decreased slightly (by 0.9%).

Dean Smith asked Shannon Neuse to update the committee on UT Austin’s admission statistics. Shannon Neuse reported that based on UT 2017 data, there was a 2.6% decrease in the number of applications submitted, while admissions and enrollment counts increased by 1%. If you break this down to look at international applicant data, there was a 3.4% decrease in the number of applications, a 1.1% increase in the number of acceptances, and a decrease of 1.9% in the number enrolled. These are smaller decreases than some expected. As usual, we accepted about 25% of the applicants, and about 50% of those accepted actually enrolled.

Shannon stated that she will provide a report that breaks down the data by ethnicity, gender, and citizenship, along with data from the National Student Clearinghouse, informing members of the Assembly about students that were admitted to UT but did not choose to enroll here. (D&P 3233a - 9.27.17)

Dean Smith shared information regarding the Frank Dobie Paisano Ranch (258 acres near Austin which was donated to UT Graduate School) and fundraising plans with Friends of Paisano.
Big 10 Academic Alliance will provide faculty hiring workshops (train the trainer) on November 27 to improve diversity in hiring practices. The national tax law revision is being closely followed by the Council of Graduate Schools, as it potentially will include a provision to tax waived tuition fees as income. (D&P 3235 - 11.15.17)

Dean Smith reported that the exception for tuition waivers remains in the federal tax code. Analysts from ETS have reached out for collaboration on a project to correlate GRE scores with success markers of a select number of programs; Dean Smith will share results. The 3-minute thesis competition was held, with our winner traveling to the regional competition. (D&P 3237b - 2.14.18)

Dean Smith addressed the use of the plagiarism software, iThenticate, and asked the Assembly to consider if there would be value in having the University pay for this software. Discussion included concerns about the interpretation of results and suggestions that training would need to accompany the purchase of a license. (D&P 3237c - 2.14.18)

Before beginning the official business of the meeting, Dean Smith had 3 items to discuss. First, he reminded the faculty that the Council of Graduate Schools agreed upon a rule that stipulates that accepted students have until April 15 to make their decision about which school they plan to attend.

Secondly, the number of applications is down 3.9% from last year, but the number accepted was up 6.7%. This may change between now and April 15. The current projection is 3,084 students, compared to 3,371 last year. He will give us final numbers at the next meeting.

Thirdly, Dean Smith discussed his concern about the lack of affordable housing near campus for graduate students. Currently there are 1200 units available in graduate housing per year. The housing complex that is being built on East Campus will add another 700 units, at about $1200 per month (including utilities) for a single unit. He emphasized that works needs to continue concerning affordable and competitive pricing, and the longer it takes to make this investment, the worse the problem can get.

Dean Smith then answered questions about the Council of Graduate Schools' deadline of April 15 for students to decide which school they’ll attend.

**Question 1**: Michael Holleran (Architecture) asked if there were official sanctions against schools that ‘poach’ students after they have committed to one school? Dean Smith replied that the ‘poacher’ would be considered a bad citizen, but he does not know of any official sanctions. He asked for monitoring of the situation and ideas for discouraging this practice.
Question 2: Prabhudev Konana (Business School) mentioned that some schools offer a monetary incentive for early acceptance before the April 15 deadline. Dean Smith replied that the offer of more money for early acceptance should not be allowed.

Question 3: Francisco Polidoro (Business School) asked if a program with classes beginning in the summer would need to abide by the April 15 deadline, as the window is much shorter. Dean Smith replied that as far as he knows, summer admits are not addressed. Renee De Lota, Department of Marketing Administration, Red McCombs School of Business, asked if the spirit of the document for graduate programs is for those that start in the fall and stated that their programs start in the summer which gives them a shorter window to see what classes look like before July. Dean Smith responded that he believes the document had the fall semester in mind when it was written. He’s not aware of any language that addresses summer. (D&P 3239, 3239a - 2.14.18)

Applications are down 3.7% compared to this time last year, yet admissions are up by 4.8 percent. The Graduate School is developing a needs-based scholarship pilot program seeking matching funds from colleges. If a positive impact is shown, expansion of the program will be considered. Consideration is being given to allow supervising professors to hood their PhD students at the 2019 commencement ceremony. Feedback on this is welcome. A question was raised about admission numbers comparing international to US applicants. Shannon Neuse noted that US applications are down 2.2%, and international 5.2%. US admissions are up 5%, and international admissions are up 4.3%. (D&P 3241, 3241a - 4.25.18)

V. Report from the Chair (Hal Alper)

Hal Alper welcomed the Graduate Assembly to their first meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year. He noted that he has been a member of the Graduate Assembly for 5 years, and has worked with both the Admissions and Academic committees. He applauded the productivity of the Assembly and informed new members that a lot of the details of proposals are discussed in the sub-committee meetings before being presented to the Assembly. He encouraged everyone to attend the sub-committee meetings they have been assigned to. Hal Alper then announced the following upcoming events: Group photo of Graduate Assembly members and in the Spring, the President and Provost will attend a Graduate Assembly meeting. (D&P 3233a - 9.27.17)

The chair had no report. (D&P 3235 - 11.15.17)

Chair Alper noted the passing of an Assembly member, Robert Young. The Graduate School is sending condolences on behalf of Graduate Assembly. (D&P 3237c - 2.14.18)

3243f
Before beginning the official business of the meeting, Chair Hal Alper welcomed special guest Provost Maurie McInnis. Chair Alper announced that Provost McInnis would be sharing remarks and responding to some pre-arranged questions, prior to opening the floor.

Provost McInnis greeted the Graduate Assembly, sharing her appreciation for being invited to join the meeting. The provost acknowledged the Graduate Assembly’s reputation on campus and stated the Graduate Assembly is one of the hardest working, most effective committees that accomplishes what they set out to do. She indicated that there is the need to have campus-wide strategic conversations concerning the role of graduate education at UT in the context of national trends. The recruiting of Graduate Dean Mark Smith to UT’s campus was part of that strategic vision.

Provost McInnis mentioned ongoing discussions regarding curriculum development, job preparation for students, and meeting the needs of a new generation of graduate students.

Chair Hal Alper introduced the following questions/comments that were submitted to him by members of the Graduate Assembly:

**Question 1:** One of the threats for graduate education is very expensive stipends: How are there going to be ways in the university to incentivize GRAs over postdocs when looking at both the research and the teaching mission, especially as these price differentials may become similar, even inverted over time? Dean Smith shared that stipends are examined regularly and that it is a continuous effort to competitively support students in balance with each program’s priorities. Conversations are ongoing and engagement from faculty across campus is welcome.

**Question 2:** Is the expansion of fellowships being looked at and discussed? Is there a way to look at increasing minimum wages for TAs, AIs, and GRAs across campus? Dean Smith responded that a university-wide minimum could be raised, but that all units must be considered and reviewed the context of the particular program. One approach is top offs. Funds were allocated by the Provost to all eligible colleges.

**Question 3:** With respect to student summer tuition and summer registration, can you explain why students who are on external grants are required to register for summer, for research or dissertation, that are theoretically supervised by the PI and yet the PI is not paid by the university at that point in time given they’re on a nine-month salary. Could this requirement be removed and possibly be one way to reduce cost on research grants? Dean Smith stated if the tuition is removed, the people paying for a student from a grant would benefit but that
there would be expenses to the university. Additionally, part of the expectation for a GRA is to be actively participating in research, and students must be registered in order to use campus resources in the summer months.

**Question 4:** What is the university’s view on the scope of Option III programs? Over time, the guidelines and rules have been evolving. What have we learned about where this model works versus where such programs may challenge our existing programs and mandates? Also, how is cost and revenue sharing working under option III programs that draw courses and/or faculty from different departments or schools? Provost McInnis stated she still is getting a feel for the programs. Option III programs have expanded significantly over the last decade and now it is time for the administration to have conversations about how to manage this success. There is the need to look at the market and how Option III programs meet unmet educational demand, particularly as new proposals are increasingly interdisciplinary. The Provost’s Office and Graduate School will work to understand how these programs can support the research undertakings of the university as a whole and where they fit in to the suite of graduate offerings at UT Austin over the coming years.

Chair Alper and Prabhudev Konana asked about the challenges with respect to cost and revenue sharing, when there are programs that are drawing expertise in courses from faculty from distinct programs and then also how that interplays with the on-load versus offload teaching.

Provost McInnis agreed that the on-load/offload teaching component is significant and will require a consideration of demands on faculty time in balance with their other responsibilities to the campus.

**Question 5:** What are plans to further expand graduate student and family affordable housing? Provost McInnis acknowledged Dean Hackert’s leadership in the project to build dedicated graduate student housing. Development is still ongoing, but it continues to be a priority. UT struggles to house the first-year undergraduate class and that the issues relating to cost of living in Austin is a problem that begins with first year students and goes all the way through our doctoral students.

**Question 6:** Mental health and work life balance continues to be an issue among graduate students, how might the university better serve individuals with such needs? In this regard, it seems that many of the services tend to be geared toward undergraduate students. Provost McInnis acknowledged the importance of addressing the mental health needs of our graduate students. Dean Smith will work with Chris Brownson, head of CMHC, and the other stakeholders to discuss options to better serve the students.
Chair Alper opened the floor up for questions to Provost McInnis. Additional questions were raised about trends in increased interest in master’s programs versus doctoral programs, assessment framework, opportunities for expansion in online programming and cost of living stipends for low-income students.

Chair Alper thanked Provost McInnis for coming and welcomed her to stay for the rest of the meeting. Provost McInnis shared her gratitude and departed. D&P 3237 – 3237a, b - 2.14.18)

Hal Alper alerted the faculty that the next meeting agenda may be very busy since some committees are addressing unfinished business during the next month. He then encouraged everyone to remind colleagues to vote for next year’s graduate assembly nominees. Newly elected members will be asked to join next month’s meeting. (D&P 3239a - 3.28.18)

Condolence Statement for Robert Young (James Cox)

_The Graduate Assembly wishes to extend our deep and heartfelt condolences to the Robert Young family. At UT and on the Graduate Assembly, we knew Robert as a thoughtful, kind, funny, and wise colleague who was deeply committed to his research and to educating and equipping students to make significant contributions to the collective good. We miss Robert and grieve with you._

Nominating Committee report (Hal Alper) The nominating committee proposed that Catherine Weaver serve as chair of the academic committee, and that Karen Rascati serve as secretary. There were no nominations from the floor, and both nominations received unanimous approval. (D&P 3241a - 4.25.18)

VI. Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee (James Cox)

James Cox introduced the proposal to establish an MD/MSE degree program between the Dell Medical School and the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

This is the third iteration of this proposal. The Academic Committee met with Sue Cox and Laura Suggs to work out some small changes. After these changes, the committee approved it unanimously.

Sue Cox provided a brief summary of the proposal to create a 4-year dual-degree in medicine and biomedical engineering. Students in the DMS MD degree program have a third-year that is called their “Innovation/Leadership Year,” which can be used to complete requirements for a Master’s degree. Dell Medical School received approval to offer three dual degrees last year. These include the
following: 1) Master of Public Health; 2) Master of Education in Educational Psychology; and 3) Master of Business Administration. The proposal was approved unanimously with one abstention. (D&P 3233 a - b, 9.27.17)

James Cox introduced the proposal to create a dual-degree program in Social Work/Business Administration. Faculty presenting the proposal included Allen Cole, Jane Kretzschmar, and Sarah Swords from the School of Social Work, as well as Eric Hirst, McCombs School of Business. Proposing faculty noted that the dual degree will require 89 credit hours and provide a combined program of study that many peer schools already offer. The proposal was unanimously approved by the Graduate Assembly.

The proposal to establish room-share arrangements between MBA (Option I/II/III) programs and various MS (Option III) previously received unanimous approval by the Academic Committee and did not require a vote of the Assembly. (D&P 3235a, 11.15.17)

James Cox shared the proposal to add a Master of Advanced Architectural Design (MAAD) degree to the graduate program in Architecture. Minor legislation - vote of Assembly will be required. Cisco Gomes, Associate Professor and Robin Dusek, Graduate Program Administrator, School of Architecture, attended the meeting to answer any questions.

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) reviewed the MA programs in the School of Architecture in 2012. They expressed concern that two MA degrees, one accredited and one non-accredited, had the same name and would therefore cause confusion among applicants. The retain accreditation, the NAAB required the School of Architecture to change the name of one of the programs. Architecture changed the non-accredited, post-professional degree name to Master of Advanced Architectural Design (MAAD). The proposal was approved unanimously.

James Cox reported on the committee’s discussion regarding development of graduate certificate policy on December 13 and January 31. Discussion will continue on February 28 with recommendations to follow.

The academic committee discussed and began developing a graduate certificate policy from materials drafted by Michelle Broadway. The committee will continue these discussions at another meeting, during which it will focus especially on the number or percentage of hours earned in non-degree status that OGS will allow to apply to a master’s degree. The current policy allows up to six hours, or 20% of a 30-hour master’s degree, to apply.

Michelle Broadway drafted a document concerning the program-closure policy. The committee is in the beginning stages and would like to include Steve Hoelscher due to his role as chair of the Faculty Council.
The committee discussed the unanimous vote to recommend approval of the MSITM room-share arrangement. This request would allow Option I students to take Option III classes. This is meant for the most advanced undergraduate students. It was determined that it would mutually benefit the Option I and Option III students.

James Cox shared the committee’s decision to withhold vote on the request to establish room-share arrangements in the Nursing DNP program and advised the faculty to submit a revised proposal. There were concerns that an Option III student might displace an Option I student but discovered there was some misunderstanding about how room-share arrangements work. Kavita Radhakrishnan agreed to serve as a mediator between the committee and Nursing. (D&P 3237c, d - 2.14.18)

James Cox introduced a report of the Academic Committee outlining the committee’s recommendations regarding Graduate School policy for graduate certificate programs. These are graduate programs that require completion of 9-29 credit hours of graduate coursework, are available to degree-seeking and nondegree-seeking students, and result in a transcriptable credential.

James Cox asked members of the Assembly to take the report of the committee back to their schools and colleges to solicit additional input. He confirmed that recommendations outlined in the report had previously been approved by the Academic Committee and noted that, in the absence of additional feedback, recommendations outlined in the report would be reintroduced to the Graduate Assembly in the form of a formal motion in fall 2018.

The current policy reads “Graduate non-degree seeking students who later are admitted to graduate degree seeking status may petition to have applied to the master’s degree up to six semester hours of graduate credit earned while he or she was a graduate non-require degree seeking student.” The committee is considering increasing this number, especially for those that complete the requirement for a certificate program while they are a non-degree seeking student. The committee could not reach a consensus on the increase and would like feedback.

The second issue stems from section 7 of the draft policy, which limit the number of hours that can be transferred from another institution. Again, the committee could not reach a consensus on the limit. The committee felt that input from a broader group of faculty would help them reach a consensus. The Academic Committee is requesting feedback by April 10 in order to have the policy in place by the end of the year.

Alison Frazier (History Department) asked if these certificates are almost entirely the Professional Schools. Jim Cox responded no. Prabhudev Konana (Business School) reported that many other institutions, such as Harvard, MIT, Michigan,
and Georgia Tech are allowing these transfers, so the competition is expanding.

The idea is that students can get hands-on skills through a certificate program – and then transfer these credits if they wish to continue to the MS degree. James Cox replied that the Provost also mentioned this point in her remarks from the last meeting.

Maria Juenger (Civil Engineering) wanted clarification on how to handle the admissions process for those with a certificate, so it is not assumed by the student that if they complete a certificate they will be admitted to the graduate program. James Cox replied that the draft specifically contains wording that completion of a certificate does not guarantee admittance to a degree program. Maria followed up by asking if the admission processes for the certificate programs are different than those for a degree-seeking student.

James Cox deferred to Prabhudev Konana who stated their argument was that the admission standard required them to take GIT Math. This may not be applicable to non-degree but if the student is coming back with the degree program, those scores could be insisted on. Sharon Stover (Moody College) replied that the admissions process is overseen by the GSCs of each program, including the admission for certificate programs though the Graduate School or if they apply directly to GSC or go through GIAC. Shannon Neuse (GIAC) states it depends. Some of the current graduate certificate programs once, where the student does have a non-degree seeking status to go through GIAC. The only difference in the process is the GRE Math is not required. There are a handful of certificate programs on campus that don't go through GIAC but they are not transcribable. They are non-degree seeking status. If a student who starts on non-degree seeking later wants to become a degree-seeking, they reapply, GRE is required.

Jim Buhler (School of Music) added that applicants for the Arts Diploma are different in those seeking a degree. If the student wants to change from one to the other, they need to apply for a different type of status – along with different criteria for acceptance. James Cox reiterated that he and Michelle Broadway would welcome your feedback on this issue.

James Cox reported on updates to Option III Guidelines (revised 2016). These updates include adding a description of room-share limits, clarifying reimbursement requirements, updating the description of facilities overhead fees, and updating the list of Option III programs. These changes were approved unanimously. (D&P 3239 a, b - 3.28.18)

Proposal for closure of the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree in the College of Natural Sciences: The program has had no applications since 2009, and the last student will receive a degree this year. The faculty of this department voted 25 yes and 0 no with 18 abstentions to close the program.
The academic committee of the graduate assembly reached unanimous agreement that it does not object to the closure.

The graduate assembly also unanimously approved this recommendation.

Proposal to create Master of Science in Health Care Transformation (MSHCT) Option III degree: Guests: Alice Andrews and Scott Wallace, Dell Medical School; Stephen Limberg, McCombs Business School. Sue Cox from Dell Medical School was also present. This is a 12-month program for working professionals, but also provides an option for medical students in their 3 year.

Scott Wallace (Dell Medical School): The program is built on the idea of value-based healthcare – to provide outcomes patients want while assessing costs. Since we have talented students in the medical school, we wanted to offer this opportunity to them as well as practicing professionals to create a rich learning environment. Based on a question from the audience, Scott Wallace explained that the curriculum will be developed not only by business and medical school faculty, but also social work and communications. There were some questions raised about financing and how cost and profits would be split between different schools/colleges involved.

Michelle Broadway noted that faculty from other colleges would be paid on an overload basis, and that department chairs/deans would have to approve the participation of their faculty. Proposal to create a Master of Science in Health Care Transformation Option III degree passed unanimously.

Proposal to create MD/MSHCT dual-degree arrangement: This degree arrangement is between McCombs and Dell, and it was conceived especially for Dell students in their third or growth year. There is a dual-degree oversight committee with representatives from both units overseeing the program. McCombs and Dell expect 5-15 students to enroll in the program.

Hal Alper (Chemical Engineering) wanted to know how many 3-year medical students have opted into the other dual-degree programs. Sue Cox (Dell Medical School) responded that from a cohort of 50 students, we expect 10-15 to choose the MBA, 2 to choose Masters of Ed. Psych, and 9 to enroll in the Masters of Public Health program. Biomedical engineering does not roll out until next year.

The current numbers indicate that half of Dell’s students have opted to participate in these programs. Proposal to create an MD/MSHCT dual-degree program between McCombs Business School and Dell Medical School passed unanimously.

Proposal to create a Master of Science in Energy Management (MSEM) Option III Degree: Guests: John C. Butler from the Center for Law and Business and Renee
De Lota from the McCombs School of Business.

The program is a one-year, option III, 35-hour, no thesis program, for students anticipating a career in the energy sector. They expect to start with 30 students per year and expand to 60 students per year by year 4. The proposal addressed the potential competition of the MSEM Option III degree with the current Option I Master of Science in Energy and Earth Resources (MSEER).

There was agreement that this would be a symbiotic relationship, and if the new program adversely affects the MSEER program, the McCombs school will consider using net revenues of the MSEM program to assist the MSEER program.

Christina Markert (Physics) asked why the program did not require a thesis. John Butler explained the new program is for people working full time who want to be able to directly apply what they learn in the program to their careers in a short time versus a more in-depth project that would take 2 years rather than one. The MSEER is a 2-year program with a thesis requirement, if this is what students want. The discussion raised questions about the number of Option III programs, and the balance between Option I, II, and III programs. Michelle Broadway from the Graduate School mentioned that a task force is being created to look at these questions and revisit the guidelines and policy issues governing Option III programs. Proposal to create a Master of Science in Energy Management (MSEM) Option III Degree passed with one abstention.

Report regarding the proposal to establish room-share arrangement for Nursing DNP Option III Program:

There is no limitation on the number of seats for these courses, so the room-share arrangement will not lead to the displacement of any Option I students. No vote was required.

Report on policy development: graduate certificate programs:

The Graduate Assembly has previously discussed this issue and requested feedback on the maximum number of transfer credit hours allowed. We will bring the final version forward in the Fall meeting.

Dean Neikirk (Graduate School) noted that a policy change on the number of semesters a student could be enrolled as a non-degree seeking student would require an update to the catalog to reflect the length of certificate programs, which may take more than one year for a student to complete.

Report on policy development: program closure procedures:

The Graduate School needed a clearly defined process for closure of a program. These procedures were followed in the deliberations of the proposed closure of
the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree in the College of Natural Sciences. No vote was required. (D&P 3241a, b, c - 4.25.18)

B. Administrative Committee (Darla Castelli)

Darla reported on the committee’s discussion regarding the 14-semester rule. Discussion included the possibility of eliminating the Graduate School rule that currently limits graduate student academic employment to a total of 14 cumulative semesters.

Dean Neikirk emphasized that while we have been working to reduce time to graduation, tracking how many semesters students are employed is not a good proxy for evaluating academic progress. The committee’s current report and recommendation suggests letting each department/college establish its own rules and develop its own method to track this metric. Darla Castelli concluded that this change warranted more discussion from the UT community.

Darla reported on the committee’s discussion regarding lengthening the embargo policy. The current embargo (delay) on publishing a dissertation is two years. Some programs in the Humanities have suggested this may not be enough time to get a book published before the dissertation is made public.

Darla also reported on the committee’s discussion regarding an annual review for all graduate students. Discussion of making this a requirement for all departments/colleges will resume after gathering feedback from graduate coordinators. (D&P 3233b - 9.27.17)

Darla reported on the motion to remove the Graduate School’s 14-semester limit on academic employment. The Administrative Committee considered the elimination of the Graduate School’s 14-semester limit on academic employment at the request of the Graduate School. Darla Castelli explained that Graduate School limit applies to any combination of TA, AI, GRA, or other benefits-eligible academic positions. She noted that in the absence of this Graduate School policy, the GSC for each graduate program would decide whether or not to continue imposing the employment limit, thereby, decentralizing responsibility for determining employment limits and for tracking semesters of employment.

Based on the Administrative Committee’s unanimous recommendation, Darla Castelli introduced a motion to eliminate the Graduate School’s 14-semester limit on academic employment. (D&P 3235a - 11.15.17)

Kavita Radhakrishnan voiced a concern that a rule would not have much clout if it were not from the Graduate School. Robert Young expressed concern with students being exploited. Maria Juenger stated that part of the discussion involves the frequent assessment, so students know where they are in the
program and how long they should take.

Prabhudev Konana and Steve Hoelscher noted that preferred limits on employment will vary by program and that flexibility is warranted. They further noted that guidelines from the Graduate School would be helpful to GSCs.

John Hatfield asked for more information about the programs requesting more than 14 semesters. Although Darla Castelli did not have information about specific programs to provide, she explained that the restriction on employment can be particularly problematic in programs where students start in a Master’s program and then continue on to a PhD.

Hal Alper inquired about the details of implementation. Darla Castelli responded that the committee had not discussed this but agreed that it would need to be addressed. At the conclusion of this discussion, a vote was called. The resulting vote included one objection, one abstention; the remainder approved. The motion was deemed minor legislation.

The Administrative Committee reviewed Graduate School policy related to changes in dissertation committees at the request of the Graduate School. As a result of this review, and based on the Administrative Committee’s unanimous recommendation, Darla Castelli put forth a motion that Graduate School policy published in the Graduate Catalog be updated to clearly indicate that changes to the dissertation committees require approval of the student, current and new committee members, and the Graduate Adviser, with final approval by the Graduate Dean. A vote was called. The motion was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation.

The Administrative Committee reviewed Graduate School policy related to dissertation defenses at the request of the Graduate School. (D&P 3235b - 11.15.17)

Based on the Administrative Committee’s unanimous recommendation, Darla Castelli introduced a motion to update Graduate School policy published in the Graduate Catalog to clearly reflect a student’s right to schedule a dissertation defense. A vote was called. The motion was unanimously approved by the Assembly and deemed minor legislation.

Darla Castelli reported on the Administrative Committee’s review of the Graduate School’s embargo policy, which delays publication of the dissertation within the public domain for a defined period of time. Currently, students can ask for a 1- or 2-year embargo. An analysis of data from peer institutions shows the average period of embargo ranges from 3 months to 6 years. Only preliminary discussions have begun and, therefore, there is no recommendation from the committee at this time. (D&P 3235c - 11.15.17)
Darla Castelli shared the review and support of proposed changes to the graduate student academic grievance policy in the HoP. Dean Niekirk worked closely with the GSA regarding the existing HoP policy in the adjudication of academic grievances. Some terminology needed to be updated along with the addition of reasonable limitations and timeframes to guide the grievance process. New deadlines have been created.

The committee felt that it makes sense to have reasonable terms and timeframes because there were concerns about the scenario of a student submitting a title IX and an academic grievance simultaneously.

Darla discussed the current HoP limitation of GRA/TA/AI appointments. The importance of the graduate school setting guidelines so that there would not be potential abuse of the graduate student working too many hours. Concerns were voiced about limitations inhibiting the graduate student from reaping additional financial gains. Units have been asked how they felt about the 30-hour limit and will return feedback. (D&P 3237d - 2.14.18)

Darla Castelli had nothing to report from the Administrative Committee. (D&P 3239b - 3.28.18)

Report on proposal to require an annual review for all graduate students:

A survey showed 70% of schools/departments have a requirement for a progression each MS student, and 84% had a review process for PhD students.

The committee would like feedback on four questions: 1) How do you define satisfactory progress in your program 2) How would you communicate the review; e.g one-on-one feedback? 3) How would students acknowledge the review or rebut or appeal the process if needed? 4) What is the process, when do you meet, and who would serve on the review committee? Christina Markert (Physics) asked specifically for these 4 questions to be included in the minutes so she could discuss them with her department.

Proposal to modify the embargo policy to extend the length of embargo to up to 7 years, and for the student to decide on the length of the embargo at the oral defense in consultation with the supervising committee: Refer to page 3240h for the proposal to change the embargo policy. The first issue is to adequately educate the student about the embargo option and for the faculty members to provide guidance about it.

The Graduate Assembly approved this section of the proposal.

The second part of the proposal included a discussion about the maximum length of the embargo, which is now proposed to be 7 years. Darla Castelli
suggested the Graduate Assembly return to this issue after a vote on the third component of the proposal.

The third part of the proposal reads that if a student originally chooses fewer than 7 years, but then needs more time, the student (now a graduate) can extend their request. A friendly amendment was accepted to make explicit that a student could extend the length of the embargo for up to a maximum of 7 years, and the Graduate Assembly approved this part of the proposal.

Sharon Strover (Moody College) and Prabhudev Konana (McCombs) voiced concerns about the 7 years. John Deigh (Law) spoke about the survey of other similar institutions and noted that most are 2-year extensions with the possibility of requesting another 2-year extension. Maria Juenger (Civil Engineering) suggested educating the faculty members also about the usual length of time (one or two years) with the possibility of further extension.

Tanya Clement (School of Information) added that in many cases publishing houses will not publish a book that is too close to a published dissertation—so this proposal lets faculty determine the norm for embargos in their own disciplines. Catherine Weaver (LBJ) also noted that the longer embargos will especially help women faculty, on whom the shorter embargoes have a greater adverse impact.

Michael Holleran (Architecture) suggested a compromise: make the first embargo two years and allow renewals in increments in order to avoid the maximum of 7 years becoming the default choice. The Graduate Assembly approved the second part of the proposal, which allows for a maximum embargo of 7 years. (D&P 3241 c, d, e - 4.25.18)

C. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Catherine Weaver)

Catherine introduced a proposal to solicit participation in focus groups on admissions’ policies and practices across programs at UT.

Catherine Weaver reported that the committee is currently soliciting participation in focus groups on admissions policies and practices across graduate programs at UT. Along with Dean Neikirk and Shannon Neuse, a review of the current policies and practices regarding admissions is being conducted through a series of focus groups. Shannon Neuse noted that the goal is to try and use collective wisdom across campus to raise our effectiveness in recruiting good graduate students. It is meant to be an informal collection of ideas about what works and what does not. (D&P 3233b,c - 9.27.17)

Catherine Weaver reported that Shannon Neuse and Erin Rhodes have facilitated the committee’s review of holistic admissions processes by conducting focus
groups with faculty members who are directly involved in admissions processes in their graduate programs.

Shannon Neuse reported main findings from the focus groups indicating that many qualitative measures are being used in addition to quantitative measures, and that most decisions are made by a committee, not an individual. The main questions from the faculty were, ‘How do we deal with implicit bias?’ and, “How do we recruit more diverse students?”

Shannon also noted that when looking at an applicant’s information in EASI, faculty are provided with links to GRE-related resources. In addition, she noted that the Graduate School would be providing a video on “How not to use vs how to use” GRE scores shortly after Thanksgiving. (D&P 3235c - 11.15.17)

Catherine Weaver shared the proposal to waive the GRE requirement for MSSW program. The Assembly approved unanimously.

Catherine continued to share that the language was updated and made more consistent with the idea that the evidence of the GRE/GMAT as an indication of performance in graduate programs is in flux.

The committee drafted a letter to the Office of the Graduate Studies and Dean Smith to thank him and his staff for raising awareness and providing training on holistic admissions. (D&P 3237e - 2.14.18)

Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT for select applicants to the Master of Science in Marketing (Option III) and Master of Science in Finance (Option III) programs.

Renee De Lota, McCombs, stated that some proposals for other Option III programs are managed under the same program office. Catherine Weaver added that it is noted that this only applied to a small group of students in bridge programs (Juniors or Seniors in accelerated programs) The proposal for waiver was approved unanimously.

Proposal to waive the GRE for select applicants to the Option III Online Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences (MSNS) program. Catherine Weaver stated that this applies to practitioners who have already taken other standardized tests – e.g., MCAT, PCAT for their professional degree and/or have been practicing for 5 or more years in their field. Sara Sweitzer, College of Natural Sciences, remarked that what they found is interest in the Master of Science and Nutritional Sciences program from one third current health professionals that are already practicing as doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and they’ve already passed in preparation for their career in MCAT, PCAT and some standardize tests.
They are requesting a waiver of this specifically for GRE in favor of they’ve taken the MCAT and/or been practicing for five years or more in their field. The proposal for waiver was approved unanimously. (D&P 3239 b, c - 3.28.18)

Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for select applicants to the Master of Science in Health Care Transformation (MSCHT): Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for select applicants to the (MSHCT) was unanimously approved.

Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for applicants to the Playwriting area of Theatre & Dance: Proposal to waive the GRE requirement for applicants to the Playwriting area of Theatre & Dance was unanimously approved. (D&P 3241d - 4.25.18)

D. Graduate Student Assembly (Kareem Mostafa)

Kareem Mostafa reported that there are four main issues that the Graduate Student Assembly is currently focusing on. These can be found at utgsa.net:

- Improvement of communication. Many graduate students are not aware of all of the resources that are available to them. Also, students may not communicate well with administration. The GSA is currently looking into how to address equity issues.
- Professional development: a) seminars – e.g., CV development, job searching, presentation skills; b) centralized graduate student-focused career resource center, mental and physical health and wellness – e.g., Gym with GSA (D&P 3233c - 9.27.17)

Kareem Mostafa reported that the first Graduate Leadership Summit was held on October 27th. This included graduate council leaders from different schools. Highlighted areas of discussion included professional development and diversity issues. The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) is in the process of writing a letter which will be forwarded to Congress to address the provision under consideration, and mentioned by Dean Smith, to tax waived tuition fees as income. (D&P 3235 c, d - 11.15.17)

Hal Alper noted that President Fenves and Provost McInnis will attend the next Graduate Assembly meeting on February 14. He will send out a request for questions. (D&P 3235d - 11.15.17)

Vice President Mohseni reported that the GSA has a Masquerade Ball scheduled for February 23, 2018, and that they are in a period of transition, with the new executive alliance elections coming up. (D&P 3237e - 2.14.18)

Regina Mills introduced Matthew Bendure and Sarah Carlson. The students wanted to inform the assembly that the Graduate Student Labor Conditions
Committee was formed after a walk-out at the end of last semester. They are bringing attention to the idea that graduate students are both ‘laborers’ and are simultaneously conducting scholarship activities. There are trying to raise the minimum rate paid to graduate students, so that they can afford to live in Austin.

There was discussion about whether the committee would focus on an hourly rate or the overall base pay. It was mentioned that flexibility needs to be part of the committee’s deliberations since the number of hours a student works in the summer may be different than in the fall and Spring, and that international students may have limits in the number of hours they can work based on their visa status. Nothing definite has been decided as the committee was recently formed. The students will take the comments back to the committee. (D&P 3239c - 3.28.18)

GSA president, Regina Mills, announced the new GSA leadership for 2018-2019: Incoming GSA president Samantha Fuchs (Environmental Engineering) noted the assembly’s focus on 5 areas: 1) financial services 2) climate/complaint processes of Title IX 3) better communication 4) collaboration with student government 5) civil engagement with Texas legislature.

James Cox presented Chair Alper with an appreciation plaque for his service as Chair of the Graduate Assembly, 2017-2018. (D&P 3241c - 4.25.18)

E. New business conducted (9.27.17)

Prabhudev Konana from the McCombs School of Business asked Dean Smith for ideas about resources from central administration that might be used to visit minority serving schools (e.g. HBCUs and HSIs) to attract graduate students. Dean Smith confirmed that these funds could be made available but also commented on the importance of building networks. He noted that building networks is a long-term initiative that takes time but also added that some results occur in the short term. For example, placing UT graduates on the faculty of minority serving institutions can help create a network to attract minority students to UT. Dean Smith noted the need to seek external funding -- for example, from the National Science Foundation -- and invited anyone with interest in developing a grant proposal to contact him. (D&P 3233c - 9.27.17)