Chair Hal Alper called the 5th meeting of the Graduate Assembly for the 2017-2018 academic year to order on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 1:30 PM in the Lee Jamail Academic Room, Main Building, 212.

Faculty Members Present: Hal Alper, Tasha Beretvas, James Buhler, Darla Castelli, Tanya Clement, James Cox, Sue Cox, Hugh Daigle, John Deigh, Alison Frazier, Linda Golden, John Hasenbein, Michael Holleran, Maria Juenger, Wonsuck Kim, Prabhudev Konana, Andreas Matouschek, Francisco Polidoro, Kavita Radhakrishnan, Sharon Strover, Catherine Weaver, Jo Worthy

Faculty Members Absent: Catharine Echols, Elizabeth Gershoff, John Hatfield, Paula Murray, George Pollak, Kui Ren, Pauline Strong

Student Members Present: Regina Mills
Ex Officio Members Present: Steven Hoelscher

Representatives from the Graduate School Present: Mark Smith, Dean Neikirk, Michelle Broadway, Shannon Neuse, Erin Rhodes, Rebekah Sylvia, Nancy Riley

Visitors: Christina Markert, Abby Black, John C. Butler, Steve Limberg, Samantha Fuchs, Renee De Lota, Alice Andrews, Scott Wallace, Thomas Hunt

Chair Hal Alper introduced new members for academic year 2018-2019: Christina Markert, Thomas Hunt, and Steve Limberg. Each shared the departments they are from and what they do. Chair Alper welcomed all and announced the cookie social to be held after the meeting.

Order of Business

I. Approval of the minutes of the March 28, 2018 meeting
   The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School (Mark J T Smith)
   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%.

III. Report of Chair (Hal Alper)

A. 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.

B. 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.

IV. Academic Committee (James Cox)

A. 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.

B. 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 3rd 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.

C. Proposal to create an 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 3rd 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.

D. 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 II 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. Report on policy development: program closure procedures

The Graduate School needed a clearly defined process for closure of a program. We followed these procedures in our deliberations of the proposed closure of the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree in the College of Natural Sciences. No vote was required.

V. Administrative Committee (Darla Castelli)
A. 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.

B. 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.

VI. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Catherine Weaver)

A. Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for select applicants to the Master of Science in Health Care Transformation (MSHCT)

Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for select applicants to the (MSHCT) was unanimously approved.

B. Proposal to waive the GRE 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.

VII. Graduate Student Assembly (Regina Mills) Regina 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 Hal Alper with an appreciation plaque for his service.

VIII. Adjournment. 3:22 p.m.

Karen Rascati, Secretary