Chair Prabhudev Konana called the fourth meeting of the Graduate Assembly for the 2016-2017 academic year to order on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at 1:30 PM in the Harry Ransom Center, Tom Lea Room, 3.206.

**Faculty Members Present:** Hal Alper, Andrea Alu, Kristen Brustad, Darla Castelli, Allan Cole, James Cox, John Deigh, Kathy Fuller-Seeley, Elizabeth Gershoff, John Hasenbein, Maria Juenger, Prabhudev Konana, Andreas Matouschek, Paula Murray, George Pollak, Kavita Radhakrishnan, Karen Rascati, Kui Ren, Diane Schallert, Raji Srinivasan, Pauline Strong, Ciaran Trace, Kate Weaver, Patricia Wilson, Jo Worthy

**Faculty Members Absent:** Matthew Balhoff, Alison Frazier, David Harrison, Joel Johnson, Shirley Thompson

**Student Members Present:** Kareem Mostafa

**Ex Officio Members Present:** none

**Representatives from the Office of the Graduate Studies Present:** Michelle Broadway, John Dalton, Dean Neikirk, Erin Rhodes, and Rebekah Sylvia

**Visitors:** Annmarie Corey, Sue Cox, Joel Johnson, Harold Kohl, Sherry Melecki, Tosa Nixon, Victor Saenz, and Emily Sparvero

**Order of Business**

I. Approval of the minutes of the February 1 meeting postponed to April 26

II. Report of the Graduate Dean, *ad interim* (Dean Neikirk reporting on behalf of Dean Hackert)

The ConTex program is a joint program with CONACYT in Mexico. There are about 70 students currently being considered, 40 are new PhD applicants and 30 are current students from Mexico with half of the applicants having applied to or are from UT Austin.

The potential problem is that CONACYT does the final review and approval for funding in July. This is too late really for recruiting new students and for students to get visas, and so on. The hope is that they will speed up their process.

The search for the new Graduate Dean continues but the Graduate School staff does not have an update. Dean Neikirk introduced Shannon Neuse with an update on admission.
Shannon Neuse reported that we have received 27,372 applications for summer and fall of 2017. We are down 2.6% this year compared to this time last year (a total of 718 applications total). She followed up with specific details about different schools and programs. The reduction seems evenly split between domestic and foreign applications.

To date we’ve admitted 4,971 applications and we’re still pending decision on 14,751.

III. Report of Chair (Prabhudev Konana)

There was no report from the Chair.

IV. Academic Committee (Hal Alper)

A. Proposal to create an inter-institutional dual-degree arrangement leading to the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the UT Austin Dell Medical School and the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from the UT Health Science Center at Houston (Austin Campus)

The proposal came to the Assembly with the unanimous approval of the Academic Committee. Guests Sue Cox, Executive Vice Dean of the Dell Medical School and Bill Kohl, Associate Regional Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Public Health at the UT Health Science Center at Houston, provided context for the proposal and answered questions from the Assembly.

The proposal passed unanimously.

B. Proposal to update the name of the department and degree major from “Educational Administration” to “Educational Leadership and Policy”

The proposal came to the Assembly with the unanimous approval of the Academic Committee. This change was initiated to keep the name of the department and degree major current with both the field and the coursework. Victor Saenz, Associate Professor and incoming Department Chair, provided context for the proposal and answered questions from the Assembly.

The proposal passed unanimously.

C. Proposal to add an option III (self-funded) track to the existing Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree in Kinesiology, concentration in Sport Management 3228e.1
The proposal came to the Assembly with the unanimous approval of the Academic Committee. This self-funded program will create an online degree option for working professionals in the sports and recreation industry who want to move into a leadership role in sports management. This online degree option will provide the content expertise that is increasingly necessary for advancement in the field. Emily Sparvero, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, provided context for the proposal and answered questions from the Assembly.

The proposal passed unanimously.

D. Proposal to establish a credit-hour equivalency policy for the Dell Medical School Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree program

The proposal came to the Assembly with the unanimous approval of the Academic Committee. The proposal was initiated in response to a SACS and federal accreditation requirement. The policy outlined in the proposal satisfies that requirement. Sue Cox, Executive Vice Dean for Academics at Dell Medical School, provided context for the proposal.

The proposal passed unanimously.

V. Administrative Committee (James Cox)
The Administrative Committee is currently discussing the dissertation embargo policy. They are also looking at the 14-semester rule. The work is in process, and they have nothing to report at this time.

VI. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Diane Schallert)

There was no report from Admissions and Enrollment Committee.

VII. Graduate Student Assembly (Wills Brown)

There was no report from the Graduate Student Assembly.

VIII. Adjournment
The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM.

Charlotte Canning, Secretary

3228e.2