The third meeting of the Graduate Assembly for the 2016-2017 academic year will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 1:30 PM in the Harry Ransom Center, Tom Lea Room, 3.206.

Order of Business

I. Approval of the minutes of the September 21 and November 9 meetings

II. Report of the Graduate Dean, ad interim (Marvin Hackert)

III. Report of Chair (Prabhudev Konana)

IV. Academic Committee (Hal Alper)

A. Proposal to create a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Mexican American and Latina/o Studies (MA LS)

B. Report on proposals to add room-share arrangements to the Option III programs in Finance and Marketing (Pending)

C. Proposal to create a dual-degree program in Medicine/Business Administration (Pending)

D. Proposal to create a dual-degree program in Medicine/Public Health with the UT Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health (Austin Regional Campus) (Pending)

V. Administrative Committee (James Cox)

VI. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Diane Schallert)

VII. Graduate Student Assembly (Wills Brown)

VIII. Adjournment
Proposal to Create a Ph.D. Degree Program in Mexican American and Latina/o Studies
One-Page Summary for Graduate Assembly

The faculty in the Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies (MALS), housed within the College of Liberal Arts, propose the addition of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in MALS.

Program Need: In the absence of a Ph.D. program in MALS at UT Austin, and since there is no other Texas AAU institution with an academic department in this field, students must currently either leave the state to pursue a Ph.D. degree in MALS or pursue a doctoral degree in a related field of study.

Program Description: The field of MALS examines Latina/o (Hispanic ancestry) populations in the United States. The field was formed through student activism from the 1960's onward demanding that Mexican Americans and Latina/os be represented in academic research. The field distinguishes itself from other areas of academic inquiry by taking the United States as the geographical starting point for investigating Latina/o diversity, history, politics, and culture. While other well-established programs across the country are organized around and focus on the national identity of Latino populations -- for example Cuban American, Puerto Rican, Dominican, or Chicano -- the Department of MALS at UT Austin has taken a decidedly different approach. Rather than see the fields or their populations in isolation, the Department has deliberately placed them in conversation, making it the first department of its kind in Texas.

The proposed program will prepare students to engage in an interdisciplinary scholarly approach to examining the lives, cultures, and histories of Mexican origin and Latina/o (Central, Caribbean, and South American) populations in the state of Texas, the United States, and their diasporas (both the origin and destination nations). Through curriculum, research, and pre-professional training, our students will be at the forefront of innovation in interdisciplinary scholarly conversations about critical ethnic studies, transborder studies, immigration, race, gender, sexuality, social class, and the health science humanities. Their training will include core disciplinary and Interdisciplinary perspectives for a multi-dimensional understanding of Mexican American and Latina/o experiences as situational, historically and geographically diverse and in need of theorization.

The program's objective is to provide students with specialized knowledge about Mexican American and Latina/o populations and skills necessary for working with those populations in order to pursue an academic career, conduct particularized field and archival research, publish scholarly papers, or produce policy reports and analyses in an effort to gain employment in higher education and other related professional careers for which the Ph.D. is required. Given the broad application of the knowledge and skills garnered through the rigorous academic training we propose, graduates will be prepared for careers in numerous fields.

The external reviewers for the MA program in MALS noted that "given the quality of the faculty and the unique doctoral curriculum they have constructed, the Ph.D. program in MALS will likely achieve national and international prominence quickly, ensuring that graduates of the program will have a competitive advantage in both the academic and non-academic job markets."

Program Resources: The MALS Department has all of the pieces in place to create a world-class doctoral program, including already allocated funding support from the DDCE, Provosts Leslie and Fenves, President Powers, and President Fenves. These monies went to hiring faculty and funding graduate students. The department does not require additional monetary resources to launch the Ph.D. program.
Program Faculty: Upon introduction, the MALS Ph.D. program will include 9 core faculty. This number includes 8 FTEs, two 50% appointments, and two 0% appointments for individuals, including the Associate Chair, who are integral to the graduate program and who serve on the MALS GSC. By year 18-19, and after 4 searches, we will have 13 FTEs, one more than UCSB and 3 less than the program’s biggest competitor, UCLA.

Admissions: The Admission process for the Ph.D. program will be highly competitive. In addition to meeting admission requirements of the Graduate School, the program will require that the applicant:
- (without a master’s degree) Have a GPA of 3.25 or higher in upper-division coursework and any graduate work already completed.
- (with a master’s degree) Have a GPA of 3.5 in any graduate work already completed.
- Demonstrate engagement with Mexican American and Latina/o Studies via coursework (a minimum of 2 semesters), projects, research, or writing sample.
- Have reading competency in at least one language other than English reflecting the linguistic world of Mexican American and Latina/o populations in the U.S. and related to the candidate’s own research and examinations.
- Demonstrate potential for publication of scholarly work through the submission of a writing sample, a statement of purpose, and three letters of reference.
- Demonstrate written expression commensurate with doctoral-level students.

Degree Requirements: The proposed program requires completion of a minimum of 45 credit hours of coursework. With the approval of the MALS GSC, this may include up to 33 credit hours of coursework completed in satisfaction of MA program requirements at UT Austin and up to 6 credit hours of graduate-level coursework transferred from another institution.

Projected Enrollment: Given the nature of the funding structure and the desire for students to complete the Ph.D. program in 5-6 years, the Department of MALS will not offer part-time programs of study in the proposed Ph.D. program. We anticipate enrollment of 10 full-time PhD students by Year 3 and 20 full-time students by Year 4.

Implementation Date: Following all required approvals, the PhD program will be implemented in fall 2018.
Proposal to Revise the Existing Option III
Master of Science in Marketing (MSMkt) Degree Program

The Department of Marketing is requesting a modification of the existing Option III Master of Science in Marketing (MSMkt) degree program for the purpose of allowing a room-share arrangement between Option I (state-funded) and Option III (self-funded) courses.

The room-share arrangement will allow Option I undergraduate students who have been provisionally admitted to the Option III MSMkt program in their sophomore or junior year to take graduate courses required for the MSMkt degree program prior to graduation. With the consent of their undergraduate degree programs, these students will be able to take up to 12 hours of MSMkt graduate coursework to be reserved for graduate credit; and they will have access to the McCombs School internship-recruiting infrastructure prior to starting the Option III program. This arrangement will primarily provide the University of Texas at Austin non-business undergraduates with an alternative route to enter a McCombs School of Business graduate program, but will be open to McCombs undergraduates as well.

The primary extra expense associated with creating this room-share arrangement involves the provision of instructional support (that is, TA or grader time), which will be paid from the Option III budget. The cost of such support will only be paid to Option I PhD students or other Option I graduate students providing instructional support and not as an extra compensation to the instructor. All courses for this Option III program will be taught on a voluntary overload basis.

The proposed room-share arrangement will not impact the Option III program budget and there will be no effect on teaching load or faculty compensation. Option III courses will continue to be taught on a voluntary, over-load basis. Approval from the Director of the MSMkt program will be required for each use of the room sharing arrangement that adds any Option I student(s) to an Option III course. Finally, the Option III degree program will continue to adhere to all existing Option III guidelines relating to courses/curriculum, admissions, administration and review and student restrictions as defined in the Revised Guidelines for Option III Graduate Degree Programs, 2016.

A copy of the complete proposal is available in the Office of Graduate Studies. Contact Michelle Broadway, Assistant Dean, at Mbroadway@austin.utexas.edu or 232-3625 for additional information.
Proposal to Revise the Existing Option III
Master of Science in Finance (MSF) Degree Program

The Department of Finance is requesting a modification of the existing Option III Master of Science in Finance (MSF) degree program for the purpose of allowing a room-share arrangement between Option I (state-funded) and Option III (self-funded) courses.

The room-share arrangement will allow Option I undergraduate students who have been provisionally admitted to the Option III MSF program in their sophomore or junior year to take graduate courses required for the MSF degree program prior to graduation. With the consent of their undergraduate degree programs, these students will be able to take up to 12 hours of MSF graduate coursework to be reserved for graduate credit; and they will have access to the McCombs School internship-recruiting infrastructure prior to starting the Option III program. This arrangement will primarily provide The University of Texas at Austin non-business undergraduates with an alternative route to enter a McCombs School of Business graduate program, but will be open to McCombs undergraduates as well.

The primary extra expense associated with creating this room-share arrangement involves the provision of instructional support (that is, TA or grader time), which will be paid from the Option III budget. The cost of such support will only be paid to Option I PhD students or other Option I graduate students providing instructional support and not as an extra compensation to the instructor. All courses for this Option III program will be taught on a voluntary overload basis.

The proposed room-share arrangement will not impact the Option III program budget and there will be no effect on teaching load or faculty compensation. Option III courses will continue to be taught on a voluntary, over-load basis. Approval from the Director of the MSF program will be required for each use of the room sharing arrangement that adds any Option I student(s) to an Option III course. Finally, the Option III degree program will continue to adhere to all existing Option III guidelines relating to courses/curriculum, admissions, administration and review and student restrictions as defined in the Revised Guidelines for Option III Graduate Degree Programs, 2016.

A copy of the proposal is available in the Office of Graduate Studies. Contact Michelle Broadway, Assistant Dean, at Mbroadway@austin.utexas.edu or 232-3625 for additional information.