Chair Prabhudev Konana called the fifth meeting of the Graduate Assembly for the 2016-2017 academic year to order on Wednesday, April 26, at 1:30 PM in the Harry Ransom Center, Tom Lea Room, 3.206.

Faculty Members Present: Andrea Alu, Kristen Brustad, James Cox, John Deigh, Kathy Fuller-Seeley, Elizabeth Gershoff, John Hasenbein, Maria Juenger, Eileen Kintner, Prabhudev Konana, Andreas Matouschek, Paula Murray, Kavita Radhakrishnan, Karen Rascati, Kui Ren, Diane Schallert, Ciaran Trace, Kate Weaver, and Patricia Wilson

Faculty Members Absent: Hal Alper (excused), Darla Castelli (excused), Allan Cole (excused), David Harrison (excused), George Pollak (excused), Raji Srinivisan (excused), Pauline Strong, Shirley Thompson, and Jo Worthy

Student Members Present: Wills Brown and Jon Bender

Ex Officio Members Present: Charlotte Canning

Representatives from the Office of the Graduate Studies Present: Michelle Broadway, John Dalton, Marv Hackert, Dean Neikirk, Shannon Neuse, Erin Rhodes, Nancy Riley, and Rebekah Sylvia

Visitors: Cindy Carlson, Caryn Conley, Annmarie Corey, Sue Cox, Robin Dusek, Steve Gilbert, Cisco Gomes, Steven Lindberg, Sherry Melecki, Sharon Strover, Marilla Svinicki, Huseyin Tanriverdi, Robert Young

Order of Business

I. Approval of the minutes of the February 1 and March 22 meetings

The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Dean Hackert began by announcing that UT has a new dean for the graduate school, Mark Smith, who is an electrical and computer engineer trained at MIT and Georgia Tech and, most recently, the graduate dean at Purdue University.

UT hosted the Big XII Graduate Deans in April 2017. There was much discussion of challenges universities have in common, including how best to support students. Dean Hackert also mentioned the Rand Report, available on the Graduate School web page. They compared Texas to New York, California, and Florida populous states, and found the state is behind in the number of advanced degrees it grants compared to all those states.
Dean Hackert took some questions about the report and issues facing the Graduate School in the next few years. He then introduced Shannon Neuse who reviewed the specifics of admission. She reported that there had been some shifts in admission patterns since the previous year but the numbers were still in flux.

III. Report of Chair (Prabhudev Konana)

Prior to the start of the meeting Chair Konana introduced the newly elected members of the Graduate Assembly.

Secretary Charlotte Canning had to step down in the middle of her term and Karen Rascati from the College of Pharmacy was unanimously nominated to fill her term.

Chair Konana welcomed incoming chair Hal Alper and urged every faculty member to serve on the Graduate Assembly at some point. He pointed out that graduate education is facing many challenges, especially funding, and urged the Assembly to be proactive in the future. He also thanked the people in the Graduate School for their excellent work.

IV. Academic Committee (Ciaran Trace reporting on behalf of Hal Alper)

A. Proposal to create a graduate certificate in Latin American Architecture

Cisco Gomez, Associate Professor and Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, and Robin Dusek, Graduate Coordinator, spoke on behalf on the proposal. There were few questions asked and they were informational in nature.

The proposal passed unanimously.

B. Proposal to create an Option III (self-funded) Master of Science in Information Technology and Management (MSITM) degree program

Steven Lindbergh, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at the McCombs School of Business; Sue Cox, Executive Vice Dean for Academics at the Dell Medical School; and Annemarie Corey from the Dell Medical School spoke on behalf on the proposal. There was one information-based question.

The proposal passed unanimously.
C. Proposal to create a dual-degree program in Medicine/Business Administration

Sue Cox, Executive Vice Dean of Academics from the Dell Medical School; Cindy Carlson, Chair, Department of Educational Psychology; Burless Vinicki, Professor Emeritus from the Department of Educational Psychology; Diane Schallert, Professor, Department of Educational Psychology; and Annemarie Corey from the Dell Medical School provided information about the need for the degree and excellent placement opportunities. The only question from the Assembly was logistical in nature. The proposal was passed unanimously.

D. Proposal to create a dual-degree program in Medicine/Educational Psychology

Huseyin Tanriverdi, Associate Professor, Department of IROM; Steve Gilbert, Chair of the Department of IROM; Karen Connolly, Lecturer, Department of IROM; Marilla Svinicki, Department of Educational Psychology; and Sue Cox, Executive Vice Dean of Academics from the Dell Medical School provided information about the need for the degree. There were no questions.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

E. Report on Option III Annual Progress Reports

The committee is currently reviewing the reports submitted to date and there will be a report on the progress of these degrees in Fall 2017.

V. Administrative Committee (James Cox)

A. Report on committee’s discussion of 14-semester rule

The committee is not ready to issue a formal report but will advise next year’s committee to eliminate the rule. A record of their deliberations will be given to next year’s committee. They will also recommend that next year’s committee look into implementing a rule requiring the annual review of all graduate students.

The committee also discussed the dissertation embargo policy and will pass along their findings to next year’s committee.

VI. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Karen Rascati reporting on behalf of Diane Schallert)
A. Proposal to waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for UT Austin undergraduate applicants to the Master of Science in Information Technology and Management (MSITM) degree program

Steve Gilbert, Chair of the Department of IROM, spoke on behalf of the proposal. He was asked how they identify students and what the national norms are.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

B. Proposal to allow the Department of Accounting to accept the GRE or GMAT for applicants to the integrated program in Accounting

There were no questions.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

VII. Graduate Student Assembly (Wills Brown)

Wills Brown updated the Assembly on the various initiatives of the GSA.

VIII. Adjournment

Before the committee adjourned Dean Hackert invited the Assembly to a reception and thanked Chair Konana for his service.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:43PM.

Charlotte Canning, Secretary