

Minutes of the Graduate Council

Date of Meeting: January 20, 2021

The January 20, 2021 meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:15 p.m. via Zoom by Dr. Gretchen Busl, Chair of the Graduate Council.

Attendance:

- **Members:** Erika Armstrong, Kevin Becker, Sneha Bharadwaj, Wayne Brewer, Lee Brown, Gretchen Busl, Paula Clutter, Rita DelloStritto, Jordan Fuchs, Hui-Tin Goh, Holly Hansen-Thomas (ex-officio), Ruth Johnson (ex-officio), Rebecca Keele, Randa Keeley, Dundee Lackey, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Peggy Lisenbee (on behalf of Sharla Snider), Barbara McAlister, Mindy Menn, Sandra Murdock, Joel Muro, Mindy Patterson, Pushkala Raman, Suzanne Sellers, Theresa Smith, Annette Torres-Elias, Laura Trujillo-Jenks, Wesley Tucker, Ann Wheeler, Alisa Woods, Philip Yang
- **Guests:** Shaunte Alvarez-Minor, Brandon Bush, Korie Hawkins, Jenna Lee, Lynda Murphy, Christopher Ray, Sully Saucedo, Gray Scott, Terry Senne, Juliet Spencer, Genevieve West, Linda Rubin, Brigitte Vittrup, Agatha Beins

MINUTES APPROVED:

- The meeting minutes for November 18, 2020 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Report from Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas:

Dr. Hansen-Thomas made the following announcements:

- Event reminder: The Equity based Holistic Review with Dr. Julie Posselt will be held on February 8th from 12-2 pm (see last page for registration link and event information).
- Submission incentive: New incentive for researchers to write grants, from \$500-\$1500. Go to the ORSP website for additional information.
- Federation of North Texas Universities Symposium: April 9, 2021 (virtual event).
- Schweitzer Fellowship Program: Students may apply to participate in the Schweitzer Fellowship Program, which provides students with mentoring opportunities to create programs addressing health and wellbeing needs within communities. Applications are due on Friday, January 22, 2021.
- An upcoming event related to research, scholarship and graduate students: “Writing A Book Proposal and Negotiating A Book Contract” will be hosted by our colleagues Jessica Gullion (Associate Dean of Research, College of Arts and Sciences) and Amanda Zerangue (Library) on February 26th at 1pm virtually. The CRDA department will help publicize this event.
- Texas Engineering Extension Collaborative: We are part of a consortium with A&M and many other A&M institutions including San Angelo. It relates to doing research in STEM related fields. If a faculty member has interest in connecting with other researchers throughout the state, there will be a process to sign up through Scholars at TAMU.edu and there is no fee (additional information at the end of the minutes).

- Center for Research Design and Analysis changes: Paul Yates is now directing the CRDA.
- NSF I-Corps: This is a competition sponsored by NSF for those researchers planning to do something entrepreneurial and want to commercialize a product. This is an opportunity to be awarded a \$50,000 grant (additional information at the end of the minutes).
- Congratulations to all involved at the Graduate Virtual Orientation held last week. There were over 100 people in attendance.

Report from Dr. Ruth Johnson:

- Deadline for the students to apply to graduate is January 27th.
- Graduate School Zoom meetings/Q&A's resume January 21st. Typically held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. Tomorrow's topic will be about applying to graduate and next week will be about theses and dissertations.
- CRM updates: Next week, Target X will be here virtually for three days, and I will be helping to implement, get things in and answer questions. All department chairs were asked for information that is requested of students secondary to the graduate application. The CRM will have the ability for students to send out recommendation letters, requests or forms to their recommenders and then have them returned to us. Graduate students will no longer need to apply through ApplyTX. We hope to have it up and running by the fall.
- Remember that program changes that get approved do not go into effect until the next new graduate catalog. Leapfrog will continue as the vendor.
- All GA PTFs are in and complete and it's now past the time for in-state tuition.
- Graduate Catalog is on a timeline schedule and will be sent out soon. Everything needs to come back to Graduate School and get approved for the next catalog.
- Graduate numbers are looking good for spring. We just need to get all the departments to get their current students enrolled so that we don't lose students and to follow up with students who have been accepted but haven't yet enrolled.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Linda Rubin, Faculty Ombudsperson and Professor in Psychology, spoke about her role and mission as the ombudsperson.

SUMMARY REPORTS FROM 2020-21 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Executive Committee – Dr. Gretchen Busl

- No Report

Research Committee – Dr. Sneha Bharadwaj

- Chancellor's Student Research Scholars: submit the nomination form no later than Thursday, February 25, 2021.
- Graduate Council Award for Exceptional, Original Scholarship: announcement will soon be sent out with a deadline in February, so be on the lookout.

Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Ann Wheeler

- Dr. Johnson's ad hoc committee's graduate policy changes will be reviewed this month.
- Dr. Anderson's iTeach proposal will be reviewed before the next meeting.

Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks

- No Report

Membership Committee - Dr. Kevin Becker

- No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Academic Standards Committee, Dr. Ann Wheeler

- Accelerated Graduate Degree Programs
 - Changes were made and highlighted in green. (Document located at the end of the agenda.)
 - Voted on and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Academic Programs Committee, Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks

- Proposal to create new certificate program in English
 - Dr. Genevieve West was present for questions.
 - Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Proposal to revise the MA in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies by reducing the total number of credit hours from 36 to 30 and to move the program 100% online
 - Dr. Agatha Beins was present for questions.
 - Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Proposal for new SLP certificate in Multicultural and Diversity Studies
 - Dr. Erika Armstrong was present for questions.
 - Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Proposal to revise the PhD in Child Development and Early Education by reducing the total number of credit hours from 90 to 78 post-bac or 60 to 48 post-Master's
 - Dr. Brigitte Vittrup was present for questions.
 - Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Proposal to revise the PSM degree in Biotechnology
 - Dr. Juliet Spencer was present for questions.
 - Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:13 p.m.

Information related to the Dean's report:

1. Dr. Julie Posselt

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvc8SBOgAfXeJkN5vSjKYGVmzmIcpAmYhqarAFdea68cP6-A/viewform>

Sign up information for the 2 hour discussion on **Equity based Holistic Review with Dr. Julie Posselt**. This event will be held on February 8th from 12-2 pm, and of course will be virtual.

I appreciate that many of you shared your interest in attending. It helped me gauge participation. I now ask if you would be so kind as to **officially register** for the presentation at this [link](#) or in the **attached flyer**. This presentation will be shared among three institutions: TWU, University of Rochester, and the Rand Graduate School. We have space for **50** participants, so please complete the registration. Breakout rooms of about 6-8 people will be created within campus, by disciplinary area (e.g., UR social science, UR physical sciences, TWU life sciences) so plan to do a bit of work and application of knowledge that day.

Dr. Posselt notes: This workshop is the result of five years of NSF-sponsored activity via the Inclusive Graduate Education Network and the California Consortium for Inclusive Graduate Education. It's a high-quality, research-based event that you can count upon to yield positive benefits for your colleagues in fostering reflection, discussion, and positive change.

2. Texas Engineering Experiment Station

Opportunity for signing up to A&M System Research Portal scholars@tamu.edu

Please just complete this link first to get access:

Non-System members' link:

https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a9nrvcTwbDogHml

3. I-CORPS

https://www.swicorps.org/portfolio_page/regional_uta_spring-2021/

4. Federation Symposium

<https://tgs.unt.edu/gsc-event/federation-graduate-student-research-symposium>

5. Writing a book proposal and negotiating a contract with Amanda Zerangue and Jessica Gullion, February 26th <https://apps.twu.edu/calendar/showevent.aspx?sEventID=11636>