



TASK FORCE ON GRADUATE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PHASE 3 FINAL REPORT

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Task Force on Graduate Education & Research Spring Update

Background

For the Spring Semester of 2024, the Task Force was asked to provide recommendations about governance and responsibilities for a Graduate College. Concurrently, we are identifying courses that could be housed in the Graduate College.

Recommendation 1

The Task Force recommended a unified Graduate Council (or similarly named body) governance model and associated member composition, responsibilities, and guidelines.

The Task Force recommended that the Graduate College adopt a governance structure analogous to that utilized by the University of Texas at Tyler (<https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/files/graduate-council-bylaws.pdf>). Some highlights of their structure are listed below.

- Each program/school (not discipline-specific) has two members – one elected by the faculty and one appointed by the Dean or Directors of that unit. Each member serves a 3-year term.
- At least two student members. The number of student members may be flexible enough to provide adequate representation, but they would only have one collective vote.
- Officers are Chairs and Chair-elects who are elected by the graduate council membership.
- A standing Executive Committee (President, President-Elect, Dean) creates its agenda.
- A standing Curriculum Committee.
- Ad hoc Committees can be created by the Executive Committee on an as-needed basis.

Recommendation 2

The Task Force recommended integrated Graduate College-level services, support, and/or responsibilities to best support student and research endeavors.

The committee was asked to identify all possible components that should be developed or supported by a Graduate College. After a comprehensive list was generated, all members were asked to rank each item in order of prioritization to facilitate the development and growth of the proposed Graduate College. Overlap in components such as functions or offices in the derived list were consolidated accordingly. The committee suggested that the initial implementation should focus on the first two to three offices, with subsequent offices integrating at a later stage. Some offices (Academic Affairs Division and Student Affairs Division) could be combined when the College is launched and separated later as needed.

Functions/Offices in Graduate College:

- Office of the Dean
- Academic Affairs Division
- Student Affairs Division
- Faculty and Staff Development Division
- Research and Innovation Division Liaison/ Clinical & Transitional Research Division

Recommendation 3

The Task Force recommended the creation of an External Advisory Board made of invited community leaders, business leaders, and alums to provide guidance on aligning degree programs with workforce needs.