

MINUTES
November 10, 2020
Undergraduate Assembly

The Undergraduate Assembly met in regular session on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS. Minutes for the meeting follow.

Welcome Remarks **Pranesh Aswath, Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Policy and Undergraduate Assembly Chair**

Dr. Aswath opened the meeting with a soundcheck and ground rules. Ground rules: Only one person at time for any question or comment. Please use the “raise hand” feature in Teams. No interruptions during a person’s 1 minute.

Attendance **Pranesh Aswath, Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Policy and Undergraduate Assembly Chair**

Attendance was taken to ensure a quorum was met. Those present are listed below.

Syedali Abolmaali	Matt Fujita	Nancy Michael
David Arditi	Daniel Garcia	Laura Mydlarz (Khaledi)
Pranesh Aswath, UA Chair	Ruth Gornet	Adrian Parr
Philip Baiden	Genevieve Graff	Lynn Peterson (Crouch)
Linda Barasch	Katie Hageman	Edith Reed
Bonnie Boardman	Grace Hao	Megan Rogers (Merwin)
LaShaunn Bold	Brenda Harris	David Rosser
Bill Carroll	Tim Henry	Aaron Smallwood
Elisabeth Cawthon	Michael Holmes	Amber Smallwood
Kay Yut Chen	Arafaa Khan (Student Governance)	David Sparks
Saiful Chowdhury	Young-Tae Kim	Priscila Tamplain
Stephanie Cole	Conroy Kydd	Kimberly Tate
Paul Conrad	Cynthia Laborde	Amy Tigner
Theresa Doughty	Blaize Lafleur (Student Governance)	Jodi Tommerdahl
Sergio Espinoza	Rebecca Lewis (IER)	Nila Veerabathina
Ceil Flores	Karen Magruder	James Williams
Andy Kruciz - Guest		

Minutes **Pranesh Aswath, UA Chair**

Approval of October 6, 2020 Minutes (attached)

Wrong date was noted in the October 6, 2020 minutes. This will be corrected.

Amy Tigner submitted a motion to approve minutes with corrections noted; Jodi Tommerdahl seconded.

Motion carried.

Election of Secretary

Pranesh Aswath, UA Chair

Amy Tigner self-nominated and was elected as the new secretary for the Undergraduate Assembly.

Submissions from the UCC*

David Arditi, UCC Chair

Dr. Arditi briefly presented the UCC documents from the October 27th meeting that were up for approval by the Undergraduate Assembly. These documents were approved by the UCC unanimously. All documents were made accessible to the UA prior to the meeting for review. These documents included course changes and the Business Analytics certificate.

Before voting on the documents to be approved, there was discussion regarding the Business Analytics certificate. Question/concern was raised concerning an overlap with the new certificate proposal. Dr. Gornet asked if there was overlap with data science programs, as there is a data science data aspect. Dr. Arditi commented that this was discussed in the UCC. Kat Yut Chen said that the focus is solely on the business application of data, which is distinctly different than that used in science departments. Dr. Mydlarz commented that there is no overlap with the new certificate proposal and College of Science programs.

Dr. Chen motioned to accept all submissions from the UCC as presented; Dr. Smallwood seconded.

Motion carried.

Academic Standards Committee

Pranesh Aswath & Andy Kruzic

Its Role in the Undergraduate Assembly

The Academic Standards Committee is an important committee that reports to the Undergraduate Assembly. It is a sub-committee of independent members (appointed by individual departments) that reports and makes recommendations to the Undergraduate Assembly. This committee reports mainly on undergraduate issues: admission standards, changes in academic standards, changes in standards from an undergraduate to a professional program. The sub-committee will also address graduate issues as they arise.

The chair of the Academic Standards Committee is a member of the Undergraduate Assembly and will report on actions of the committee.

The Academic Standards Committee has been inactive but will be activated. Prior members will be contacted to see if they want to continue serving. If not, they will be replaced.

Proposed Academic Calendar 2022-23

Kimberly Tate/Pranesh Aswath

The proposed Academic Calendar for 2022-23 was presented. The main change would be starting of the Fall 2020 semester on a Monday instead of a Wednesday. This will add 2 additional instructional days. Starting on a Monday, the instructional days will be the same for both the Fall and Spring semesters. One dead day has been built into the calendar.

There are some disparages when a class meets only one day a week but there is no solution for this scenario.

- Dr. Aswath also said there was a question from student council about wanting to have more than one dead day in the semester.
- Kimberly Tate said there are not enough days in the calendar to accommodate more than one dead day with the requirement of SACS.
- Dr. Aswath said there are not enough days if they don't want to give up the Wednesday before Thanksgiving
- Dr. Cawthon wrote in the chat that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving was hard won.
- Dr. Gornet asked if there was parity in the instructional minutes between T/Th and M/W/F classes, as there are fewer instructional minutes in M/W/F. She wanted to know if anyone had calculated the instructional minutes.
- Kimberly Tate said the days that had been lost in the last two years.
- Dr. Aswath said that the meeting days but not the minutes were calculated.
- Dr. Aaron Smallwood asked about how this would affect classes that meet once a week. By his calculation, Tuesday classes would meet 16 times, whereas Wednesday classes would only meet 14 times.
- Dr. Aswath said that if you only teach once a week you will always have some inequality.
- Conrad Kay mentioned that classes that meet once a week have 10 more minutes each week, that would be an extra 160 minutes over the course of the semester.
- Kimberly Tate said that they did a review last year in comparison with other UT schools, UTA had the same or more instructional days.

Ali Abolmaali motioned to accept the Academic Calendar for 2022-23 as presented. Philip Baiden seconded.

Motion carried

New Business

Pranesh Aswath

There was no new business presented.

Adjournment

Jodi Tommerdahl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m., Grace Hao seconded.

Motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bittner on behalf of Pranesh Aswath, and Amy Tigner,
Secretary*