

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

Resolution:

Introduced By:

Kyle Kampa
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Action Taken: _____ passed _____

Certified:

Michael Redding
President, GSA

In Support of Revising Dissertation Policies

Summary: A resolution urging the Graduate School to change language in the Graduate Catalog and recommending codification of dissertation requirements.

- Whereas(1):** The Graduate School requires the submission of a dissertation prior to graduating with a doctoral degree¹;
- Whereas(2):** A dissertation in the Graduate Catalog is defined as “An original contribution to scholarship, the result of an independent investigation in the major area, and must be approved by the dissertation committee²;”
- Whereas(3):** Current practice at the departmental level deviates from the language in the catalog³;
- Whereas(4):** Departments across campus define the requirements as a document, as a set of combined published articles, or other scholarly works produced by the student⁴;
- Whereas(5):** Different academic disciplines place varying emphasis on the importance of publication of documents;
- Whereas(6):** All departments that award doctoral degrees require a dissertation committee that review and approve individual dissertations⁵;
- Whereas(7):** Not all departments have explicitly stated the requirements and format of a dissertation;

Whereas(8): Peer institutions including University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and University of California Los Angeles provide flexibility in dissertation requirements whether they come in the form of a document or as a set of combined published articles⁶;

Whereas (9): That the graduate students of the University of Texas at Austin urge that dissertation requirements should continue to be under the purview of individual degree granting programs.

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved (1): A dissertation in the Graduate Catalog be redefined as “An original contribution to scholarship *as codified by each department* and must be approved by the dissertation committee.”

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved (2): That every degree granting program codify the requirements of dissertations for their specific program.

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved (3): That these requirements be included the Graduate Catalog.

Be it Further

Resolved (4): That this legislation be sent to the following people: Steven Leslie, Judith Langlois, Terry Kahn, Marvin Hackert, Michelle Broadway, Hunter March, Martha Hilley, Michael White, Frederick Steiner, Thomas Gilligan, Roderick Hart, Manuel Justiz, Gregory Fenves, Douglas Dempster, Sharon Mosher, Andrew Dillon, Randy Diehl, Linda Hicke, Alexa Stuijbergen, Lynn Crismon, Robert Hutchings

¹http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/pdn/deadlines/doc_spring.html

²<http://registrar.utexas.edu/docs/catalogs/grad/ut-catalog-grad-11-13.pdf>

³http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/dl/files/academic-programs/phd/3_article_dissertation.pdf;
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/classics/Graduate/Dissertation-Procedures.php>

⁴http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/dl/files/academic-programs/phd/3_article_dissertation.pdf;
http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/departments/eda/csp-doc/4552/dis_guidelines;
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/classics/Graduate/Dissertation-Procedures.php>

⁵http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/pdn/deadlines/checklist_diss_spring.html

⁶<http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/catalog/catalog12-13-32.htm>;
<http://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/pgmrqintro.htm>; <http://handbook.unc.edu/phd.html>;
<http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/download/TCgrad/GradInfo09-11.pdf>;
http://zzz.physics.umn.edu/graduate_handbook/after_the_first_year;
<http://www.micab.umn.edu/current/courses.html>