

GRADUATE COUNCIL 2021-22 Annual Report

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

This past year has seen the continuing impacts of COVID-19 on the campus, along with continuing concerns about barriers to graduate student welfare and success, and what can be done to strengthen graduate education. This year, we had new leadership in the Graduate Division, which is committed to finding effective solutions to challenges faced by graduate students and programs, including approaches for securing needed resources and improving student welfare. Graduate Council (GC) continued to participate in wider campus efforts related to graduate education, and focused proactively on issues of fellowship review and other policy and process reviews. Regular business included review of graduate program curricular changes, review of new graduate degree proposals and non-degree program proposals, participation in the external review for departments and programs, and review of GC's delegation policy. As it does annually, Council consulted extensively with the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) and other Graduate Division colleagues on issues throughout the year, including an orientation on the “state of graduate education” for members at the start of the year, fellowship review, and discussion of the block allocation formula and procedures. A detailed summary of the Council’s work in 2021-22 is provided below.

Graduate Council Engagement with Campus Strategic Planning Related to Graduate Education

Last year, Graduate Council included in its annual report¹ a brief history of its engagement and efforts to catalyze campus strategic planning and action for strengthening graduate education. In 2020-21, partly in response to these efforts, the Chancellor and the Campus Provost/ Executive Vice Chancellor (CP/EVC) collaborated with the Faculty Senate to launch the Joint Senate-Administration Working Group on Graduate Education (JWG). The JWG focused its efforts on developing a comprehensive revenue analysis for the graduate enterprise, exploration of alternative graduate student funding models, development and analysis of a Faculty Graduate Education Survey, and analysis of Graduate Division staffing. The group was co-chaired by then-Graduate Council Chair Don Smith and then-iVPDGS Quentin Williams. This year, new VPDGS Peter Biehl has launched the Implementation Task Force for Inclusive Excellence in Graduate Education (ITF), which seeks to implement recommendations from the JWG March 2021 report. The ITF includes two subcommittees focused on (a) funding and (b) student success and wellbeing. Graduate Council has been an active participant in this work, with representatives serving on and contributing to the ITF. Graduate Council Chair (F,W) Lissa Caldwell serves on the ITF Steering Committee and chairs the Student Success and Wellbeing subcommittee of the ITF, which also included Graduate Council members Banu Bargu and Greg Gilbert. Graduate Council Chair (S) Andy Fisher serves on the funding subcommittee of the ITF. Graduate Council will continue to actively contribute and participate in the ITF in the 2022-23 year. As noted last year, Council welcomes this sustained focus and commitment by the UC Santa Cruz community to strengthen

¹ Graduate Council [Annual Report 2020-21](#).

graduate education and to center graduate student wellbeing and success, and looks forward to continued engagement in these efforts.

Policy and Process Reviews, Changes, and Revisions

During 2021-22, Graduate Council reviewed issues and requests broadly related to policy and process with impacts on graduate education that are highlighted below.

COVID-19 Request from Faculty Graduate Directors in Social Sciences

Graduate Council received a request from five faculty graduate directors in the Division of Social Sciences regarding impacts of the pandemic on new and continuing graduate students, particularly the time required for students who began work in Fall 2021 to pass their Qualifying Examination and advance to candidacy. The graduate directors referenced the memo prepared by Graduate Council and the VPGDS in spring 2020 (see GC and VPDGS to Department/Program Chair and Faculty Directors re COVID-19 impacts on Graduate Education, 4/19/20), which implemented temporary, blanket adjustments to several policies and timelines, and requested that Council implement an extension of the timeline for the Qualifying Examination for the entire cohort of Ph.D. students that began work in fall 2021. After careful consideration of this request and discussion of current conditions and challenges faced by graduate students and programs, Council noted that while the campus continues to feel impacts from the pandemic, we are now in a position to take a more measured approach, and it is preferable to make use of the existing exception-to-policy process as needed for individual students (the VPDGS is empowered to make exceptions to policy in response to departmental requests). Graduate Council recommended that departments work with individual students, and if an extension is needed, follow the existing process to request an extension on a case-by-case basis (GC response dated 6/10/22).

Discussions about COVID-19 impacts are also taking place at the systemwide level. In July 2022, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) and the UC Council of Deans wrote a letter, endorsed by the UC Academic Council and subsequently sent to President Drake, expressing concern about the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on graduate education and graduate students at the UC. The letter cites the work of local campus graduate councils and graduate divisions in addressing COVID-19 impacts and calls for systemwide solutions to these complex systemwide challenges, including the need for increased funding. Graduate Council will continue to monitor these discussions in the coming year.

Delegation for Emergency Remote Instruction

During fall quarter, CP/EVC Kletzer requested that the Committees on Educational Policy (CEP), GC, and the Committee on Courses of Instruction (CCI) consider delegation for decision for emergency remote instruction to course sponsoring agencies for winter, spring, and summer 2022 (CP/EVC to CEP, GC, CCI 10/25/22). CP/EVC Kletzer noted that while initial plans for winter 22 were for a return to default in-person instruction, the administration discovered that “a small but significant number of students may need to remain fully remote in winter and spring quarters.” While in the past, the Senate has delegated this authority on a quarterly basis, GC made the decision (communicated separately from the other committees due to the constraints of every-other-week meetings) to delegate authority to course sponsoring agencies for graduate courses, and graduate/undergraduate courses taught in conjunction (“mezzanine” courses), for winter and spring 2022. Council communicated that when possible requests of this nature should be provided

more time for review, so that the Senate can deliberate a thoughtful, unified response where possible. In a follow-up communication from CEP, GC, CCI (dated 11/23/21) the committees acknowledged the challenges and impact on workload for the campus, and clarified the reporting requirements for courses that were moved to remote instruction. The Graduate Council Chair also met with Chairs from CEP and CCI to discuss this issue.

Remote Instruction: Instructor Accommodations

CP/EVC Kletzer subsequently requested (CP/EVC to CCI, CEP, GC Chairs 8/24/22) that CCI, CEP, and GC Chairs review a request regarding accommodations for remote instruction in fall 2022 for instructors with immunocompromised household members. The committees jointly responded (CEP/CCI/GC to CP/EVC 8/26/22) that the Senate views instructor medical accommodations as a personnel issue that is within the administration's purview. However, the committees also noted that the Senate has no objections to the practice of accommodating academic appointees with their own medical conditions or to the extension of option for remote instruction for fall 2022 with an immunocompromised household member. However, committees urged that departments carefully consider the impacts to students, and explore options for approved online or hybrid instruction where possible, to minimize negative impacts on students.

Online Course Policy

Graduate Council worked throughout the year with CEP and CCI on requests related to online course policy. During winter quarter, GC reviewed a formal request for guidance from CCI, and GC subsequently supported the request to create a category of provisional approval for synchronous online and hybrid courses with clear sunset provisions. Graduate Council noted that a course provisionally approved for synchronous online and hybrid modality must be offered in that modality at least once within three years, and if a program wishes to convert a course modality permanently, the program is required at the end of three years or by the third offering of the course, to submit a formal proposal for a permanent change. GC agreed to work in coordination with CEP and CCI to determine the types of information required for secondary review (GC to CCI 3/8/22). CEP, GC, CCI subsequently communicated to the campus regarding concerns raised about review of online course applications, and that CEP and GC had granted CCI's request to provisionally approve synchronous and hybrid course requests for fall 2022 (3/24/22).

During spring quarter, CCI requested GC and CEP review of a set of documents to aid in CCI's review of online and hybrid course approvals. These documents discussed proposed updates to the CCI Online Course Guidelines Living Document, permanent approval procedures, and additional issues related to existing online course policy. Council provided detailed feedback (GC to CCI 6/27/22) and further recommended that CCI update the CCI Online Course Request Guidelines document, prepare a cover memo discussing the proposed changes, and provide examples of courses that made a successful transition to hybrid/online, in order to facilitate Graduate Council review of a revised proposal. GC understood that these issues should be addressed ideally before the start of fall quarter 2022.

During summer 2022, CCI updated and requested review of an Online Course Best Practices document and requested further guidance from CEP/GC along with the Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning/Online Education CITL/OE administration (CCI 7/21/22). The GC Chair provided feedback on the document, and provided additional feedback on questions related to

issues of classroom capacity, equity and access, and delegations of authority related to provisional approvals. Graduate Council expects to continue to work with CCI and CEP in fall 2022 as CCI finalizes essential policy, rubric, and guidance documents that will aid programs, faculty, and instructors as they prepare proposals for shifting course modality. Graduate Council appreciates that CEP will be the leading committee on this issue, which will have immediate and widespread impact on undergraduate and graduate education, and looks forward to working with both CEP and CCI in the coming year to streamline and clarify processes and criteria used to review course and modality-shift proposals.

UC HSI Pre-Professoriate Fellowship

During winter 2022, Graduate Council was asked by the Graduate Division to give input on the review process and evaluation criteria for the UC HSI Professoriate Fellowship (UC President's Pre-Professoriate Fellowship). This year was the first year the fellowship call went out to the campus. Given the limited time to respond, GC did not participate in this year's review but provided feedback for a pilot year review (GC to VPDGS 2/2/22). GC recommendations for 2022 included delegating pilot review to the Graduate Division, with the expectation that the review would be adjudicated by faculty members, as selected by the Graduate Division. During spring quarter, Graduate Council consulted with Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Don Smith (the topic was the process and outcomes for the HSI fellowship and a discussion of the Cota-Robles outcomes for this cycle). Associate Dean Smith provided an update on the review process used this year, as well as the number of applicants. During this consultation, Council discussed its participation in the review of the HSI applications for the next cycle. GC expects to review the call at the annual fall meeting when Council also reviews the Cota-Robles and Dissertation Year Fellowship calls. GC will provide input in advance of the review process regarding evaluation criteria for the next fellowship cycle, and the review subcommittee will include a subset of Graduate Council members, similar to the process for the Cota-Robles review.

In Absentia Policy: Local Campus Region Definition

VPDGS Biehl consulted with Graduate Council on the planned revision to the *In Absentia* local campus region definition. The UC systemwide *In Absentia* policy was recently revised, giving Graduate Deans at each campus, in consultation with constituents, the ability to "establish a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered." Other UC campuses have defined the local campus regions in varying ways (distance from campus, travel time from campus, and by defining counties within and outside the local campus region). Graduate Council supported adopting a county-based definition, and recommended that the following counties fall within the UC Santa Cruz local campus region: San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Monterey, San Benito, Alameda, Santa Cruz. All other counties fall outside the local campus region and can be considered for *In Absentia* applications (GC to VPDGS 2/7/22).

Delegation Policy

The Council's "Delegations of Authority" document is intended to provide a comprehensive list of routine administrative decisions delegated to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, as well as those decisions delegated to the Council Chair and other administrative officers. The document also states, as established in GC bylaws, that the Council will annually monitor and review its delegations of authority and consult with the VPDGS, who will report annually on 1) the formulation of general procedures established in conformity with the delegations of authority,

and 2) any re-delegations of authority. This year, no changes were made by Council to the Delegations of Authority document, which was communicated out during winter quarter (GC to VPDGS VPAA and CCI 1/19/22).

Last year, Council extended permanently its delegation of review of graduate courses of instruction (including new courses, changes in existing courses, and course discontinuances) to the Committee on Courses of Instruction (CCI).² Graduate Council will continue to set policy and consult with CCI on graduate course review and approval as needed. This year, Graduate Council, CEP, and CCI worked together on a number of issues related to online course review, described earlier in this report, and discussion and consultation on online course review will continue during the next academic year.

VPDGS Consultations

There are a number of issues on which Graduate Council and the Graduate Division formally consult throughout the year. To facilitate communication and review of key issues, the Council maintains a standing consultation calendar with the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, produced collaboratively during the summer. Consultation topics, anticipated to occur annually, focused on the following:

“State of Graduate Education” Overview

Graduate Council welcomed new Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, Peter Biehl. Council focused initial consultation on questions in the following areas: 1) general mission and vision for Graduate Division; 2) initiatives and priorities for the division in the coming year; and 3) opportunities for GC and Graduate Division to collaborate toward strengthening of graduate programs across the campus. Last year, Council noted it would re-integrate a review of graduate enrollment trends (# of applicants/yield both campus aggregate and by department/program and division, detailed applicant diversity data) as part of the annual first VPDGS consultation, and GC provided data from last spring’s consultation to this year’s Council. VPDGS Biehl also took the opportunity to engage in discussion about the campus’s relatively recent AAU status and to introduce the planned Implementation Task Force for Inclusive Excellence in Graduate Education, with a focus on implementation of recommendations from the Joint Senate-Administration Working Group on Graduate Education (JWG) Report (2021).

Review of Block Allocation Formula

This annual consultation focuses on an orientation on the block allocation formula. Given what Council learned about the Master’s Incentive Program (MIP) during last year’s annual consultation³ this year, Council requested that the VPDGS also discuss his perspective on the role of master’s degrees in graduate education at UC Santa Cruz, and specifically about support for master’s students. GC also asked for an update regarding continuing impacts of COVID-19, including on the upcoming admissions cycle.

² See the GC 2020-21 Annual Report.

³ The work of better understanding MIP and how the funds are used across the campus was eventually taken up by a Graduate Council/Committee on Planning and Budget/Graduate Division working group after the work of the JWG was completed in 2021, and then eventually folded into the work of the ITF funding subcommittee (currently in progress).

VPDGS Biehl also provided a written update on graduate academic integrity cases and reported that there were no further re-delegations of authority. GC had requested a written update on these issues, to be discussed during the consultation only if needed.

Dissertation Year and Cota-Robles Fellowship Report

Graduate Council consults annually with the VPDGS for a report on the process and outcomes for the Dissertation Year Fellowships (DYF) and the Cota-Robles Fellowships awarded in the most recent cycle, and to discuss the calls for the DYF and CR Fellowship upcoming cycles. Council members that have served on the CR subcommittee in the past discussed the process. Feedback on the call was communicated formally in a memo from GC to VPDGS Biehl (dated 12/1/21). Given that major changes were introduced last year, GC did not have major changes for the DYF and CR calls for the 21-22 cycle. Graduate Council requested that the call note the decision to delay enforcement for an additional year of the criteria that students who are awarded the DYF must complete their dissertations in the award year in order for the program to remain eligible for a DYF award in the following year. This decision was made by GC in recognition of continuing impacts of COVID-19.

Given the changes to the CR review process made last year (see GC Annual Report 2020-21) and implemented this year, Council also confirmed the timeline of review and emphasized the need to make applications available in a timely way to address the expanded review process for the coming cycle.

GC appreciates continued collaboration with the VPDGS on fellowship review. The VPDGS annually collects data on the divisional review and evaluation process for the DYF, since GC agreed to delegate the DYF review to the divisions, and this information is reviewed by Council along with the annual reporting of awards and outcomes data for both fellowships. GC expects a similar approach to be taken for the HSI (UC President's Pre-Professoriate) fellowships going forward.

Graduate Admissions Report

This annual consultation typically focuses on a report of graduate admissions, including applications, admissions, and acceptances. More recently, Council has incorporated a request for five-year trend data in racial/ethnic diversity in applications, offers, acceptance, and matriculation data, overall and broken down by division, to help assess progress in increasing graduate student diversity at UC Santa Cruz. Graduate Council has also asked for information on international students, including data on international students by country.

Consultation on graduate admissions did not occur during 2021-22, as a result of a staff shortage and difficulty in aligning schedules in the Graduate Division. Council looks forward to adding this consultation back into the annual schedule next year, early in fall 2022, as it provides critical information for Graduate Council and a valuable foundation for the discussion of collaboration between GC and Graduate Division on a variety of projects and mutual goals.

Consultations: VPGE and COT Chair

Graduate Council consulted with VPGE/VPDUE Richard Hughey and with Committee on Teaching (COT) Chair Kate Jones. Consultation with VPGE/VPDUE Hughey centered on two

topics: 1) visa processing fees, and 2) the proposed summer campus initiative. On the issue of visa processing fees, GC reviewed prior communication from and to the Senate Chair (Senate Chair communication dated 10/15/21, VPGE response dated 11/5/21). Council discussed the apparent lack of a mechanism for visitors to pay fees outside of the recharge process, and the potential inequities across divisions and departments that the current fees and mechanism for payment may create; numerous campus programs and centers have the ability to charge fees against credit cards, and it seems like adding this basic capability could be helpful for visa requests. During the consultation, VPGE/VPDUE Hughey and AVP Becky George discussed the current visa processing structure. Questions raised by Council were considered, and it was agreed that VPGE/VPDUE Hughey and AVP George would explore if any other options might be possible, including establishing a process for charging these costs as a "miscellaneous fee," and exploring different mechanisms whereby a department might get support on a case-by-case basis. GC has not yet heard back about resolutions to this issue. On the summer campus initiative, Council followed up on an earlier informal chair discussion organized by the VPDUE and request for Senate review of the proposal, and sought more information about the aspects of the proposal that directly related to graduate education, in order to better understand the full scope of the impacts to graduate students and graduate education (financial, concrete plans for offering summer courses). The consultation informed Council's subsequent discussion of the proposal, resulting in a formal statement (GC response to Senate Chair dated 5/2/22).

During winter quarter, Graduate Council consulted with COT Chair Kate Jones. Chair Jones reached out to Graduate Council for a discussion about development of anonymity thresholds for Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs). Graduate courses were an area of particular concern as COT reviewed this issue, and the committee was seeking feedback on what best practices might look like as well as other forms of assessment. Chair Jones provided a working document for GC review ahead of the consultation, which formed the basis for discussion. COT was especially concerned that SETs for low-enrollment graduate courses could result in student identities being known. In contrast, GC expressed concern that low-enrollment graduate courses are some of those that are most in need of SETs, as they provide important information concerning the high value many graduate students place on these classes for academic, technical, and professional development, and small classes can be especially difficult to justify purely based on a ratio of students/faculty. Chair Jones noted COT was in an exploratory phase in its review of this issue, and that COT would seek further comment from GC at a future date.

WASC/WSCUC Accreditation Review

Graduate Council engaged with the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (VPAA) on two activities related to the upcoming campus WASC/WSCUC⁴ accreditation review, planned for fall 2025. During winter, Council responded to the VPAA's project outline for planned Senate consultation for the WASC review process, including a multi-year plan for campus preparation for the review. Council appreciated being informed early in the process regarding the opportunities for Senate engagement and input on the various stages leading up to review. During spring quarter, Council responded to the VPAA's request for themes for the accreditation review. Chancellor Larive and CP/EVC Kletzer will select the themes based on feedback received from the constituents consulted by VPAA Lee. GC focused its feedback by emphasizing the importance of graduate programs and graduate students being explicitly represented, as there has been a tendency

⁴ Western Association of Schools and Colleges/Senior College and University Commission.

in past planning efforts for graduate programs and students to be represented implicitly or not at all (GC to Senate Chair 6/10/22).

Council also concurred with VPAA Lee's proposal to form a steering committee as was done during the last WASC review, and emphasized the need to include Graduate Council representation (likely the GC chair). GC looks forward to continued work in this area.

Faculty FTE Recruitment Requests

While Graduate Council typically reviews faculty recruitment requests and provides feedback to the CP/EVC, this is the second year that GC has opted out of full committee review of the requests.⁵ Like last year, this decision was driven by workload and the need to devote additional time to other critical issues for Graduate Council within its limited every other week meeting schedule. The Graduate Council Chair, however, continues to receive and review the requests annually. The Council Chair reviewed the 2022-23 requests and participated in consultations held by the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) with each of the academic deans. The GC chair also provided input in its annual consultation with CPB on the requests, in the context of GC's focus on graduate education.

Regular Committee Business

New Degree Proposals

Graduate Council reviewed three new graduate degree proposals this academic year. GC responded to a proposal for an inter-divisional and inter-departmental M.S. and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering (MSE), including requested revisions (December 2021). Council expects a revised MSE proposal to be submitted early in the 2022-23 academic year. A revised proposal for a low-residency M.F.A. in Dance was reviewed and GC provided feedback for revisions (June 2022). Council expects a revised proposal to be submitted in early 2022-23. Finally, Council reviewed two versions of a proposal for an M.A. in Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Technologies, Applications, and Research (GISTAR) with Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) (March 2022, June 2022). Council approved the revised proposal, which was subsequently forwarded to CCGA by the campus for systemwide review (July 2022).

New Non-Degree Proposals

Non-degree proposals include Designated Emphases (DE), Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor's/Master's paths, and non-SR 735 certificates. Graduate Council reviewed and approved a Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor's Master's Pathway for Mathematics/Education MA/C, effective fall 2022. A second Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor's/Master's Pathway for Latin American and Latino Studies BA and the Education MA/C was reviewed in fall 2021. A revised proposal was received during the summer and will be reviewed by Council when it reconvenes in fall 2022.

External Reviews

Graduate Council annually participates in department and program external reviews. During 2021-22, Council reviewed department/program self-studies and submitted questions to supplement the universal charge for upcoming reviews in: Digital Arts and New Media, Feminist Studies, Latin

⁵ Graduate Council review of the faculty recruitment requests began in 2012-13, in the context of campus planning for graduate growth.

American and Latino Studies, Literature, MCD Biology, and Physics. GC also prepared responses to departments/program external review reports in preparation for closure meetings for: Anthropology, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Environmental Studies, and Theater Arts (now Performance, Play, and Design). Anticipated, but not received, was the self-study for the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department. Council reviewed mid-cycle reports and made recommendations on the length of review cycle for: Art, Computational Media, Languages and Applied Linguistics, Philosophy, Psychology. GC reviewed an external review deferral request for Film and Digital Media.

Internal interim (three-year) reports for Games and Playable Media (due June 2021) and Serious Games (due June 2022) remain outstanding. GC expects to review these reports early in fall quarter 2022.

GC again noted multiple program-level delays in the submission of external review materials to the VPAA for Council review. Delays create challenges for completing reviews by GC and other Senate committees.

Program Statement Changes

Council reviewed graduate program statement changes for the 2022-23 catalog copy. This remains a time-consuming and tedious process, requiring significant effort from most GC members, especially the Analyst and Chair. Graduate Council also works annually with the Registrar's Office to set and communicate deadlines to departments/ programs and divisions for submission of proposed program statement changes to the Senate. Council has been working with the Registrar's Office in anticipation of potential changes for the next (2023-24) cycle, and collaboration will continue in late summer/early fall to prepare for the next cycle of deadlines. The chair and analyst are also working to streamline and standardize the GC review process, with the hope of simplifying member workflows in 2022-23.

GSI Requests

Graduate Council delegates to the Council Chair review and approval of Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) requests (graduate courses). The systemwide University Committee on Educational Policy and the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs have taken the position that graduate students should not take on an instructional role for which they can influence the grade of another graduate student's performance, unless faculty oversight of the assessment process is sufficient to prevent any semblance of conflict of interest. In practice, it is common for GC to approve GSI requests for graduate courses that focus on TA training, and applicants this year were especially qualified and well-prepared to take on this important role. In 2021-22, GC reviewed and approved 1 change of title request to a previously approved GSI request from Literature, and 19 new GSI requests from: Anthropology, Astronomy and Astrophysics, Computational Media, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Economics, Education, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Film and Digital Media, History of Consciousness, Literature, MCD Biology, Music, Physics, Sociology, Statistics. GC Chairs note that, although reviews of GSI requests are done on a rolling basis⁶, it becomes difficult to respond quickly late in the academic year. It is in departments' interests to submit GSI requests in accordance with GC deadlines to assure a timely response. In addition, GC frequently had to go

⁶ See [GC Policy and Form for GSIs for Graduate Courses](#) for deadlines.

back to departments to confirm that there was a suitable mentoring plan in place, with an explicit statement that a faculty mentor will serve as co-instructor. This requirement is noted on the first page of the GSI Policy and Form.

Fellowship Review

A Graduate Council subcommittee advised the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies on the selection of Cota-Robles Fellowships. During its spring consultation with Associate Dean Smith (discussed in the HSI Fellowship section above), Graduate Council briefly discussed the outcomes of the review cycle and the new expanded review process that was applied this year. Overall, GC was impressed with the qualifications and achievements of nominees, reviews went smoothly, and fellowships were reasonably distributed across divisions and programs. The most critical problem with the fellowship process is that there are insufficient resources to support many qualified candidates, which impedes recruitment of outstanding applicants who receive stronger support packages from other institutions. Improving direct financial support for graduate students in the form of fellowships should remain a high priority for UC Santa Cruz.

Local and Systemwide Issue Review

In addition to the issues discussed in earlier sections of the report, the Council reviewed and commented on the following issues and/or policies:

- Graduate Division Request: Campus Directory “Areas of Expertise” (October 2021)
- Applied Mathematics Department Internal Viability Report (November 2021)
- Statistics Department Internal Viability Report (November 2021)
- Revised Proposed Systemwide Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (SVSH) (November 2021)
- UC Santa Cruz Pilot Support Structures for Free Speech and Protest (November 2021)
- Faculty FTE Transfer Requests & Joint Appointment Requests (n=4) (November 2021, December 2021, June 2022)
- Disability Resource Center Request for Faculty Feedback on Accommodate Faculty Notification Options (December 2021)
- Education Department Plan for Contiguous Five-Year Bachelor’s/Master’s Pathways (December 2021, April 2022)
- Proposal for a Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor’s/Master’s Pathway: LALS/Education MA/C (December 2021)
- Proposal for a Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor’s/Master’s Pathway: Mathematics, Education MA/C (December 2021, April 2022)
- Five-Year Perspectives List 2022-23 to 2026-27 (January 2022)
- BSOE Proposal: Direct Admissions and Conferral of Degrees (January 2022, May 2022)
- Systemwide Recommendations for Department Political Statements (February 2022)
- UC Santa Cruz Revised Proposed Remote Work Guidelines for Senate Faculty (February 2022)
- VPDUE: Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy and New Academic Integrity Office Proposal (March 2022)
- CCGA Request: English Language Testing Requirements (Review and Informal Response) (March 2022)

- Natural Language Processing (NLP) M.S. Proposed Curricular Changes Proposal (March 2022, April 2022)
- VPDUE Commencement of Academic Activity Updated Request for Feedback (Quarterly Verification System) (March 2022)
- Revised Microbiology B.S. Proposal (April 2022)
- Review of Draft Charge: UCSC Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee (May 2022)
- VPDUE: Summer Campus Initiative Report and Proposal (May 2022)
- Committee on Teaching DRC Instructor Communications Working Document (May 2022)
- Coastal Science & Policy MS Interim (Three-Year) Report (June 2022)
- CCI Request: Review of Online Course Best Practices Document (Informal Chair Review and Response July 2022)
- CCI Request: Provisional Approval for Hybrid and Synchronous Courses 22-23 (Joint Response with CEP, August 2022)

The Council deliberated its guest policy and agreed to extend a formal invitation to Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Stephanie Casher to attend Council meetings as a guest for 2021-22 (GC to iVPDGS October 4, 2021). Graduate Council guest policy is agreed to by Council members at the start of each academic year.

Continuing Issues for GC in 2021-22

Graduate Council often starts the year with a long list of concerns and actionable topics that require attention, and looking ahead to the 2022-23 academic year, we expect another busy calendar. In particular, GC anticipates engaging on these topics (among others):

- Strengthening Graduate Education — Council will continue to actively participate in and monitor campus planning for supporting and strengthening graduate education, graduate student financial support, and overall graduate student well-being. This includes continued participation in and collaboration with the Implementation Task Force and engagement with campus strategic planning to assure that issues of particular importance to UC Santa Cruz's graduate mission in education, research, and service are well represented and prioritized.
- Participation in fellowship review for Cota-Robles and HSI/UC President's Pre-Professoriate, and oversight of DYF Fellowship program
- Continue collaboration with CEP and CCI in review of online course policies.
- Collaboration with VPDGS on issues related to graduate education, both proactive and routine, including diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Contributing to CCGA and systemwide oversight of self-supporting graduate program reviews
- Monitoring and commenting on nascent plans that may lead to GSR unionization
- Consultations with Disability Resource Center on issues related specifically to graduate student needs
- Participation in preparation for WASC/WSCUC review
- Monitor and/or review findings and/or report of the campus Student Conduct Review Task Force and campus disciplinary processes

- Monitor revision of the campus guiding document (APU) on authority to establish new departments
- Oversight of catalog copy, curriculum, and degree requirements and policies for graduate programs.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 31, 2022