

**Graduate Council Minutes
February 9, 2012**

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Bruce Schumm, Chair, Bettina Aptheker, Scott Brandt, Jorge Hankamer, Kimberly Jannarone, Alkis Polyzotis, Carol Shennan, Donald Smith, Megan Thomas, Christy Caldwell (LAUC), Noah Meites (GSA), Michael Tassio (ASO)

Absent: Raphael Kudela, Tyrus Miller (DGS), Alice Ye (GSA), Jim Moore (DGS)

Consent Agenda

The minutes of January 26, 2012, were approved with minor corrections.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Schumm updated Graduate Council on recent items from meetings with the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). Rebenching efforts to recalculate the UC's total base budget and recalibrate the formula by which funds are distributed to campuses are moving forward and Senate Leadership at UCSC is very much in favor of it. Because students at UCSC are allocated less funds per student than at most other UCs, UCSC is likely to benefit from rebenching. Senate Leadership is currently developing a campaign to better inform the public of the rebenching initiative and associated issues. For example, the auditor of the UC system notes that UCs with the Hispanic Serving Institution designation have historically received less funding than others.

Rebenching efforts were also discussed at the CCGA meeting, where members are working to develop an evidentiary basis for determining the graduate-to-undergraduate funding ratio. An eight year transition period has been proposed for the redistribution of funds associated with the rebenching process.

California Senate Bill 259 would provide that student employees of the University of California whose employment is contingent upon their status as students are employees regardless of if the services they provide are unrelated to their educational objectives. Should this bill pass the State Legislature, there may be notable effects for Graduate Student Research Assistants (GSR) granting them the right to unionize. The implications of this bill are not yet clear, but it raises issues about why GSRs would want to unionize as well as the positive and negative consequences of doing so.

There has been recent discussion about moving away from regional accreditation associations, such as the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, to mission-based accreditation agencies. This notion makes sense to some people in the university, but may prove too difficult to implement politically due to pressure from the for-profit sector.

Two joint-senate work groups are studying funding structures for graduate students. One group is gathering data on the correlation between package offers and acceptances. Their preliminary findings indicate that package offers are crucial in gaining acceptances. They are also exploring the effects of non-resident tuition on international student enrollments.

Efforts are underway at UCSC to explore new avenues of support for graduate students. One idea that has been introduced by GSA President Erik Green is to employ graduate students in mid-level staff positions. This would provide students with a steady source of funding, and help them build their resumes should they move into non-academic careers.

Learning Objectives on the Course Approval Supplemental Sheet

Members discussed a draft response to VPDUE Hughey rephrasing question 5 on the Graduate Course Approval Supplemental Sheet to emphasize learning objectives, and agreed to make additional changes before finalizing their response.

Request for Changes to Program and Degree Requirements

Economics, M.A.

Graduate Council reviewed a request from the Economics Department to change requirements to its Master's degree. Three issues arose that need to be addressed before Council approves the proposed changes:

1. The proposed M.A. requirements are too vague to give a clear sense of the coursework requirements for the degree.
2. It is not clear whether the stated requirements intend that completion of a "thesis or project" can stand as a capstone in lieu of passing one of the preliminary exams at the M.A. level.
3. Because the Economics Department does not admit students intending to stop at the Master's level, it seems reasonable that the M.A. requirements should be arranged so that the course of study undertaken by an Economics first-year Ph.D. student should (if successfully completed) qualify her/him for the M.A. degree. If this is the Department's intent, it should be clearly reflected in the articulation of the M.A. and Ph.D. requirements, as stated in the catalog copy.

Economics, Ph.D.

Graduate Council unanimously approved the Department of Economics' request to change degree requirements for the Ph.D. program in Economics. It was noted in their discussion that Council members were surprised that second year students were required to take 40 units. While this may be consistent with other top-notch Ph.D. programs in Economics, it is nevertheless a substantial amount of units for second year students.

Request for seven year external review cycle for Feminist Studies

Graduate Council unanimously approved VPAA Lee's request to extend the external review cycle for the Feminist Studies Department from six to seven years.

Graduate Council member, Betina Aptheker, recused herself from the discussion and vote.

Request for eight year external review cycle for History

Graduate Council unanimously approved VPAA Lee's request to extend the external review cycle for the History Department from six to eight years.

Support for MFA Students

A Graduate Council member reported that the Division of Arts has engaged in a discussion about how MFA students are supported at UCSC. They are drafting a proposal that they plan to present to Graduate Council in two to three weeks, at which point this discussion will be continued. Because MFA programs are relatively new to UCSC, Chair Schumm noted the importance of recording funding streams available to MFA students to build institutional knowledge.

Update from Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Subcommittee

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Subcommittee has made notable progress in recent weeks. They have scheduled meetings with roughly 20 faculty members associated with interdisciplinary programs on campus and will soon report back to Graduate Council regarding what they learned about program imperatives, successes and failures.

External Review Closure Meeting: Music

Graduate Council member, Donald Smith, represented Council at the recent external review closure meeting for Music. He reported that the meeting was productive and that he was able to present Graduate Council's views on the external review.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Schumm, Chair
Graduate Council