

**Graduate Council Minutes  
February 23, 2012**

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

**Present:** Bruce Schumm, *Chair*, Scott Brandt, Jorge Hankamer, Kimberly Jannarone, Raphael Kudela, Alkis Polyzotis, Carol Shennan, Donald Smith, Megan Thomas, Tyrus Miller (DGS), Christy Caldwell (LAUC), Noah Meites (GSA), Alice Ye (GSA), Jim Moore (DGS), Michael Tassio (ASO)

**Absent with Notice:** Bettina Aptheker

**Consent Agenda**

The minutes from February 9, 2012, were approved.

**Chair's Announcements**

Chair Schumm updated Graduate Council on recent items from the February 14 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting at which the Chancellor spoke about the Comprehensive Campaign. The campaign, which is entering the end of the silent phase, is likely to boost UCSC's financial footing. UCSC's endowment is very small and even the newly-established UC Merced has more endowed chairs than UCSC. Major themes of the campaign include the extraordinary student experience at UCSC, cross-disciplinary research opportunities, and social and environmental responsibility. Priorities for the campaign include the transformative student experience at UCSC, Silicon Valley Campus, sustainability efforts, and targeted initiatives for divisions.

Erik Green, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), has been working very hard to establish a new category of support for graduate students. Central to his idea is for the University to employ graduate students in mid to high-level staff positions. This proposal is gaining traction and more administrators are engaging in conversations about it, and how to avoid conflict with the campus's unions.

Moreover, the GSA has recently approved a housing resolution and is interested in gaining support or feedback from Graduate Council on it.

**DGS Announcements**

DGS Miller continued the discussion regarding the GSA's proposal to create a new category of employment for graduate students. Much of the current thinking regarding the proposal is in identifying areas where these positions would have the most significant impact on enhancing the institution and in providing valuable work experience for graduate students. Some preliminary areas have been identified, and the position of Residential Advisor within the Colleges is being discussed. Graduate students currently have little to no role in the Colleges, and this might be an excellent way to reestablish a role for them. Another potential area for employment is within the Ethnic Resource Centers, which manages a balance of academic and staff appointments.

DGS Miller reported that the UCSC Division of Graduate Studies hosted Stanford's Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence (DARE) program for the second consecutive year. This year, UCSC graduate students participated in the day's events, which included panel discussions hosted by faculty in leadership positions.

The Chancellor is hosting a lunch for the Brazilian Consulate and will be giving them a tour of campus. Brazil has a booming economy but a deficiency in higher education. As such, there is a need for the Consulate to identify universities where students can be educated abroad, especially in the sciences.

### **GSA Announcements**

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is working with the Student Union Assembly (SUA) to increase student representation on the UC Board of Regents. There is currently only one student representative on the Board.

### **Library Announcements**

On February 18 the Santa Cruz Sentinel ran a front-page story on UCSC libraries. Since the recent re-opening of McHenry Library, student usage has more than doubled. Further, student usage of the Science Library has remained constant.

### **Review of UC Observatories**

Graduate Council reviewed the UCO/Lick external review report and related documents and was favorably disposed to the benefits the UCO Multi-Campus Research Units (MRU) bring to graduate level education at UCSC.

UCSC's Astronomy and Astrophysics Department is consistently ranked within the top half-dozen departments in the country and provides ample opportunities for graduate research and post-doctoral training, placing its graduates in top-ranking positions throughout the world. As such, UCO is clearly of great and distinguished benefit to UCSC.

Members also noted that the UCO MRU provides significant benefit to the University as a whole. The concentration of resources in areas of excellence—facility design and optics at UCSC and infrared light detection at UCLA—propel UC to the role of a world's leading University in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Should this concentration be significantly diffused, the institution's status would diminish. Moreover, as stated in the self-study, UCSC provides "one of the few graduate programs in the US that has students working in the field of astronomical instrumentation including AO." In this light, it seems to the Council that the UCSC Astronomy and Astrophysics graduate program needs to be viewed as a uniquely valuable asset to the University as well as to the field of Astrophysics. Chair Schumm will draft a memo bringing these points to the attention of Senate Chair Gilman.

### **Graduate Student Appeal of Academic Judgment**

Following a lengthy discussion, Council elected not to proceed with the appeal.

The Dean of Graduate Studies recused himself from the deliberations and voting because he had previously rendered a decision on the appeal. After answering factual questions about the case, the Dean left the room for the remainder of the Council's hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Schumm, Chair  
Graduate Council