

**Graduate Council Minutes****April 5, 2012**

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

**Present:** Bruce Schumm, *Chair*, Bettina Aptheker, Scott Brandt, Jorge Hankamer, Kimberly Jannarone, Raphael Kudela, Donald Smith, Megan Thomas, Tyrus Miller (DGS), Alice Ye (GSA), Jim Moore (DGS), Michael Tassio (ASO)

**Absent with Notice:** Alkis Polyzotis, Carol Shennan, Christy Caldwell (LAUC), Noah Meites (GSA)

**Consent Agenda**

The minutes from March 8, 2012, were approved.

**Chair's Announcements**

Council Vice Chair, Scott Brandt, will act as Chair Pro Tem from April 21-28. As such, he will attend the April 24 Senate Executive Committee meeting and will report back to Council on the meeting proceedings.

Senate Bill 259, expanding the definition of employees under the Higher Education-Employer Relations Act (HEERA) to include student employees whose employment is contingent upon their status as students, continues to make its way through the state Assembly. If the bill becomes law, as is expected, and if the students choose to pursue representation, the relationship between graduate student research and work will come under considerable discussion; it may impact how principal investigators make decisions about how to use their research funds. UCSC is planning on the eventual approval of the bill and is being pro-active in thinking about how to preserve high quality research and graduate student rights.

The UC Office of Research currently funds roughly 300 graduate students. The role of the office along with UCOLICK is being reconsidered and what the impact to campuses will be is still in flux.

Upon a strong recommendation from CCGA, UC President Yudof recently approved the Feminist Studies Ph.D. program at UCSC.

Chair Schumm attended a diversity forum sponsored by the Chancellor for administrators and Senate leaders. The discussion was interesting and helped to build sensitivity to complex issues facing campus; there was little content pertaining to Graduate Council matters.

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Program focus groups have met and the next step is for Council to meet with VPAA Lee to get feedback that can be used in drafting a report with the sub-committee. Additionally, several members from Council are reviewing and commenting on a

draft of the UC systemwide Graduate Student Association's Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document.

Council continues to work with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) on the topic of affordable housing. Representatives from the GSA recently met with CP/EVC Galloway, and Council has been involved insofar as to ensure the dialog between the GSA and administrators is continued. Council plans to invite administrators from Housing to an upcoming meeting to focus on the following questions and concerns:

1. There is a concern that the current rent at Family Student Housing (FSH) is becoming too expensive for legitimate family households, thereby producing a de facto reduction of FSH on campus. Council is interested in figures on the rental rates at FSH over the past 5 or so years, and a discussion of why the rents have been set at this level. What prioritization does this reflect with respect to the subsidization (positive or negative) of FSH relative to the larger arenas of graduate and undergraduate student housing?
2. What is the rationale between the current FSH eligibility requirements, and how are they enforced?
3. Council understands that current FSH is in a degraded state and must be upgraded, and that approach most likely to be adopted is a wholesale rebuilding of FSH. What is the rationale behind the allocation of units in the new housing facilities between FSH, graduate student, and mixed graduate and upper-division undergraduate student housing?

Members noted that this inquiry raises questions about the meaning of "affordable housing," and how it relates to housing costs in Santa Cruz.

### **DGS Announcements**

Dean Miller announced two awards - Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) and the Dissertation Year Fellowship - and requested members from Council to review proposals. Chair Schumm agreed to review previous sub-committee assignments and to make recommendations for reviewers.

For the first time ever, University Relations has sent out annual solicitation letters directed at raising funds for the Division of Graduate Studies at UCSC.

### **GSA Announcements**

There were no announcements from the GSA.

### **FTE Transfer – Humanities**

Council reviewed and unanimously supported a request for FTE transfer in the Humanities.

### **Revised Request from the Economics Department re: Changes to the M.A. Degree Requirement**

Council reviewed the revised proposal and was generally supportive, but agreed that they needed to see two minor clarifications to the language proposed for the catalog: one regarding the

successive levels of outcome for each of the preliminary exams, and the other in regards to switching the order of two paragraphs.

### **Review of Policies**

#### *Graduate Degree Annotations*

Council discussed policy on Graduate Degree Annotations at UCSC and agreed to make revisions. Members raised several questions including the following: By what point in a graduate student's career does he or she need to have requested a DE? Can requests be made after he or she advances to candidacy? Can there be exceptions to the rule, and if so, should they be made to Graduate Council or the Dean of Graduate Studies? Members agreed that DE requests should be made prior to students taking qualifying exams, but that late appeals can be made to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Chair will draft revisions to policy to be reviewed by the Council and the Division.

#### *Appeals of Academic Judgments*

Council discussed policy on Appeals of Academic Judgments and agreed to recommend revisions. In question were the voting rights of graduate student representatives on GC, ambiguities in language in the document, the Chair's role in determining whether or not to hear a case, timeliness of responses, and most significantly the role of Graduate Council in cases where they find reason to disagree with the Dean of Graduate Studies regarding the probation or suspension of a student. Council will make revisions to the policy and submit them to the Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections.

### **Consultation with VPAA Lee (3:00-4:00 p.m.)**

The consultation with VPAA Lee was cancelled. VPAA Lee is rescheduled to consult with Council on May 3.

### **Silicon Valley Academic Plan**

Due to time constraints, members will discuss this item at their April 19 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Schumm, Chair  
Graduate Council