

Graduate Council Minutes**May 3, 2012**

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

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

Absent: None

Consent Agenda

The minutes from April 19, 2012, were approved with minor corrections.

Chair Announcements

Vice Chair Brandt reported on items from the recent Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting. The committee was energized by the range of ideas presented at the Faculty Forum on the Future of the Curriculum and is moving forward with developing a summary of the key issues as well as a timeline for following up on them. The University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) has drafted a model open access policy for the UC and members from the campus committee consulted with SEC on the policy. SEC's general sentiment was that an open access policy for the UC is a good idea, but that faculty need to carefully consider the details of this specific policy proposal. SEC members stressed the importance of developing a policy that is not a further burden on faculty, but that might help them by streamlining routine duties using BioBib. SEC members also raised questions about how the policy would be applied, if at all, to non-scholarly articles such as works of poetry or fiction. Lastly, SEC reviewed committee responses to the Silicon Valley Academic Plan. Although each committee had a distinct voice in their response, the entire set of responses was consistent in their core messages.

Chair Schumm raised the issue of curricular reform wondering whether there might be some need for developing a curriculum that ensures better divisional planning. Council members agreed to revisit this as a possible topic for Council to consider next year.

Chair Schumm reported on the recent Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting. Academic Council stated that if the California budget initiatives do not pass, there will be an additional \$200 million cut to the University of California; UCSC would likely see a cut in the range of \$12 million. Because of the timing of the potential cuts, the UC will not be able to offset them by increasing tuition costs.

A new bill to reconstitute an organization similar to the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has been introduced. Questions have been raised about the bill, given that there is a sense in it that membership to the organization should exclude invested bodies such as the UC, CSU and CCCs, which the segmental leaders, including President Yudof, are

challenging. There is another bill currently under consideration by the CA legislature that freezes the establishment of any new programs on UC campuses until such a body is formed. Again, UCOP is lobbying against the bill.

There has been a recent focus on the UC President's Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program that encourages outstanding women and minority Ph.D. recipients to pursue academic careers at the UC. The track-record of this program has been excellent, as all but one candidate in its nearly 30 year history has received tenure. There are concerns that this program will not be protected from upcoming budget cuts.

The UC Regents have yet to approve any programs at UCSC with Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition; there is one awaiting approval (a MA in Economics).

Senate Bill 259, expanding the definition of employees under the Higher Education-Employer Relations Act (HEERA) to include student employees whose employment is pursuant to the degree they are seeking, has passed out of the Senate and is in the assembly. The implications to the UC, should the bill be signed into law, are not clear.

Graduate non-resident tuition (NRST) has remained at a fixed amount for some time. It is not clear whether or not it will be increased; Dean Miller noted that he has not heard that it will.

DGS Announcements

Dean Miller reemphasized that there is not clarity around what will happen at UC if Senate Bill 259 is signed into law. The law would lift the exemption on Graduate Student Researchers (GSR) allowing them to bargain collectively. The UC has previously argued that the sort of work done by GSRs, which is barred from collective bargaining under the current HEERA act, is so well integrated with the work they do as graduate students that it is sufficiently different from other types of employment opportunities they have as students. The bill under consideration would strike the language prohibiting collective bargaining for such job titles.

A Council member questioned how a successful effort to unionize might impact the 18th quarter rule which prohibits students from working as Teaching Assistants for more than 18 quarters.

In April, the Council of Graduate Deans provided input to the Work Group on Graduate Student Issues. They unanimously submitted the following:

1. Graduate NRST should be kept constant, as it has been for some years. In a perfect world, with suitable replacement funding, it would be preferable to reduce or to eliminate NRST. However, absent that, decreasing or eliminating NRST would have serious consequences for UC academic programs.
2. The campuses have significant freedom, within the Funding Streams Initiative, to address the NRST burden on graduate academic programs by locally appropriate interventions, such as charging blended rates, buy-down, and tuition fellowships.

3. The Graduate Issues Working Group can play a useful role by highlighting these better practices, and following up with a presentation of this information to the Council of Vice Chancellors.
4. Discussions about increasing graduate research and teaching assistant stipend rates cannot be made in isolation, without regard to how they would be funded or the consequences for other segments of the campus communities. Moreover, because campuses have the authority to determine at what step research assistants are appointed, it would be useful for UCOP to provide added flexibility with more steps at the upper end of the scale for research assistant appointment titles.

The annual Graduate Student Symposium will be held on Friday, May 11 in the University Center. The event provides an excellent opportunity for the campus community to learn about a wide range of research being done by UCSC graduate students.

GSA Announcements

The GSA will hold elections this evening. One of the important issues students will vote on is a referendum to increase funding for travel grants.

Library Announcements

The library has formed a student advisory group consisting of students from the SUA and GSA and expects to begin collecting useful feedback on improving the library.

The library is anticipating more budgetary cuts. The collections budget has decreased by 40% since 2008, and will likely be targeted for additional cuts. Librarians have worked collaboratively with faculty to selectively thin collections, but at this point, they might be forced to make uniform cuts to subscriptions.

Social Documentation's Response to Questions from Graduate Council

In April 2011 Graduate Council reviewed administrative oversight changes to the Social Documentation M.A. program. Council was generally supportive of the move of Social Documentation (SocDoc) from the Social Sciences Division to the Arts Division, but raised a number of concerns. SocDoc recently responded to Council addressing those concerns.

Council members were generally supportive of the efforts SocDoc has made in developing another excellent graduate level program in the Arts Division. Council noted, however, that, while the Dean and program faculty have a better vantage point from which to assess the optimal use of resources, having two independent DGSs with course relief within the same department for the foreseeable future strikes Council as an unusual expense, as well as being a configuration that does not suggest a quick integration of SocDoc into the mainstream of the department's graduate activity. On the other hand, devoting more time to the instruction of high-demand, large-enrollment course offerings could help to generate further TA support and lessen the extent to which SocDoc faculty concentrate their activity in the graduate program, providing the opportunity for greater breadth of pedagogical activity across the different levels of university instruction.

Chair Schumm will draft a response to SocDoc.

Evolution of TIM Graduate Program

Senate leadership has responded to recent changes to the TIM Graduate Program and Graduate Council chose to refrain from making additional comments.

Pre-consultation: Associate Vice Chancellor Sue Matthews

Council members reviewed the consultation topics and had no additions.

Pre-consultation: CP/EVC Alison Galloway

Council members discussed topics for their consultation with CP/EVC Galloway on May 17 and agreed to the following topics:

- Non-resident tuition
- The campus climate for interdisciplinary students
- Family student housing
- Graduate program growth
- The Silicon Valley Center

Chair Schumm will draft a letter expanding on the consultation topics.

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

Council welcomed VPAA Herbie Lee to discuss the campus climate for interdisciplinary study. Chair Schumm began the discussion by raising issues that the grass-roots interdisciplinary sub-committee documented in their faculty focus group sessions.

VPAA Lee highlighted the excellent interdisciplinary work that is being done on campus, much of which is coming from individual faculty in conjunction with graduate and undergraduate students. He noted that the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions have been particularly excellent in doing interdisciplinary work; many of their faculty work on the edges of their disciplines. Council members agreed with these sentiments, but questioned whether or not these efforts were greater than on other UC campuses.

Members questioned whether or not a desire for high national rankings has had an effect on interdisciplinary efforts insofar as they have pushed departments to be more discipline specific. Further, some of the most highly regarded departments at UCSC need to have high rankings. VPAA Lee assured members that national rankings are not motivating administrators' interests in regard to ensuring high-quality interdisciplinary efforts on campus.

Some interdisciplinary programs have been more successful than others, and many faculty reported that the administration's model for supporting faculty in interdisciplinary efforts is unsustainable. VPAA Lee argued that there is a need to develop more detailed MOUs that clearly articulate expectations for faculty. Members noted that there have also been problems with interdivisional appointments, and that developing clearer MOUs is also important in considering these appointments.

One member argued that there is a deeper intellectual problem at play in that UCSC curriculum is largely structured around disciplines but is now evolving, motivated by student and faculty interests, to be more interdisciplinary. The problems UCSC is currently facing regarding interdisciplinary efforts will only grow as knowledge production continues to move towards interdisciplinary research.

Members continued to discuss that many UCSC faculty are doing excellent interdisciplinary work (on the faculty level), but that when you move into a program, it is often quickly apparent that things are not fine. There appears to be more that the administration can do to develop a structural support for faculty interested in interdisciplinary programs. Having clearer MOUs is a good place to start, but it would be helpful to have more support from the administration especially given their stated interests in having UCSC be a place at which interdisciplinary studies flourish.

One member raised the question of whether or not there is a way to permit interdisciplinary programs to hold FTE for a limited period of time similar to the way faculty members hold grants. VPAA Lee acknowledged that he had not yet discussed this at length with other administrators but that there are creative, albeit not entirely optimal, ways of splitting FTE between departments.

Council spent the remainder of the consultation with VPAA Lee discussing the Silicon Valley Academic Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Schumm, Chair
Graduate Council