

Graduate Council Minutes**May 17, 2012**

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, May 17, 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, Alice Ye (GSA), Tyrus Miller (DGS), Jim Moore (DGS), Christy Caldwell (LAUC), Michael Tassio (ASO)

Absent: Erik Green (GSA)

Guest: CP/EVC Alison Galloway

Consent Agenda

Revisions were requested to the May 3, 2012, meeting minutes.

Chair Announcements

Chair Schumm updated Council members on the recent Senate Executive Committee meeting where committee responses to proposed revisions to CAPM 408.220 Mid-Career Appraisal were discussed. Santa Cruz is currently the only UC that requests external letters for mid-career appraisals, and the proposal is to end this practice. Responses from individual committees were deeply divided and SEC was unable to either reconcile them or formulate their own recommendation.

There is a Senate meeting on Friday, May 18, and Chair Schumm announced that he will give an oral report on preliminary findings from the Interdisciplinary Programs Subcommittee. Graduate Council also has legislation to amend regulation 13.1.3C, the one year limit on grade change exceptions.

On May 22, Chair Schumm and Dean Miller are meeting with Senate leadership to discuss strategies for increasing the doctoral student population at UCSC as a result of new funds anticipated to come from rebenching.

The annual Committee on Committees Social will be held on June 1, 2012.

DGS Announcements

Dean Miller announced that Graduate Commencement will be held on June 15, 2012.

Responses to the survey on UCSC-Brazil cooperation through Brazil's "Science without Borders" program are due on May 21. Dean Miller, noting that UCSC has the chance to capitalize on what might be a very good relationship, asked members who have not seen the survey to talk with their Department Chairs about it.

Dean Miller returned to the discussion of rebenching and contextualized it in graduate population growth. The UC funding formula for different types of students has changed over the years depending on when growth has taken place on individual campuses. As a result, campuses are either more or less advantaged by being locked into a specific funding formula; formulas vary considerably from campus to campus. Graduate growth at UCSC largely took place after the initial formula was developed and it has thus been locked into a lower rate of funding per student. UCSC's potential to grow its graduate population has been held back, in part, due to the lack of adequate funding, and UCSC's graduate population is smaller than nearly all other UC campuses. Anticipated funds from rebenching present the opportunity to grow the campus graduate population, and UC leadership has identified a target of increasing the doctoral student population at Santa Cruz from its current amount of 7% to 12%. This target represents an average of doctoral student populations that would bring UCSC into alignment with many other UC campuses. Questions about the resources necessary for this increase, new programs, program growth, etc. are all currently being considered in this context.

Members raised questions about what the consequences for not reaching a doctoral student population of 12% might be. Dean Miller explained that this is not yet clear, but that UCSC needs to demonstrate growth and will likely have a six year window to do so.

GSA Announcements

GSA elections end on Tuesday, May 22.

Library Announcements

There were no announcements from the library.

FTE Transfers in American Studies

Council reviewed and unanimously approved the FTE Transfer of two faculty in American Studies. One faculty member will transfer to the History Department, the other will transfer .75 to the History Department, .25 to the History of Consciousness Department.

Program Statement and Degree Requirement Change – Astronomy and Astrophysics

Council reviewed and unanimously approved degree requirement changes to the program statement for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Course Time Slot Proposal

Council discussed the revised proposal to (slightly) restructure class times at UCSC. Recognizing the need to alleviate scheduling pressure, and the necessity of enduring a degree of sacrifices that necessarily results from addressing the issue, members of the Council were generally supportive of the proposal. Members did express two concerns, however. First, there was concern that the 5:00-6:10 p.m. MWF could be very difficult for graduate students with small children, particularly those that are single parents. Several members of the Council noted that this is a graduate student demographic that is often overlooked in student affairs planning, and although a small segment of the graduate student body, the challenges they face in working toward their degrees is often markedly greater than that of other groups of students. Departments should keep this group in mind as they decide how to make use of the 5:00-6:10 p.m. time slot. Second, several members reported that they have trouble being at their best as evening wanes

into night, and expressed concern that their pedagogical skills may not be in top form as the hour approaches 10:00 p.m.

Program Proposal – Games and Playable Media M.S. Program and Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST)

Council members noted that it was unusual that the proposal was not accompanied by a letter of support from the Chair of Computer Science. Chair Schumm confirmed that program proposals typically have letters of commitment from the Department Chair and/or Divisional Dean.

Much of the discussion centered on the fact that part of the proposal, the two year program, necessarily depends on the hiring of two additional FTE. Because this essential piece of the program is not in place, members raised several questions about the integrity of the two year program. One member questioned whether or not departmental faculty would be in favor of hiring faculty specifically for the program. Another questioned what might happen if the proposal was approved and then the faculty FTE did not materialize. There were additional questions about the MOUs in relation of the interdisciplinary strength of the program. Members expressed caution that the MOUs were limited to two departments and that many of the interdisciplinary courses would be offered as electives and taught by faculty that likely would not be obligated to teach them.

Nevertheless, the two year program might be very popular in that it caters to students without strong backgrounds in Computer Science; this would be a significant selling point of the program and would likely attract a broad array of students with backgrounds in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Yet given the lack of certainty in hiring additional FTE for the two year program, Council members generally agreed that they would not be supportive of this portion of the proposal at this time.

Regarding both programs in the proposal, Chair Schumm noted that while the proposal specifically states that there are connections to companies in the gaming industry, letters of support from companies were not included.

Council's preliminary discussion of the proposal concluded on the issue of whether or not the program, particularly the one year portion, was being adequately supported with the hiring of new faculty FTE. Chair Schumm noted that new programs are often allocated new faculty FTE to support the program. Members clarified that the recruitment of one faculty FTE in 2012-13 for this specific program has been approved.

Council is expecting several additional documents, including a letter of commitment for start-up funds from CP/EVC Galloway, and will continue this discussion at their next meeting on May 31.

Consultation with CP/EVC Alison Galloway (3:00-4:00)

Graduate Program Growth and Funding

CP/EVC Galloway stated that graduate program growth needs to be tackled next year both to meet financial and Senate/Administration leadership goals. The scale of the growth will be large, and targeted on increasing the doctoral student population. In doing so, she continued, we need to think hard about the strengths of current UCSC programs—will they need to be expanded, or

do we need to develop new programs? If we carefully study where the potentials for growth are, we can target and expand them, so long as our undergraduate programs are not compromised. Further, we need to be careful to not over-burden faculty, staff and campus resources.

Chair Schumm noted that nearly doubling the Ph.D. cohort raises important questions about how to grow graduate programs. CP/EVC Galloway responded by stating that UCSC needs to make progress. Although we might not get to 12%, there are good reasons, financial and otherwise, for doing this. Determining how much funds are needed to make this transition is crucial. The status quo of smaller campuses continually being disadvantaged must end. But UCSC also needs to think creatively about other sources of funding to supplement our efforts.

A council member stated that her department, as a strategy to keep costs down, has had to primarily make offers to CA students and rarely considers non-resident or international students. CP/EVC Galloway acknowledged the problem and noted that she funded a three year program to attract international students. The program is in its first year and, among other things, it should provide good data on how departments are or are not taking advantage of the funding to bring international students. Chair Schumm stated that the costs associated with non-resident tuition have long been a topic of debate amongst faculty and administration and that much of the prior thinking about this issue seems to have been lost. CP/EVC Galloway followed up by stating that UCSC started this academic year with a sudden change of how funding streams work, but that once we have funding streams and rebenching, UCSC will have a much better idea of what funds are available and how they can be distributed to the campus.

Interdisciplinary Study

Chair Schumm questioned whether or not interdisciplinary study is a priority for campus. CP/EVC Galloway responded by noting that funding for faculty FTE, especially new faculty, has largely been directed at faculty whose research is on the boundaries of departments and divisions. Further, recently developed programs such as the Latin American and Latino Studies department and the recently proposed program in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies support the notion that UCSC has made interdisciplinary study a campus priority. Nevertheless, faculty cannot be forced into interdisciplinary programs and some attempts to develop programs have been unsuccessful.

A council member noted that efforts to develop interdisciplinary programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences have been successful, in part, because of research clusters that cross divisions and departments. Faculty in other divisions appear to be being pushed into their own departments. Perhaps this is most notably manifested in the difficulties some faculty have faced in attempting to co-teach courses with colleagues in other departments or divisions. The CP/EVC agreed that there needs to be more clarity around the issue of what will and will not hurt departments and divisions. Nevertheless, campus faces the dilemma of having a decrease in the number of faculty and an increase in the number of students; we cannot create a situation where students are stuck at UCSC because they cannot get courses.

Returning to the issue of recognition for interdisciplinary effort, Chair Schumm argued that more can be done to better inform faculty on how their personnel files are reviewed. Interdisciplinary efforts may be overlooked by a department or division, but they likely will not be overlooked by the Committee on Academic Personnel.

Dean Miller asked CP/EVC Galloway whether or not interdisciplinary groups can be FTE holding, and if so, would they be temporary or ongoing. In responding, CP/EVC Galloway focused on the benefits of joint FTE appointments (including 0% splits), and program charters. Program charters, she argued, can be powerful if they have good faculty by-laws and the department agrees to them. While some examples of program charters have not been successful, there is potential for improvement here. Dean Miller responded by arguing that allowing interdisciplinary programs to hold FTE would likely address the problem these programs face of turning into departments.

Graduate Student Housing Issues

CP/EVC Galloway briefed council members on the history of Family Student Housing (FSH) and discussed the rationale for rebuilding rather than making repairs. FSH is one of first housing units built on campus and components that were used in construction are dangerous, making most repairs very expensive. As such, she continued, it makes financial sense for UCSC to remove the structures and to construct new units designed for families. At this stage in the planning process, at the request of students, the new structures are designed to have one and two bedroom units. Nevertheless, the real issue is affordability; housing for graduate students needs to be affordable. All students—graduate and undergraduate—renting housing at UCSC have paid into a central pool, and the costs of renovations at FSH have been low, which has helped keep rental rates from rising at greater percentages. Additionally, a “Rate Saver” plan has gone into effect which ensures that students who agree to a second year housing contract keep the first year’s rate. Further, at FSH, families have been permitted to rent rooms in their units. Finally, Housing Administration is currently exploring the possibility of offering needy families, including single parents, lower rental rates.

Chair Schumm questioned where the cost for new construction would be borne. CP/EVC Galloway responded by ensuring that the costs would be borne from the central housing fund, which FSH renters have been paying into for years. Representing the voice of some skeptical students, Chair Schumm questioned whether or not families are being priced out of FSH given that a lesser number of more expensive units will likely replace the current number. CP/EVC Galloway responded by stating that choices made in constructing the new structures need to be financially sound to keep rental rates low, and that there are benefits to new construction such as reorienting the layout of the structures to make them more child- and family-friendly. In short, CP/EVC Galloway concluded, housing costs for all of our graduate students needs be kept reasonable.

Silicon Valley Initiative

A sustained conversation about the Silicon Valley Initiative was side-lined due to a lack of time. CP/EVC Galloway assured Council members that large commitments to faculty FTE will not be made until it is clear they are needed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Schumm, Chair, Graduate Council