

Graduate Council Minutes October 6, 2011

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Bruce Schumm, Chair, Bettina Aptheker, Scott Brandt, Jorge Hankamer, Kimberly Jannarone, Carol Shennan, Donald Smith, Megan Thomas, Meg Gudgeirsson (GSA), and Stephanie Casher (ASO).

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

After introductions, Chair Schumm went over the Graduate Council charge and explained the confidentiality and recusal policy.

Chair's Announcements

Vice Chair Brandt reported back from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting where Senate Chair Gillman gave an update on the Student Affairs reorganization, faculty salary augmentation, and goals for the year. There are also two administrative searches underway—the Dean of Physical and Biological Sciences and VC of Business and Administrative Services.

Chair Schumm had the following announcements from CCGA:

- Provost Pitts is retiring
- The Regents have rejected the 4-year budget plan put forward by UCOP. As a result, the University's financial picture remains in limbo.
- UCOP is committed, at last, to developing a rebenching plan. Chair Schumm believes that if the rebenching proposal goes through, UCSC stands to benefit. This will hopefully be resolved by the end of the year.
- Graduate Student funding and graduate support competitiveness is currently a topic of discussion at the systemwide level.

There were no announcements from the GSA.

Chair's Overview for GC in 2011-12

GC discussed who they might want to invite in for consultation during the coming year.

Suggestions include:

- VPAA Lee, to talk about graduate learning outcomes and interdisciplinary graduate programs
- EVC Galloway, to talk about Graduate Program growth, Silicon Valley Initiatives, and nonresident tuition
- Gordon Ringold, to talk about Silicon Valley Initiative
- VPDUE Hughey, to talk about his plans for the VPDUE office

GC then moved on to discuss continuing business.

- Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs and Temporary Joint Appointments – The group discussed where the previous year’s GC left off in regard to developing guidelines for Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs. The committee feels that this is an important issue, and agreed to revisit the documents.
- Academic Plan for Silicon Valley – GC will request an update from Director Ringold/EVC Galloway. Chair Schumm will consider the draft documents commenting on the SVC planning process from last year’s Council and decide how to proceed.
- Nonresident Tuition – UC faculty are on record as being against nonresident tuition for graduate students. The committee agreed that this was an issue they would like to take up this year.

Officer, Subcommittee, and Review Assignments

Scott Brandt agreed to serve as Vice Chair.

Bettina Apthekar, Raphael Kudela, and Megan Thomas agreed to serve on the Courses Subcommittee.

Jorge Hankamer will serve as lead reviewer for the Language Program External Review.

Carol Shennan will serve as lead reviewer for the Psychology department External Review.

Don Smith will serve as lead reviewer for the Music department External Review.

Anthropology Department External Review Deferral

GC discussed the request to defer the Anthropology Department External Review for two years. GC voiced concerns similar to those that CPB expressed in regard to the Dean’s hiring priorities. Graduate Council will try to schedule Dean Kamieniecki for consultation on 10/20 to get more information.

Writing Program External Review Deferral

GC discussed the request to defer the Writing Program External Review for one year. GC found this request unproblematic.

Economics Mid-Cycle Report

GC discussed the Economics department mid-cycle report. One member had concerns that for all the problems they cite (steady-state growth, faculty contraction, how they plan to support their graduate students) they don’t seem to have a plan for moving forward.

Given these concerns, GC does not feel they should be placed on an eight-year review cycle.

Economics Dual Degree Pathway Discontinuance

GC discussed the proposal to formally discontinue their Dual Degree pathway program. GC found the request unproblematic, but wondered if it required systemwide review since it is a proposal to discontinue a program. Analyst Casher will investigate the proper discontinuance procedures, per the compendium.

Graduate Student Academic Rights and Responsibilities

A committee member brought this issue to GC because the document was circulated within the School of Engineering and does not appear to have been vetted by GC. There appear to be some statements within the document that may be in conflict with faculty member's rights and responsibilities and could have unforeseen consequences. The document also appears to usurp the authority of the Senate in several places.

Graduate Council feels rather strongly that this document should have been vetted by Graduate Council prior to distribution, and that it was inappropriate to post and circulate it without Senate consultation. These "Rights and Responsibilities" as drafted cannot be considered University policy without Senate review. Graduate Council will write a letter to the Dean of Engineering stating that while we support the document in principle, we feel it was premature to post it as policy and request that it be taken down until Graduate Council has a chance to review and approve it.

Class Time Proposal

Graduate Council discussed the proposal to reduce to reduce our campus's class time from 210 minutes per week to 180 minutes per week. From a graduate education perspective, this is a negative, and GC does not feel there is a benefit to shortened graduate courses. The seminar is a foundation of the graduate student experience, and reduced seminar time is not productive. Also what is the impact on TAs? Increasing class sizes, without increasing funding for TAs, will just lead to more/larger classes, greatly impacting TA workload. A letter will be drafted summarizing GC's concerns.

SR610 Residency

One member felt the proposal was a red flag, because it opens the door for online instruction, which she feels is a threat to the type of teaching she would like to engage in. Other members had similar concerns. Due to a lack of time, discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

So Attests,

Bruce Schumm, Chair
Graduate Council