

Graduate Council Minutes November 17, 2011

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Bruce Schumm, Chair, Bettina Aptheker, Scott Brandt, Jorge Hankamer, Carol Shennan, Donald Smith, Megan Thomas, Tyrus Miller (DGS), Christy Caldwell (LAUC), Alice Ye (GSA), Jim Moore (DGS), and Stephanie Casher (ASO).

Absent: Kimberly Jannarone, Raphael Kudela

The minutes of 11/3/11 were approved.

Chair's Announcements

At SEC, primary topic of discussion was rebenching. The State Auditor's report was discussed, which called into question the transparency of the current allocation system. The auditors suggested that the natural thing to do would be to allocate all funding according to clearly-established principles, which would amount to the "radical" re-benching that is being sought by the newer campuses.

Chair Schumm also updated the Council on the status of the Feminist Studies Ph.D. proposal. The proposal was approved by last year's Council, contingent on certain changes being made. The revised proposal has been received, and after seeking clarification from the Graduate Dean on a few points, GC certified that the proposal is ready to move forward to CCGA, with the alteration of the language in one place. Chair Schumm will request that the change be made, and then will forward GC's formal approval of the proposal to the VPAA.

DGS Announcements

The Graduate Dean will be taking two students up to Sacramento for "Graduate Advocacy Day" on March 14, 2012, and they are looking for students who are working on projects that may be of interest to the Legislature, particularly in the Social Sciences and Humanities. If any members of the Council know of students who may be interested, please let him know.

DGS Miller also reported from a meeting with VP Beckwith that UCOP does not appear to have the development of graduate education on their radar as a top priority.

GSA Announcements

None

Library Announcements

None

Final Draft of GC response to Social and Environmental Practice in the Arts MFA Proposal

GC discussed the final draft of the response to the MFA proposal. After clarifying a question that came up about the definition of “candidacy” in the context of the Master’s degree, GC decided that its response letter should request of the program that they clarify the requirements and procedures for attaining candidacy, and if appropriate, differentiate it from that of the Ph.D. degree. The letter will be revisited after the response from CPB is received.

Academic Council Task Force on Competitiveness in Academic Graduate Student Support (CAGSS)

GC members polled their departments and colleagues about anecdotes and examples that illustrate the problems their departments are having in funding graduate students. A common thread among responses was that many of our programs do not feel able to offer admission to international students because they cannot afford them. Some departments also feel limited in offering admission to nonresident domestic students because of the cost.

Also, because of the insecurity of graduate funding in general, some departments are losing students in the second or third year because students are unwilling to tolerate uncertainties in funding for future years.

The problem is compounded by the fact that the funds that used to be set aside for TA remissions have been eaten away by budget cuts.

One member was curious about how many graduate students on our campus are without funding at some point in their graduate career. The sense of the committee is that this number is quite high, particularly in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Chair Schumm was very concerned about the issues that came up in this exercise, and would like to revisit the topic of graduate funding (particularly in regard to both domestic and international nonresident students), at a later date.

Update from Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities Subcommittee

Chair Schumm spoke with the GSA President, Erik Green, about the status of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights document the GSA is working on. The GSA’s plan is to generate a first draft at UCSC, which will be put forward for to inform the systemwide UCSA’s effort.

The GC subcommittee is continuing to work on the Graduate Council-generated document, and the response to the School of Engineering.

Language Program External Review

The Language program seems to be moving toward department status, which will require the hiring of ladder-rank faculty. Since there is no graduate program component in the current configuration, there is not much for Graduate Council to comment on. The only issue that is relevant for GC is the use of Graduate Student Instructors.

There has been some anecdotal evidence that it had been difficult to recruit and retain Graduate Student Instructors to staff Language Program courses, but in addition, Graduate Student Instructors are sometimes not treated well in the Language program.

Graduate Council feels that initiatives between Languages and a related program to supply TAs should be re-opened, despite the fact that for prior initiatives, resistance has emerged on both sides for a variety of reasons.

Music Department External Review

The External Review was very positive, and this appears to be a strong department. There are concerns about lack of resources for funding graduate students, which is common across campus.

GC will encourage the department to focus on existing strengths and continue toward excellence, emphasize the distinctive nature of the Ph.D. program, and try to resist the temptation to be overly broad.

There was a sense that the ERC's disposition to hire a transnational/diasporic music scholar could be used add further cultural diversity to the program's focus.

Proposal for Graduate Leadership Certificate Program

Graduate Council discussed the proposal to offer a Graduate Leadership Certificate. GC members felt it was a great initiative. One member, however, felt that while the program looked valuable, he had to advise his student not to participate because it would take up time that needed to be spent on research.

While there was a sense that this program might not be appropriate for students at certain points in their studies (e.g. first-year students, students just starting their Ph.D., teaching fellows, etc), it was felt that many students would indeed have a period for which the several-hour per week commitment would be possible.

One member had a question about assessment and evaluation. The Graduate Dean stated that he'd gone back and forth about whether or not to make this a credit course, or institute an exit exam. Graduate Council felt that some sort of learning objectives, attendance/participation

requirement, or project should be incorporated into the program – something to ensure that no student could receive the certificate without engaging the material.

The Graduate Dean agreed to add a paragraph to the proposal indicating how participation would be monitored.

Once the requested change has been verified by the GC Chair, Graduate Council agreed to approve the Graduate Leadership Certificate Program.

Draft Review Procedures for Interdisciplinary Programs

GC discussed the proposed changes in review procedures for interdisciplinary programs and had the following comments:

- Governance should be outlined and discussed in greater detail, as it is central to the success (or failure) of an Interdisciplinary Program
- There should be some mention of Postdoctoral Scholars

Chair Schumm will draft a letter to that effect for submission to VPAA Lee.

GC Guidelines for Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs

Graduate Council discussed how they should proceed in regard to the draft guidelines on Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs, a project started by the previous year's Graduate Council.

Chair Schumm would like to take this issue out for wider consultation to the respective stakeholders, such as folks who are currently *in* an IGP, folks who would like to propose an IGP, as well as the VPAA, and the EVC.

GC members will give the report a closer reading over the next few weeks, and generate a plan of action at the next meeting.

So Attests,

Bruce Schumm, Chair
Graduate Council