

Graduate Council
MINUTES
January 17, 2013, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Kerr Hall 307

Present: Bruce Schumm, *Chair*, Scott Brandt, Raphael Kudela, Leta Miller, Juan Poblete, Seth Rubin, Megan Thomas, Su-Hua Wang, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep.), Alice Ye (GSA), Michael Tassio (ASO)

Absent with notice: Bettina Aptheker, Tyrus Miller (DGS), Jim Moore (DGS)

Absent: Sarah Grace (GSA), Elise Nelson (GSA)

Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes of December 6, 2012, were approved with minor changes.

Chair Announcements

Chair Schumm updated members on issues discussed at the January 2 meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs.

The importance of developing long-range enrollment plans for the UC has become greater due to rebenching, and each campus Senate is being asked by the systemwide Senate leadership to involve itself in the development process. If other UC campuses enroll high numbers of non-residents and UCSC does not, our campus may end up educating more than its share of in-state students, thereby undoing the leveling of per-student funding levels put in place by rebenching.

Regarding composite benefit rates, there is a currently a battle being fought to exclude faculty summer salary from the proposed rates. For example, should they not be excluded, one unit estimates that between two and three graduate student or postdoctoral positions would be lost at UCSC, out of a total of approximately 15-20 such positions that are currently supported.

UCSC currently has one program under review that includes a professional degree supplemental tuition (PDST). A newly formed taskforce, put together by the UC Office of the President, is charged with reviewing and rewriting the rules and policies under which PDSTs are approved. One of the changes being considered is to approve program's multi-year PSDT-level proposals, as opposed to having their PSDT level approved each year.

The joint Administration and Senate Task Torce on Academic Structures continues to meet to address high-level issues at UCSC. Chair Schumm advocated to have graduate growth on the task force agenda and, as a result, was appointed chair of a sub-committee on graduate growth.

Chair Schumm updated members on the January 15 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting.

A presentation at the SEC meeting by Committee on Faculty Welfare Chair Barry Bowman suggested that USCS faculty salaries are catching up to salaries at Santa Barbara and Riverside, but still lag those at other UCs. This was followed by a presentation by Committee on Teaching

Chair Charlie McDowell on the defunded UCSC Center for Teaching Excellence. Both of these presentations demonstrated that UCSC budgets still face significant pressure. If UCSC is to be successful at increasing its doctoral students, it is likely that significant sacrifices will need to be made in other areas. The Academic Structures Task Force may be the best place to identify and deliberate these issues.

Graduate Student Association Announcements

There were no announcements from the Graduate Student Association.

Librarian Announcements

Librarian Caldwell announced that cancellation decisions made last year are now being implemented. Members are encouraged to contact their local librarian if a subscription they need is no longer available.

Aspirational Graduate Growth

Council members engaged in a spirited discussion on aspirational graduate growth. Chair Schumm began the discussion by sharing what he knew of Dean Miller's analysis of the existing shape of graduate programs on campus, and those expected to soon roll out. Dean Miller's analysis uses the shape of campus to generate estimates of what it would take for UCSC to grow. The analysis explores questions of what programs could grow with additional FTE tied to doctoral student increases, how much funding would be needed for growth, etc. It is hoped that Dean Miller can make a presentation on his analysis at a future meeting.

Chair Schumm expects that the task force will generate a statement that will advise the CP/EVC on how the campus would like to see graduate growth implemented, that also has broad support from the UCSC Senate. The plan for the task force is to develop principles for growth and an outline of what the growth process might look like. This document will then be presented to the Senate and Administrators for review before proceeding. Because this process could take months, the task force might not have fully-vetted input for the appointments that the CP/EVC has approved for this year.

Members raised questions about what process UCSC might use for graduate growth. Chair Schumm noted that at least three processes are being discussed:

1. The balloon model. This approach would be to expand, somewhat evenly, the graduate programs that UCSC already has in place.
2. Directing resources where you can get the most doctoral students per dollar spent. Using divisional strategic plans, this process would direct funds where they can be used to get the most graduate student growth.
3. Opportunity funding. This line of thought considers funding for graduate growth as a rare opportunity to fund a compelling and seminal initiative that could spur graduate growth. For example, the campus might contemplate starting or bolstering one or two multi-departmental initiatives that would elevate the campus to world-class stature in these areas.

A member questioned whether or not Chair Schumm envisioned Graduate Council seriously engaging in where and how graduate growth can be established. Another member questioned whether the Council should view the Chair's role on the task force sub-committee as their primary route to discussing and commenting on graduate growth. Chair Schumm noted that the Council has not been as engaged in conversations about graduate growth as they might have been if Dean Miller was available to attend this and the previous meeting. Further, Chair Schumm stated that the Council will be expected to contribute independently to conversations about graduate growth.

Another member questioned whether there will be a clear role for the Senate in growing graduate programs. Chair Schumm responded by stating that he believes (and is trying to convince others) that a major role of the Task Force is to engage the process of getting Senate input to the campus's consideration of graduate growth, so that Senate is both aware and supportive of the guidance provided to the CP/EVC. Chair Schumm continued by recognizing the importance of having the support of the faculty to establish any major campus initiative.

A member questioned whether or not the task force is entertaining the notion that graduate growth might not be a good idea for UCSC. Chair Schumm responded by stating that, in his mind, aggressive graduate growth it is not a forgone conclusion, and that it is crucial that Senate faculty become educated on what it would take for UCSC to grow its doctoral student cohort to 12%, and then develop a stance on whether or not it is best for UCSC.

Another member questioned how much of the funding for aspirational graduate growth has been invested. Chair Schumm responded that the answer to that question is not entirely clear, but that he has been given the impression that roughly 20% has been used. This further reinforces the notion, he continued, that UCSC needs to move quickly to develop a strategic plan to ensure that the remaining funds are invested wisely.

Members voiced concern about maintaining growth over time, and whether there would be sufficient funding for developing major new campus initiatives linked to graduate growth. Major initiatives, they continued, will fail without sufficient funding.

As the conversation developed, members voiced strong concern that Dean Miller is not included on the task force. Members resolved to write to the co-chairs of the task force stating their concern and recommending that Dean Miller be formally invited as a member to the task force.

While graduate growth will remain on the Council's agenda, Chair Schumm encouraged members to engage in conversations via email.

Psychology Closure Meeting Debrief

Graduate Council member Seth Rubin led the discussion on the Psychology closure meeting. A significant topic of discussion was the decline in graduate student support. Psychology is now unable to offer five-year packages, primarily due to a loss of funding for Teaching Assistantships. There is evidence that as a result of this, the department is losing students to other universities.

Members raised questions about what other departments are able to offer and noted that it might be helpful for the Council to have a better idea of what is offered in a typical acceptance letter.

Regarding grant funding for graduate students, the Chair of Psychology believes students are applying for grants but that not enough funding is coming in. Regarding potential resources for aspirational graduate growth, the Chair reported that the department is interested about building the interdisciplinary cognitive science program. Relatedly, the Chair stated the department has benefited from having students in other graduate program, such as Linguistics, enrolling Psychology graduate courses.

In response to questions about developing a Cognitive Psychology Master's program, the Chair stated that these programs are generally focused on clinical issues in psychology, of which the program focuses little on. Further, significant funding would be required to build such a program at UCSC.

Proposed Changes to the LALS Designated Emphasis

The Council considered the LALS department's request to remove the written component from its Designated Emphasis (DE) requirements. The Council approved this request by unanimous consent of attending members. The program also inquired about the possibility of extending the option of obtaining an LALS DE to Master's degree students from other programs. While the DE policy does not prohibit such an application of the DE, the Council had concerns specific to this case. In particular, the LALS DE requirements include one or more quarters of a Teaching Assistantship within the LALS program. Does the program intend to guarantee that teaching slots be reserved for Master's students admitted into the DE track? Even further, would the assignment of teaching support to Master's students dilute the availability of funding for Ph.D. students both within and outside of the LALS program? In an era for which limitations in graduate student support are stressing even the healthiest of our Ph.D. programs, we wonder whether committing teaching resources to Masters students from other departments might hamper the degree of support for Ph.D.-level education that might otherwise be provided by the LALS program.

Program Statement Changes

The Council began their annual review of program statement changes. The following statements were approved: Environmental Studies, Psychology.

The Council elected to review the Music Department statement after it gets clarification from the Graduate Division regarding the required number of credits for student full-time status in a graduate program.

The Council applauds History of Consciousness for thinking outside the box in making what appears to be a grand proposal likely to engage students and faculty alike. There was general consensus among the Council members that the changes are both interesting and potentially very valuable. The Council's primary concern with the draft program statement was that the specifics of the proposed two-year cycle are unclear and may be confusing to potential applicants. A secondary concern was that the inclusion of annually or biannually changing course content material in the catalog copy will require constant revisions, requiring frequent faculty and staff

intervention to keep the catalog copy current and to track the different "catalog rights" of every cohort of students. To address these two concerns, the Council makes the following recommendations: First, the Council recommends separating the discussion of the relatively static structure of the program from the annually changing content of the program. We recommend discussing the structure of the program in the catalog copy and the content in the program's website, with a reference in the catalog copy to the website description of the current cycle. The current year's rubric could be offered (in the catalog copy) as an example. Second, the Council requests clarification regarding the structure of the biannual cycles. The Council had many unanswered questions about what it means to be part of the rubric. Can students only apply for one every other year? Are students a part of the regular program and just get a chance to take difference classes, or is it something more? What happens to students applying in off-cycle years? What does it mean in practical terms to be part of a rubric?, etc. A step in that direction could be to separately describe two different "programs," one for the project rubric (in odd numbered years?) and one for the regular program. Please be clear about the differences between the two "programs," if there are any, including any differences in how and when students apply. Finally, the notion of "parenthetical notations" is no longer operative on our campus. Instead, programs offer "concentrations" (available only to students in the given program) and "designated emphases" (available to students outside the program). The Council asks that History of Consciousness recast its language on parenthetical notations in these terms.

Five-Year Perspectives

The Council reviewed the Campus's "Five-Year Perspectives" on degree programs under development. The Council noted that, in a period for which we are being explicitly encouraged to increase the number of Ph.D. students on our campus, only one of the seven prospective graduate programs proposes to offer a Ph.D. The Council understands that this document reflects thinking strongly influenced by a period of contracting resources, for which prospects for offering a significant number of new and expensive Ph.D. programs would seem ambitious and perhaps even unrealistic. However, it seems to the Council that this backdrop has been significantly altered by the opportunities offered by rebenching, and we thus encourage the campus to reconsider the medium-term perspectives represented in this document in view of this new opportunity for and encouragement towards increasing the number of Ph.D. students on campus.

Mezzanine Courses

The Council briefly discussed the topic of mezzanine courses at UCSC. Vice Chair Brandt led the discussion by citing Senate Regulation 762, which permits graduate and undergraduate courses to be taught in conjunction so long there are clearly differentiated and unique performance criteria, requirements, and goals. One of Vice Chair Brandt's concerns, echoed by members, is that graduate-level curriculum is sometimes diluted in these courses given the difficulty of focusing on graduate and undergraduate students at the same time. Alternatively, some faculty encourage select undergraduates to take entry level graduate courses through independent studies. Several members of the Council stated that this method allows undergraduates to study alongside graduate students without diluting graduate course curriculum. The Council will return to this discussion at their next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.