

**Graduate Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 7, 2013, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Kerr Hall 307**

**Present:** Bruce Schumm, *Chair*, Bettina Aptheker, Scott Brandt, Raphael Kudela, Leta Miller, Tyrus Miller (DGS), Juan Poblete, Megan Thomas, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep.), Michael Tassio (ASO)

**Absent with notice:** Seth Rubin, Su-Hua Wang, Jim Moore (DGS)

**Absent:** Sarah Grace (GSA), Elise Nelson (GSA), Alice Ye (GSA)

**Consent Agenda**

The meeting minutes of January 17 will be approved at the next meeting.

**Chair Announcements**

Chair Schumm updated members on recent meetings. Chair Schumm was unable to attend the Senate Executive Committee meeting on January 29, but was able to request that the issue of graduate growth be raised at the upcoming Alumni Council Dinner on Friday February 22.

The composite benefits proposal was again discussed at the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). This proposal is of particular relevance to faculty in Engineering and the Sciences because their summer salary was going to be included in the category that would have required benefits to be charged, even though full health insurance is covered in the regular nine-month benefit rate and summer salary is not included in the retirement program's average salary base. For many grants, this would have had a direct impact on available funding for graduate student researcher and postdoctoral positions. The proposal has been revised and summer salaries are no longer being included in the benefits rates.

Chair Schumm reported that campus EVCs recently met and there are pressures from the California Governor, having successfully passed Proposition 30, to have UC spending live within the resulting funding levels. The Governor has made it clear that he is unwilling to go back to the citizens of the state to request more funding for education. Further, as he sees it, the UC is not in a position to increase tuition rates, or faculty salaries.

The Governor has recently been attending Regent's meetings, where he is officially the president of the Board of Regents. The regents have been discussing the UC hiring Lectures with Security of Employment, rather than ladder-rank faculty. If the UC chooses this direction, there will be clear implications for graduate education. Moreover, a study by Bill Jacob, Vice Chair of the system-wide Senate, predicts that UC faculty will soon be asked to teach an extra ten percent credit hours.

Chair Schumm announced that he would give updates on the Academic Structures Task Force in the context of Dean Miller's presentation on graduate growth.

### **Dean of Graduate Studies Announcements**

Dean Miller announced that the proposed funding ratio of 2.5 per Ph.D. student now appears to be final. Funding for aspirational graduate growth recognizes the fact that the timing for the new formula is unfortunate for UCSC.

Dean Miller noted that extending childcare reimbursements to Graduate Student Researchers is being discussed. When Dean Miller was the UCSC Associate Graduate Dean, he drafted a proposal for doing this but it did not gain traction due to budget cuts. Nevertheless, all graduate deans support extending childcare reimbursements to GSRs, and doing so would be relatively inexpensive.

Another issue that is being discussed is graduate student health insurance as compulsory during the filing period. UCOP is working with different consultants and some are showing that this would create deficit while others are showing that it would not. This issue may have major implications for graduate students, who could see significant increases to their healthcare rates. Dean Miller mentioned that this is a highly complicated issue and that there is no consensus from the graduate deans on which approach is best.

There was a long conversation at CCGA about the Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Task Force, recently put together by Provost Dorr. Members reasoned that it is not always clear what a professional degree is. Further, there are instances where there is a professional degree that does not have supplemental tuition. Members agreed that all PDSTs need to be professional degrees. Provost Dorr is consulting with the Senate and proceeding carefully about when and where PDSTs are warranted.

Dean Miller stated that Governor Brown is introducing unnecessary caution into the regent's deliberations about the UC. For instance, the PDST process, which requires regent approval on an annual basis, has been halted by the regents. The regents meet again in March, but it is not clear that they will add them to their agenda. This specific instance has direct consequences for UCSC because there are two new programs with PDST currently on hold. Chair Schumm mentioned that the CCGA review of one of those programs, Games and Playable Media, has so far been received well at CCGA, although the lead reviewer is awaiting reports from the external reviewers.

Finally, California Senate Bill 259, bringing GSRs into a collective bargaining status, was vetoed late last year by Governor Brown, but that its future is unclear given the new Democratic supermajority power. Regardless of the bill's future, merely having the right to collective bargaining does not necessarily imply that GSRs will choose to join a union.

### **Graduate Student Association Announcements**

No members of the Graduate Student Association were present at the meeting.

### **Librarian Announcements**

The Library Representative announced that the library has started an outreach campaign to inform faculty about the eScholarship platform and the ability to host open access journals for free, including new peer-review tools.

### **Aspirational Graduate Growth, Presentation by Dean Miller**

Dean Miller presented scenarios for graduate growth at UCSC and engaged in a discussion with members.

Members questioned the role of Graduate Council in the framework of graduate growth. Dean Miller encouraged Graduate Council to continue to consult with him, and noted that the scenarios he presented are just that: scenarios, not plans. UCSC needs to develop a strategic plan for graduate growth, and Graduate Council should be involved in developing that plan. This led to members questioning the timeframe for creating a plan. Dean Miller expects to have an operational plan by the end of this year that will cover a two-year period. Funding from “rebenching” is expected for 6 years, and the VPDGS is working within that timeframe.

Dean Miller explained that he is consulting with divisional deans in late February about their program priorities and investments needed for graduate growth. These consultations will provide insight into how divisional planning might correspond with opportunities for graduate growth.

Members questioned Dean Miller’s use of the formula of faculty FTE to doctoral student ratio, stating that it might negatively impact the Arts and the Humanities. Further, another member questioned why the formula took into consideration systemwide data on faculty FTE to doctoral student ratios. Dean Miller explained that “rebenching” funding is specifically designed to bring UCSC closer to systemwide norms. Chair Schumm stated the importance of calling out the assumptions used to build the scenarios so that the Senate can engage in conversations about them. These assumptions need to be fully understood, Chair Schumm continued, so that the Senate can fully understand the costs and trade-offs associated with the pursuit of the 12% Ph.D.-to-undergraduate ratio.

Members questioned whether there would need to be growth in some areas and not others to reach the goal of 12%. Dean Miller explained that a plan for growth has not been decided upon, but that it is possible that some investments for growth might target particular areas and not others.

Another member questioned the guidelines for growth that were given to departments this year. Dean Miller stated that he consulted with programs that had demonstrated recent success in growing to see where additional growth could happen. Following those consultations, over-offer rates were slightly increased in specific areas.

Dean Miller returned to one of his scenarios that demonstrates that while some additional resources are required for graduate growth, UCSC can use the “rebenching” funds to significantly grow its graduate cohort. This led Chair Schumm to specifically question what the funding sources for graduate growth are. Dean Miller explained three key areas that need to be closely monitored: (1) existing masters students are overfunded and doctoral students are underfunded; UCSC needs a culture change towards supporting doctoral students; (2) growing the graduate cohort might also increase research funding modestly by 10%; and (3) UCSC is in many areas below the systemwide norms for faculty FTE to doctoral student ratios.

Finally, a member questioned how undergraduate enrollment is being figured into the scenarios. Dean Miller responded by stating that they are not included in the scenarios, but that they are a very important component that need to be monitored.

### **Pre-Consultation Discussion: Silicon Valley Campus Director Gordon Ringold**

The Council developed the following list of questions and concerns that they would like Director Ringold to comment on at his February 21 consultation.

The Council is interested in a brief overview of the ongoing academic and professional activities at the Silicon Valley campus, and what Director Ringold views as the directions the SV campus is headed in to augment these activities. Within this discussion, the Council is interested in hearing Director Ringold's take on the unique value that the SV campus might provide towards the University's mission in education and research, as well as to the State that supports it.

The Council would also be interested in hearing a bit about Director Ringold's working relationship with Dean Ramirez of the Baskin School of Engineering, as well as with CP/EVC Galloway and any other academic and divisional deans with whom he might interact on a regular basis.

Another area of great interest is that of "rebenching", and the potential opportunities that may arise as a result of the leveling of funding among the UC campuses that is bringing a significant amount of new resources onto campus. Has this factored into Director Ringold's thinking about the trajectory of the SV campus? Has Director Ringold had discussions with Dean Ramirez about this, and if so, what has been the nature of those discussions?

Related to "rebenching": the overall campus is expected to significantly increase its Ph.D. student enrollments over the next few years. In addition to whatever Ph.D.-level enrollments might be imagined for the growing SV campus, the Council recognizes that well-designed masters programs can be a source of support for Ph.D.-level instruction, both through academic synergies as well as the generation of resources. The Council would like to hear Director Ringold's views on the role that the SV campus could or would play in abetting this goal.

Also of concern is the overall campus investment in library resources and services necessary for research and instruction. The Library has had significant permanent reductions in its budget, and is not remunerated commensurate with student growth, program growth, or indirect costs. The Council is curious whether Director Ringold has considered what Library needs might be incurred as the SV campus grows, and how these needs might be met.

Finally, members were interested in the role that Director Ringold sees undergraduate education playing in the plans for the SV campus. While not the nominal purview of the Graduate Council, graduate and undergraduate education are often deeply intertwined (e.g. in providing graduate student support opportunities through teaching), and it would be helpful for the Council to get a sense of what is being envisioned in the area of undergraduate courses and programs.

### **Plagiarism Software**

The Council considered the CP/EVC's proposal to purchase a campus-wide software license so that faculty, teaching assistants, and students can check work for plagiarism. The Council recognized the benefits the software would have for students at the graduate and undergraduate level, as well as for potentially reducing the workload of faculty and teaching assistants who currently have to manually check student work for instances of plagiarism. The council unanimously supports this proposal.

**Program Statement Changes (continued)**

Due to a lack of time, the Council was unable to review program statement changes.

**Mezzanine Courses at UCSC**

Due to a lack of time, the Council was unable to discuss mezzanine courses.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.