

Graduate Council
MINUTES
February 21, 2013, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Kerr Hall 307

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

Absent with notice: Bettina Apthecker, Juan Poblete

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

Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes of February 17, 2013, were approved.

Chair Announcements

Chair Schumm reminded members that there will be a report of the Graduate Council on aspirational graduate growth at the Senate meeting on March 8, 2013. Dean Miller added that the presentation will be an opportunity to inform more faculty of the task campus is facing in growing its doctoral cohort, and the directions campus might take to do it. Further, faculty will be able to raise questions, and to present views. Chair Schumm noted that growing the doctoral cohort to the 12% goal will require a reshaping of how faculty think about graduate growth at UCSC, and the institutional commitments necessary to reach the goal.

Within the Academic Structures Task Force, there is a subcommittee that has generated a letter asking faculty to think more aggressively about how UCSC can grow its doctoral student cohort. The letter will soon be shared with the full Task Force, and with the Graduate Council. The letter is confidential and members are asked not to share its contents.

Chair Schumm reported that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting on February 26 was dominated by another spirited discussion about undergraduate non-resident enrollment at UCSC. SEC members also discussed the current search for a Vice Chancellor for Research. The position has been advertised internationally in scope and candidates will eventually be brought to campus for interviews. Additionally, SEC members were informed that the CP/EVC is formalizing the way UCSC orients and cultivates new senior leaders. Guidelines on the process are expected to be reviewed in the near future.

Chair Schumm reported that at the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting on March 6 members were informed that because of the California Governor's desire for no new tuition for any UC programs, the UC regents will not be reviewing campus' requests for Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) at their March meeting. Further, the regent's meeting in April is in Sacramento, where they are unlikely to review the proposals. As a result, the PDSTs will not be reviewed until their July meeting. This delay is of particular concern to UCSC, because we have two proposals for PDST with the regents, including the newly proposed Games and Playable Media program, which is currently under review by CCGA.

Chair Schumm updated members on the UC Student Health Insurance Plan. The self-insured program, which was thought to be financially viable, is significantly in debt and student rates are likely to go up. Separately, graduate students have recently expressed an interest in paying an additional fee of approximately \$50-100 per year to avoid caps imposed on their coverage levels.

California legislators have expressed interest in having UC faculty teach an additional course per year. The Academic Senate will be unwavering in its opposition to this proposal, but given upcoming leadership changes at the UC Office of the President, it is unclear of what the next president's opinion will be. Chair Schumm noted that there has been far more communication between the UC Office of the President, the Academic Council, and the Governor's Office about issues effecting the UC than in recent years.

California Senate Bill 259, bringing GSRs into a status from which they can chose to collectively bargain, has been reintroduced. The systemwide Academic Senate is not in favor of this bill and are hopeful that the Governor will once again veto it.

Finally, Chair Schumm announced that the systemwide survey of graduate students has been completed and that a report is forthcoming.

Dean of Graduate Studies Announcements

Dean Miller announced that the number of graduate admits has increased in many departments this year. If trends from recent years hold, UCSC will see an increase in graduate enrollments.

Dean Miller presented a draft proposal to the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) this morning that would implement a tuition revenue sharing model for incremental growth in master's enrollments to create a flexible revenue for programs to support growth in doctoral enrollments, improve instructional and research capacity, address curricular needs, etc. Dean Miller will share this proposal with the Assistant Deans and Graduate Council in the very near future.

Graduate Student Association Announcements

The GSA representative announced that the GSA will not be taking an official position on Senate Bill 259. The GSA has provided graduate students with information on the bill, but has not put forward a white paper supporting it. Dean Miller noted that SB259 does not force Graduate Student Researchers to unionize, but moves them into a category from which they can chose to unionize.

Librarian Announcements

There were no announcements from the library representative.

Art Department Closure Meeting Debrief

Member Megan Thomas reported on the recent Art Department external review closure meeting.

Most faculty in the Art Department currently carry a 4.5 course workload, but two recent hires have MOUs to teach 4 courses per year, which is consistent with course workloads that most

UCSC faculty carry. This development has made concerns from current faculty more pressing that all Art faculty should carry a 4 course workload.

The Art Department would like to see more synergy with the Games and Playable Media program, rather than that program merely using its resources. On that topic, the Art Department continues to look for opportunities to share faculty with other departments or programs.

In response to questions raised in the external review, the Art Department feels strongly that it has structured its undergraduate curriculum to be aligned with its proposed MFA program. Further, the department reasoned that the recently re-drafted MFA program proposal reflects that Art faculty interests are well integrated into the program. In particular, some popular undergraduate areas of practice, such as print making, are being brought into the program proposal.

The half-time position that the Council reasoned was essential for the success of the graduate program is not permanently funded. Further, the Dean recommended that the position be full-time. The Council agreed to address this issue by responding directly to the Dean to support his recommendation for a full-time position.

Both the department and division are unsure of how the DANM program will be effected once the new MFA program is launched. The DANM program is already having trouble meeting some of its curricular commitments, and resource concerns persist.

MFA students not planning to enter a Ph.D. program are currently unable to be appointed as Graduate Student Instructors (GSI). There is a concern that once UCSC offers more MFA programs and enrolls more students, there will be a greater need for MFA students to work as GSIs.

A Council member raised a question about whether faculty graduate advising might be counted toward faculty course workload. The Arts Dean has rejected this line of thinking, but a campus initiative might build momentum around it. Chair Schumm responded by noting that these are the sorts of ideas that the Task Force on Academic Structures needs to take up, so they can be included among an assortment of ideas to increase support for teaching doctoral and masters students. Dean Miller noted that departments and programs will still need to be able to offer their undergraduate curriculum.

Assessment of Ph.D. Students at the Qualifying Exam

The Council discussed VPAA Lee's proposal to require departments to include assessment rubrics on the Qualifying Exam Report form. Council member were appreciative of VPAA Lee's efforts to address Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) assessment requirements in a way that would both be meaningful to programs as well as limit the impact and burden on campus faculty, and the discussion of the proposal was generally favorable, given the constraints imposed by our need to remain accredited. Several issues and concerns were raised, however.

One concern was the relation of an assessment of "Not Demonstrated" in any of the evaluated criteria to an overall "Pass" for the exam. Members felt that, on the one hand, a "failure" for one

criterion should not automatically translate to a “No-Pass” on the overall exam, just as a failure on any one exam in a course does not necessarily mean that the course itself will be failed. However, the Council also raised the concern that two exams resulting in the same assessment levels might nonetheless have different overall results; that is, one exam might be judged as passing overall while the other might be judged not-passing. The Council feared that students would compare their assessments and that such disparities might even offer grounds, or at least motivation, for appeal. However, it was felt that if the document was accompanied by language suggesting that the relation between the individual assessment criteria and the overall exam judgment is not universal, but instead may vary from case to case based on the nature of the exam content and research goals, that such a problem might be obviated. In addition, it was felt that departments would need to be issued clear guidelines and specific examples about how to apply and make use of the QE form rubrics, in light of these concerns.

Another popular opinion was that departments might be required, or at least encouraged, to provide (in addition to the level-based assessment in the grid) language further describing the performance in each assessment area. Some members wondered whether it would be sufficiently within the spirit of the WASC assessment framework to do away with the level-based assessment (grid) and instead require a narrative addressing each of the assessment criteria. Other suggestions offered for consideration included:

- Retain the various learning outcomes, but instead of check-off boxes, provide a single box in which the committee would enter a prose assessment of each item;
- Replace the four check-off boxes with more general categories, such as: “fully satisfied” “partly satisfied,” “not satisfied.”

There was a general sense on the Council that an initial trial with several departments from across the divisions would be a good way to further refine the QE form assessment proposal. Members also felt it important that the forms be readily available to all matriculated students in advance of taking the exam, in order to help them understand with greater specificity what will be required of them as they make the step forward from Ph.D. student to Ph.D. candidate.

Program Statement Changes (continued)

Program statement changes from the Departments of Music, Sociology, and a revised submission from History of Consciousness were all approved. Members raised several questions about the statement for the Technology Information Management program, and agreed to further discuss the statement for Biomolecular Engineering at their next meeting.

Mezzanine Courses

Vice Chair Brandt discussed issues he has had reviewing mezzanine courses in his role as Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Studies for the Baskin School of Engineering. Senate Regulation 762 allows graduate and undergraduate courses to share lectures or other common content, but requires them to have clearly differentiated and unique performance criteria, requirements, and goals. Vice Chair Brandt has received several proposals for mezzanine courses this year that do not clearly differentiate these factors. The Council discussed this issue and reasoned that the Course Approval Supplemental Sheet could be revised to pointedly request that faculty specifically address how their mezzanine course will have clearly differentiated and

unique performance criteria, requirements, and goals. A revised Supplemental Sheet will be added to the consent agenda for the next Council meeting.

Mid-Cycle Review Reports

Mid-cycle review reports from the Department of Education, and the Department of Linguistics were unanimously approved by the Council. Members agreed to further discuss the report from the Department of Applied Math & Statistics at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.