

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

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

Absent with notice: Tyrus Miller (DGS)

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

Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes of March 7 were approved; the minutes of March 21 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Revisions to the Graduate Course Approval Supplemental Sheet were approved.

Chair Announcements

Chair Schumm announced that he recently met with the Senate Chair, Vice Chair, and the Chair of the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) to discuss graduate growth. There was consensus that there is a need for the Senate to formally discuss graduate growth to develop a unifying statement that the Senate can stand behind.

Chair Schumm reported that the California budget was discussed at the recent meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). The budget and UC revenues currently look promising, but Chair Schumm cautioned that the budget could change when the “May Revise” is released.

Also from CCGA, Chair Schumm reported that the UC is likely to oppose Senate Bill 259, permitting Graduate Student Researchers to organize. On the topic of GSRs, campuses are currently discussing GSR childcare subsidies, possible programs, and childcare locations.

The UCSC proposal for an M.S. in Games and Playable Media is being reviewed by CCGA. The associated Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) has not been reviewed by the Board of Regents due to the Governor’s request for no tuition increases, or the like, in the near future. As a result, PDST proposals from all campuses have been tabled and will likely not be reviewed by the Regents until their July meeting.

CCGA has been working on a policy for Self Supporting Programs (SSP) that all campuses will soon have the opportunity to opine on. Unlike most other UC campuses, Santa Cruz does not currently have any SSPs.

Last year there were two efforts to assess graduate student competitiveness in the UC system. The reports will be reviewed by the Regents in May. Members are welcome to review the reports,

which contain strong language about non-resident tuitions that was championed by former UCSC Senate Chair Susan Gillman.

Lastly, the issue of composite benefits rates continues to be fought. The original proposal included imposing a benefit rate on summer salary, for faculty that receive it. This would effectively increase the cost of doing research on campus and impact funding for research opportunities for graduate students. In Chair Schumm's institute, for instance, they would lose funding for 1.5 students. Members questioned the rationale for why the UC would penalize faculty with summer salary who are conducting research. Chair Schumm responded by noting that from their perspective they are trying to recover the cost of UC research, and they see this as an opportunity to do so. Members cautioned that many UC faculty conduct research without grants or summer salary.

Division of Graduate Studies Announcements

Assistant Dean Moore announced that the Division of Graduate Studies recently hired two graduate students. One student will work to establish relations with recent UCSC graduate alumni, and the other will work with University Relations to improve long-term commitments to graduate studies at UCSC. Members noted that UR has focused almost exclusively on undergraduate education at UCSC, and welcomed both positions to raise more awareness about the importance of graduate education.

UCSC will take several graduate students to meet with legislators in Sacramento and Washington D.C. this year to advocate for graduate research.

The 9th annual graduate research symposium will be held on May 10th in the McHenry Library. Graduate Council members are encouraged to judge student presentations at this event.

Graduate Student Association Announcements

The GSA Representative announced that they are moving to online elections to increase student participation.

Librarian Announcements

The Library Representative announced that Measure 42, leveraging a fee on students to maintain the current library hours, has been withdrawn. The CP/EVC has allowed the library to transfer funds from a future project to cover the cost of maintaining the current hours. A member questioned whether the library keeps any of the revenues earned from Hoffman's Global Village Cafe, a restaurant located in McHenry library. The Representative stated that the Library does see revenue as a percentage of sales which is used strictly for GVC equipment, repairs, and expansion of services (such as more/better seating). The Library owns all the equipment, and Hoffman's is a lessee. Any revenue that comes in is tracked in a separate GVC account and is not used for any other operational support for the Library.

Faculty Recruitment Requests for 2013-14

For the second consecutive meeting, the Council discussed divisional faculty recruitment requests, continuing to work towards a consensus in its response to the EVC.

Degree Requirement Change: Literature

The Council approved proposed modifications to the Literature Ph.D. qualifying exam. Member Juan Poblete was recused from deliberations.

Ambassador Fellowship Program Proposal

The Council discussed the Committee on Planning and Budget's proposal for an Ambassador Fellowship, and commented on the graduate student aspects of it.

Members noted that one might see two possible goals of the graduate-student-oriented parts of the proposal: (1) increase the small fraction of international academic graduate students; (2) leverage external support to establish a beachhead of support for international undergraduate students by developing a set of graduate students that would offer them support and community.

For the first of these, we note that the issue of increasing international academic graduate student enrollments is a complex and vexing one that has consumed much faculty and administrative time at all levels of the system. Members strongly encourage continuing efforts to overcome the strong fiscal disincentive for enrolling international graduate students, particularly those that return an appropriate portion of non-resident tuition to the departments and grants that support international students. Members noted that Dean Miller was able to establish a program that effectively does this, but only after considerable effort, and only so far as a small trial initiative whose success is subject to a number of campus budgetary vagaries and contingencies. As CPB is certainly aware, there is a cost, both in terms of re-allocation of funding as well as actual revenues that come to campus, to forgiving or refunding NRT, and whatever debate has taken place on our campus about the relative merits of absorbing this cost has not resulted in a broad mitigation of NRT. So if nothing else, this proposal is likely to wash up against these same fiscal shoals. However, this is not to say that a focused debate about NRT mitigation, in terms of Ambassador Fellowships or any other vehicle, would be fruitless and that the outcome of significant mitigation of NRT lies outside the realm of possibility. The Council would be happy to join in a conversation with CPB about the issue of NRT mitigation.

However, another point that should be made is that, in the impression of the Council, it is not lack of awareness and interest of prospective students that limits our international graduate enrollments, but rather the lack of funds needed to support them once they arrive. A number of Council members indicated that their departments' international enrollments would be significantly higher were it not for NRT. These faculty members noted that there were many very high-quality candidates that were turned away because the department could not afford to offer multi-year support packages. Thus, initiating an Ambassador Fellowship program for the sake of enticing more international graduate student applications does not seem likely to be a fruitful approach.

For the second of these, insofar as it is hoped graduate 'ambassadors' will recruit international students to enroll as undergraduates at UCSC, the Council imagines this effort may be of limited success. Graduate students are not only often quite a bit older than prospective undergraduates (who are presumably still in high school), but also usually tied to their graduate institution via research or teaching and less likely to be traveling back to a home country over breaks or

summers. The Council's members are therefore somewhat skeptical that the Ambassador program would be effective as a tool for increasing international undergraduate enrollments.

In addition, in order to avoid the issues associated with mitigating NRT discussed above, it might be necessary to make a convincing case that the resources invested in developing and maintaining a graduate Ambassador cohort would be significantly rewarded by revenue generated by increased international or non-resident undergraduate enrollments. One Council member pointed out that a better way to incentivize increased non-resident enrollment would be to institute a "finder's bonus" that would reward any student demonstrably responsible for attracting a non-resident undergraduate enrollee by awarding a scholarship or housing allowance.

BSOE Online Graduate Curriculum

Vice Chair Brandt updated members on recent online graduate curriculum in the Baskin School of Engineering. The Technology Information Management program, particularly, has been using online course components that permit their student to take courses without necessitating that they physically attend. A member questioned whether students not attending a course are able to participate in discussion. Vice Chair Brandt noted that very few courses are implementing these new technologies, and they are doing so in a way that preserves the spirit of the course. One of the primary problems that the Baskin School of Engineering is trying to address is the desire from professionals working in the Silicon Valley to enroll in programs at UCSC even though they are unlikely to be able to physically attend many courses on campus. There are no changes, he continued, to student expectations, or requirements; this is merely a shift to permit greater access for students interested in studying at UCSC.

Proposal for an Education M.A. in Silicon Valley

Noting concerns that the Education M.A. proposal for a credential based in Silicon Valley appeared to contain a self-supporting program, Chair Schumm asked that the Council return to this proposal when they have more information.

Graduate Growth

Due to time constraints, the Council was unable to address this item.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.