

**Graduate Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 18, 2013, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Kerr Hall 307**

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

**Absent with notice:** Scott Brandt, Su-Hua Wang

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

**Consent Agenda**

Items on the consent agenda were postponed until the May 2 meeting.

**Chair Announcements**

The Graduate Growth sub-committee of the Taskforce on Academic Structures met recently to discuss their draft report on growth at UCSC. The sub-committee is approaching a consensus on the report, which will soon be shared with the entire taskforce. Chair Schumm noted that there are some suggestions in the report whose consideration would be within the purview of the Council.

The campus strategic planning initiative is coming into formation. The consultant visited campus this week and met with a series of different groups including representatives from the Senate. A representative from the Graduate Council was unable to attend. Member Megan Thomas, who attended this week's Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting, reported that there was not consensus among SEC members on the process for working with the consultant to build the campus strategic plan.

Member Thomas reported that SEC discussed the recent partnership with Coursera, and concerns from faculty and the EVC that campus needs to develop procedures for how courses will be selected to be offered through Coursera. Several Senate committees, including the Committees on Educational Policy (CEP), Computing and Telecommunications (CCT), and Teaching (COT) are currently discussing this issue. SEC considered requesting that a moratorium be placed on selecting any courses for Coursera until procedures are established.

The Chair of CEP recently attended a Coursera conference and noted that other universities partnered with Coursera are offering courses with professors that have a very high level of achievement in teaching and research. Dean Miller suggested that UCSC might consider faculty members who have been selected for the prestigious Faculty Research Lecture award as faculty campus might encourage to teach a Coursera course. Campus, he continued, should be careful to offer Coursera courses that cast UCSC in a positive light, and that the resources to ensure this need to be supplied.

Continuing on the topic of Coursera, member Thomas reported that the understanding the CEP Chair took away from the conference was that courses offered through Coursera will be on

advanced topics and are not necessarily intended for a lower-division undergraduate audience. Further, these courses typically have an in-class version offered on campus. If courses are graduate level and have an in-class version, this raised questions about the approval process; on the surface, it appears that these courses would need to follow the regular course approval process.

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

Dean Miller reported that UCSC has done an outstanding job at positively boosting graduate admissions numbers for Fall 2013. As of yesterday morning, the overall acceptances are at 456, the highest number of acceptances at this point since 2006. Importantly, within the 456 acceptances, 282 are doctoral students, by comparison to just 212 at this time last year. Dean Miller cautioned that there will be some melt, but that he expects UCSC to have strategically increased their doctoral students by at least 50 from last year's numbers. As to be expected, not all of the numbers are positive, and some programs, including the Education M.A., saw decreases in their acceptances despite being more aggressive in pursuing students. The next step for Dean Miller is to continue discussions with deans and department chairs to get a better idea of the long term funding challenges to maintain this level of growth.

Dean Miller reported that discussions at the systemwide level regarding the UC Student Health Insurance Plan appear to be approaching a resolution. Premium increases for graduate students at UCSC may increase by roughly 10%—far lower than once expected. Increases for undergraduates will likely be steeper.

### **Graduate Student Association Announcements**

No GSA representatives were present.

### **Librarian Announcements**

The Library Representative announced that the Science Library has reignited the Synergy Lecture series, focused on UCSC faculty research, teaching, and grants in the sciences with a view towards their impact on society. The spring lecture on April 24, "Climate Change and Extinctions," will be given by Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Barry Sinervo.

### **Faculty Recruitment Requests for 2013-14**

For the third consecutive meeting, the Council discussed divisional faculty recruitment requests.

### **Proposal for an Education MA in Silicon Valley**

Council discussed the proposal and raised the following observations that it would like the program to address before it considers approval.

Insofar as fiscal considerations play a large role in the proposal, the Council was wondering what degree of confidence the Department and Provost's office have in the ability to establish a sufficiently large cohort that does not, at the same time, draw students away from the locally administered program. There are a number of notable education graduate programs in Silicon Valley that hold instruction in the same geographical area as UNEX, including those at San Jose State, Santa Clara University, and Stanford. Against this backdrop of attractive programs, can we have some degree of confidence that suitably large cohorts will be established? What would

recommend our program over these long-established activities? The Council speculated that the demographics of recent Masters cohorts might shed light on this: if a significant number of them were South Bay residents at their time of application, then the Silicon Valley component might just shift such students away from the campus-based program rather than producing an expanded market. The Council also expressed an interest in reviewing the marketing survey undertaken by UNEX that was referred to in the proposal.

A final question raised by the Council is that of the nature of review of non-ladder-rank faculty that will be teaching in the program. The approval of instructors for courses receiving campus credit lies within the purview of the Senate, and it needs to be clear how this will be carried out.

### **Multi-year Offers of Chancellor's Fellowships**

Members discussed questions raised by a Senate faculty member about making Chancellor's Fellowships multi-year, rather than single-year offers. Director Moore explained that UCSC experimented in the recent past with fellowships that covered student's first and fifth years, so long as the department would cover the middle years. Very few departments were willing to accept this offer; no departments accepted during the first year of the trial period, and only two did in its final year.

Dean Miller noted that it is not technically impossible to extend fellowships but that doing so will compromise campus' capacity to give fellowship opportunities to more students. A member reported on being involved with recruiting graduate students this year and commented on the tremendous support given by the Graduate Division to make a successful recruitment. Another member noted that their department regularly loses strong applicants to UC Santa Barbara due to their ability to give four year offers. Dean Miller stated that he has been in conversation with deans and department chairs about how to make strong offers to make UCSC more attractive to strong applicants.

Members came to consensus that they would rather have more fellowship opportunities than to offer fewer fellowships with some multi-year offers. Several members stated that often students that appear weaker in their application emerge as highly talented after a year of study, and that UCSC needs to have funds available to reward these students.

Chair Schumm questioned whether the Council could recommend that fellowship funds be divided among divisions, and deans granted the authority to use them for multi-year offers. Dean Miller stated that fellowship funds are under his purview and that campus' record of selecting the best students for fellowships, regardless of their divisions, has been excellent.

### **Cota-Robles Fellowship Review**

Council members discussed ways to improve the Cota-Robles Fellowship review process. There is a very quick turnaround time for departments to nominate students, and the Council wants to ensure that valuable information is given, but that the process is not onerous.

One of the items discussed was scoring on the section for mentoring and departmental contribution (currently at 10% of score). Some Council members who recently reviewed the Cota-Robles nominations expressed concern that the section did not provide useful criterion for

evaluation given that all departments proposed excellent mentoring and support. There was consensus among the Council that the section is important—especially in requiring departments to name mentors—but that perhaps it should not carry any percentage of the nominee’s score.

Members also discussed the weight given to the sections for diversity and academic achievement, as well as how faculty reviewers from different divisions might view the importance of research preparation in assessing a nominee’s academic achievement. Further, members discussed proposing that lines be added beneath the lettered items in the academic achievement section so that the department can provide context for their assessment of the nominee. Several Council members familiar with nominating students noted that they have in the past added lines themselves to the form.

A Council member recommended that other members speak with their faculty graduate directors about the nomination form and report back to Council their findings as a useful way to have a better idea of whether changes to the form are needed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.