

GRADUATE COUNCIL
January 16, 2014
Kerr Hall Room 307, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Present: Bruce Schumm, *Chair*, Ken Kletzer, Leta Miller, Tyrus Miller, ex officio, Jim Moore, Juan Poblete, Pascale Garaud, Deborah Gould, Seth Rubin, Wang-Chiew Tan, Micah Rahder (Graduate rep)

Absent: John Bowin

Routine Announcements

Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Miller reported that the Graduate Student Leadership Certificate program has launched, with representative students from all five divisions on campus. The program is designed to develop the leadership skills of graduate students and to place their experience into the bigger context of academia. Also, UCSC received ~500 more graduate student applications for 2014-15 than for 2013-14.

Consultation with Professor Dana Takagi, Chair, Education Department

Chair Takagi began by announcing that she had resigned her positions as receiver chair for the Education Department, effective January 17, 2014. She explained that the department was put into receivership in response to concerns over the cost of the MA program, the overall financial well-being of the department, the troubled curriculum of the Ph.D. program, and the dormant Ed.D. program. The inflexibility of the MA curriculum has led to either the undergraduate minor or the Ph.D. program being shortchanged. With the current Ph.D. curriculum offering five concentrations, the ability of the 15 faculty members to mount the curriculum is in serious doubt. Further, the age demographics of the department present a possible future in which the department could be reduced to only nine faculty members in the next three to five years. Chair Takagi stated that Social Sciences Dean Kamieniecki has been adamant that there will be no hiring in the department regardless of retirements or separations.

The council asked about the cost of the MA program. Chair Takagi replied that the cost of ~\$25,000 a year to students is common for the type of program that UCSC offers. But some inefficiency, such as running the program independently during the summer rather than under the umbrella of Summer Session, cost the department unnecessary funds. Also, the Education Department has a practice of splitting a component of its block allocation evenly across all matriculated MA students, irrespective of need or merit. The viability of the MA program is separate from the Ph.D. program, and Chair Takagi explained that she sees a commitment to the MA program from the department and the division.

The council asked about the Dean Kamieniecki's stance on not hiring new faculty into the department. Chair Takagi responded that this was part of the reason she resigned her position. There are central and divisional resource questions to be answered regardless of what happens in the department. None of the work in the department will be worthwhile if resources are withheld on the divisional or central level. The council asked whether the departmental faculty believe they can still mount the necessary Ph.D. courses given the Dean's commitment to

not fill empty FTE. Chair Takagi explained that, in her view, the faculty feel the department's problems can be solved with additional FTE and resources. As it stands, the 15 member department is struggling to mount the necessary courses for the Ph.D. program and maintain the undergraduate minor and MA program. The MA program is in need of a full-time director but the Dean has provided only 0.5 FTE for this position.

The council asked about the curricular problems with the Ph.D. program. Chair Takagi explained that offering five concentrations in the program is unsustainable. Though the departmental faculty agree to this, they do not agree on a way forward. She believes that there was a lack of understanding of catalog rights among the faculty, which made the process of drafting a new curriculum go slowly. Any change would have to come with a teach-out program for students who have catalog rights to the five concentration model. Two competing plans to redesign the curriculum have emerged, one from a doctoral committee formed by Chair Takagi and the other from independent education faculty members.

The council asked about Chair Takagi's meetings with graduate students over these issues. She responded that the students are anxious about the problems in the department. They were concerned with how a suspension of admissions could affect the value of their degree and their chances on the job market.

The council agreed that the issues facing the Education Department are serious enough to warrant consideration of suspension of admissions to the Ph.D. program. Members expressed concern over the timing of the potential suspension of admissions, as the department is preparing its offers to incoming students. Before a decision can be reached, the council must hear from the departmental faculty and review the two plans to redesign the curriculum.

Environmental Studies (ENVS) Department External Review Closure Meeting

Member Gould reported on the closure meeting for the ENVS Department external review. She reported that the review was strong but excluded a few issues about which Graduate Council was concerned. One concern was the graduate core curriculum, which the department chair agreed needed to be rethought. Of particular concern is the apprentice model and its different application to the natural science track and the social science track. The main issue, though, is the struggles of the ENVS department to be truly interdisciplinary. Many faculty members outside of the department work on environmental issues and this could be a new moment to reconsider the proposed School of the Environment. The council agreed that there should be a campuswide discussion on these issues of interdisciplinary work on environmental issues.

Proposal for UCSC Outstanding Dissertation Awards

The Committee on Research (COR) asked for Graduate Council's co-sponsorship of a proposal to create Outstanding Dissertation Awards for UCSC graduate students. The council wholeheartedly supported the spirit of the proposal and discussed several issues with the proposed structure and requirements. In particular, the council discussed the timing of the nominations and whether drafts of dissertations would be acceptable submissions. Members agreed that only final dissertations ought to be considered. Minor edits to the nomination and advancement processes were also discussed.

The council considered the most appropriate timeline for submission and award. A spring quarter deadline would limit the amount of current year nominations, as not many students will have their dissertation finalized in time for the competition. The goal of honoring the winner at commencement is important, but the award may be more valuable as a feather in the cap of graduates going onto the job market. As such, the council discussed a delayed timeline with announcements possibly in August or September as graduates enter the job market. Parts of the process, such as the timeline, may be defined by the terms of the donor, though, and the council will ask COR to better understand the stipulations of the gift letter. The Council also discussed the possibility of allowing advanced drafts, rather than fully approved theses, to be entered into the competition.

CCGA Guidance on Degree Titles

The council reviewed the draft guidance on degree titles from the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). The guidance document aims to maintain the distinction between academic degree programs (ineligible for professional degree supplemental tuition) and professional degree programs. The council agreed that the draft guidance document was acceptable.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.