

GRADUATE COUNCIL
October 10, 2013
Kerr Hall Room 307, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Present: Bruce Schumm, *Chair*, John Bowin, Ken Kletzer, Leta Miller, Tyrus Miller, ex officio, Jim Moore, Juan Poblete, Pascale Garaud, Deborah Gould, Seth Rubin, Wang-Chiew Tan

Absent: none

Routine Announcements

Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Miller announced that admissions for the 2014-15 cycle are now live and over 250 applicants have begun the process. This is the first year that the Graduate Division has used an in-house system for collecting applications. The new system will give the division far more flexibility to adjust application due dates and to run reports. Assistant Dean Moore announced that the division is also developing a Graduate Student Information System that will give faculty and departmental staff the ability to quickly view current student profiles.

Dean Miller stated that this is a period of transformational graduate growth for UCSC. The Graduate Division aimed to increase the doctoral cohort by 50 students last year, and was able to enroll 71 new students. The division is continuing to promote growth where possible and warranted. They will continue the practice of meeting with key faculty from departments and programs about how resources can be allocated to achieve localized goals. This strategy recognizes that there is a diversity of cultures within programs, and with how pools of applicants relate to funding models.

Further, the Graduate Division is in conversation with the EVC on ways to increase block allocation funding and support, more generally, for graduate students. One idea is the non-terminal Masters' incentive proposal that the Council will review at their next meeting. Over a three year period, the proposal is to move some block funding to incentive funding so that programs that are successful at enrolling Masters students are rewarded for doing so. The incentive funds, unlike block funds, can be used more flexibly by departments or programs to support graduate affairs.

Graduate Student Association Representative

No GSA representatives were present. Chair Schumm noted that there is a strong history of GSA representatives introducing important items to the Council, and that they are encouraged to bring issues to the table.

Librarian Representative

Representative Caldwell announced that Librarian Elizabeth Cowell has been appointed University Librarian on an interim basis following Ginny Steel's transition to UCLA.

Following a three year student-supported referendum to keep the Libraries open with normal hours that ended in 2012-13, the EVC has agreed to allocate permanent funding to keep the normal hours. Students have expressed interest in having extended hours at the Science &

Engineering Library, and there is a proposal for a referendum to have the library open 24 hours a day, five days a week. Should the student referendum pass, the EVC has agreed to use one-time funding for security card door access to the library.

Chair's Overview of Graduate Council in 2013-14

Chair Schumm discussed his role in the Graduate Council and the Senate. He serves on the systemwide counterpart to the Council, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). He is also a member of the Santa Cruz Senate Executive Committee (SEC).

Chair Schumm noted that the Council typically consults with administrators about graduate affairs, and he suggested that the Council should invite Vice Chancellor for Research Scott Brandt, a former member of the Council who may have ideas about how graduate growth and research can work in unison. Further, following two years of consulting with EVC Galloway, the Council might consider inviting the Chancellor to a meeting this year.

Chair Schumm updated members on happenings at the recent SEC meeting. Rebenching continues to be a topic for consideration. Along with its direct impact for graduate growth, rebenching also requires attention to long range enrollment planning, to ensure that the campus does not expend undue resources on undergraduate education, thereby negatively impacting graduate education. Carefully managing the enrollment of undergraduate students is critical to ensure that our graduate enrollments will grow proportionately. In the most recent campus long range enrollment plan (LREP), graduate enrollments approach 12% over the next 6-8 years. The plan has been submitted to UCOP and is not yet publically available.

A member questioned whether faculty are considering creating interdisciplinary Graduate Groups as a way to attract more doctoral students. Chair Schumm noted that the Council should continue to think about these sorts of questions and that in the Council's 2011-12 report on interdisciplinary activity at UCSC, the case was not made that the lack of success of interdisciplinary programs is a result of existing academic structures.

Chair Schumm stated that the Senate needs to continue to ask the administration about their efforts towards achieving graduate growth projections laid out in the LREP. Dean Miller noted that when the process to grow doctoral enrollments began there were no strategic goals. In just a year, campus has developed a new Silicon Valley Academic Plan, appointed a new Vice Chancellor for Research who will set benchmarks for research proposals, developed a proposal to incentivize Masters' programs, and engaged faculty in the strategic planning initiative; in short, a number of pieces are coming together that better detail UCSC's vision for growth. Chair Schumm noted that the role of the Council in supporting graduate growth is unclear. By the Council's charge, members will engage in the routine business of reviewing and commenting on proposal such as incentivizing Masters' programs, but what the Council does beyond this is less clear. Last year the Council engaged the Senate in the issue by jointly delivering oral reports with Dean Miller. The Council was unable, however, to get a clear sense from the administration of what their concrete plans are. Nevertheless, the administration has shown engagement in the issue insofar as proposals to able graduate growth are beginning to come before the Senate.

Officer, Subcommittee, and External Review Assignments

Annual subcommittee appointments were finalized, and member Seth Rubin was confirmed as the Vice Chair to the Graduate Council.

While finalizing appointments, a discussion about ambiguities in reviewing new course proposals arose. An experienced member of the courses subcommittee stated that some new course proposals include detailed syllabi, while others merely answer questions on the supplemental sheet. The member recommended that the Council review whether it might be more helpful to eliminate the supplemental sheet and require a detailed syllabus with new proposals. This discussion was tabled for consideration at a later point.

Members reviewed and approved the Council's confidentiality and recusal policy.

Consultation with Dean Miller on Graduate Student Transfers to Other UCSC Programs

Dean Miller consulted with the Council on his proposal for draft guidelines and policy regarding graduate student transfers from one UCSC program to another. Other than a couple minor clarifications, the Council was impressed with the thoroughness of the proposal and recommended that Dean Miller also consult with Department Chairs and Graduate Program Coordinators.

Proposal for a Graduate Certificate: Science and Justice

The Council discussed the proposal to offer a Graduate Certificate in Science and Justice, put forward by the Science & Justice Research Center in the Division of Social Sciences. Members were impressed by the innovative thrust represented by the Center's activity and its success at attracting external funding that has made our campus a leader in the definition and development of what is perhaps a newly emerging academic discipline. The activity of the Center represents an impressively successful interdisciplinary thrust at a time that the sometimes elusive goal of conducting interdisciplinary inquiry is under much discussion both on our campus as well as more broadly within academia.

While rather common across the UC system, certificates of this nature are somewhat new to our campus, and some of the Council's discussion centered on the general question of the meaning and depth of the program of study for graduate certificates that do not conform to Senate Regulation 735. A consensus arose that the receipt of such a certificate should require more than the successful completion of a single class. The Council noted two areas in the proposal that suggested the certificate's proposers intended that the program of study should include more than passing the single course "Science and Justice: Experiments in Collaboration." First, there was an implication that activity associated with the proposal for a collaborative research project might continue after successful completion of the class. It was not clear to the Council whether this activity, which would be allowed to extend beyond the quarter in which the formal class meetings would be held, was nonetheless part of the requirements needed for the completion of the course. Also, it was not clear to the Council what role the possible play-out of the proposal, if successful, played in the requirements for the conferral of the certificate. Second, there was a requirement that students attend at least a minimum number of Working Group meetings or events. Either the collaborative proposal or attendance at a minimum of six Working Group meetings offers the possibility of an activity that would "round out" the certificate program and elevate it to something more substantive than the completion of a single course. However, the

Council felt that a) this additional activity should raise the overall level of activity of certificate candidates clearly beyond that expected for the unit designation of the Experiments in Collaboration course; and b) this extra activity should have its own, independent performance assessment. For example, while the attendance of six Working Group events does strike the Council as a significant activity beyond that of the Experiments in Collaboration course, there is nothing in the proposal that would evaluate the quality of the student's engagement in the events and ensure that participation in them deepens the student's grasp in a way that would further qualify her/him to claim the depth of background in Science and Justice that would qualify for the attainment of graduate certification. The Council would appreciate the proposer's thoughts and clarification of these issues, including whether the Experiments in Collaboration class will be completed and a final grade entered with the registrar at the end of the term in which the class meetings take place, or if it is intended that the grade will be entered only when the proposal is complete and has been evaluated by the program faculty.

A number of other issues came to mind during the Council's discussion. To begin with, the Council feels it important that it understand and evaluate the exact nature and wording of the transcript designation (or other designation, as intended by the proposers) associated with the conferral of the certificate. Also, the Council is wondering what the formal course-sponsoring unit would be, how many units are proposed for the Experiments in Collaboration course, and how the course would be listed in the academic catalog, which stands as the document of record for academic program content and requirements. Credit towards the completion of courses that satisfy graduate degree requirements is typically predicated upon achievement of the grade of "B" (or its equivalent) or higher; the Council believes that this level of mastery would also be an appropriate requirement for the satisfaction of certificate course requirements. Finally, the term "subsequent academic calendar year" appears in the first paragraph of the third page of the proposal, which strikes the Council as unclear. If the intent is that the students will have until the end of the spring term of the following year to complete the proposal, then simple "subsequent academic year" would be the correct term.

In sending the proposers this list of questions and concerns, the Council wished to acknowledge its excitement about the developing Science and Justice activity on our campus, and its gratitude to those who have spearheaded an effort that has the potential to bring attention to our campus as one of the originators of an emerging academic discipline.

Digital Arts & New Media Proposal to Extend the MFA Program from 2 to 3 Years

The DANM proposal was briefly discussed and the Council will return to it at their next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.