

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**November 21, 2013**

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

**Absent:** Christy Caldwell (Library), Seth Rubin, Micha Rahder (GSA)

**Consent Agenda**

GC response to the History of Art and Visual Culture External Review approved.

**Routine Announcements**

*Chair*

Chair Schumm provided an update on discussions with Graduate Dean Miller regarding the Education Department. Chair Schumm has also met with external Chair Takagi. It is likely that GC will consult with Chair Takagi and the Graduate Director for Education in early winter quarter 2014.

Chair Schumm announced that Vice Chancellor of University Relations Donna Murphy has stepped down. There is a committee of Senate faculty that will be working with the search committee. GC will be able to raise pertinent questions.

Chair Schumm briefly discussed the proposal for cluster hires. There is a subgroup of SEC working on this, including Chair Schumm. Chair encouraged comments on the proposal.

*Dean of Graduate Studies*

The graduate reps and advisor meeting is next week. This meeting is intended to be a kick off for questions on admissions and other topics.

The Council of Graduate Deans met November 20, 2014. The UCB Dean presented results of the graduate alumni survey. The Office of the President (OP), on the basis of the UCB experience, is creating a uniform template for the system. Graduate alumni became a recognized category of alumni at UCSC only seven years ago. This is a positive development for us.

Dean Miller met with Provost Amieé Dorr. Previously, the UC President didn't make graduate education a primary topic, but it is now a high priority. There will be a forum on graduate education likely taking place in the spring that will include Senate and administrative leaders.

**Silicon Valley Academic Plan**

The Council revisited this topic and reviewed the draft Council response.

**TIM Capstone and Curricular Staffing Plan**

The Council revisited this topic and reviewed the draft Council response.

**Proposal for a Designated Emphasis: Social Documentation**

The Council reviewed a proposal for a Designated Emphasis in Social Documentation brought forward by the Film and Digital Media Department. Council members expressed support for the proposal, but noted that instruction by core faculty of the Social Documentation program was emphasized over course curriculum. The Council will seek clarification from the Film and Digital Media Department on whether this was the intent of the proponents, given the interdisciplinary nature of this area within the Social Sciences.

**Proposal for a Designated Emphasis: Mechanistic, Structural and Chemical Biology**

The Council reviewed a proposal for a Designated Emphasis in Mechanistic, Structural and Chemical biology from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The Council raised questions about whether the proposed work would warrant an annotation of the degree title. The Council will revisit this topic at the next meeting.

**Economics Department External Review Deferral Request**

With member Kenneth Kletzer recused, GC reviewed the request for a one-year deferral of the Economics Department External Review scheduled for the 2014-15 academic year. The Council agreed with the department's reasoning that deferring the review will provide time for reinstating the Master's degree program in finance. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the extension.

**External Reviews****Stage 1: Commenting on the External Review Charge**

The Council noted specific points of inquiry for the upcoming History of Consciousness Department review in the areas of future hiring and transfer plans, graduate support plans, and the recent change to the curricular structure by introducing thematic cohort-based tracks.

**Proposal from Earth & Planetary Sciences for a Departmental Spousal/Relationship Policy on Graduate Committees**

The Council discussed the EPS Department's proposed policy for constituting graduate exam committees in the case that committee members have "familial" relations.

The Council agreed that there are many different sources of conflict of interest, of which spousal or romantic relationships are but one. The Council recommends that the department, should it wish to pursue this issue as a matter of formal policy, consider expanding its focus from spousal relations to conflicts of interest in general.

The Council was unanimous in its opinion that, if advisory (to both students and faculty) rather than mandated, the proposed policy would be acceptable. However, if the department would like to make the policy a mandate, the Council would appreciate the department's further discussion of why it has concluded the tradeoff falls, in balance, to a protection of the student's welfare rather than a restriction of their freedom of choice.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.