

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 26, 2015
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Ken Kletzer (Chair), John Bowin, Kimberly Jannarone, Dean Mathiowetz, Leta Miller, Tyrus Miller, Stefano Profumo, Wang-Chiew Tan, Erica Smeltzer (Graduate Student Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate)

Absent: Pranav Anand, Jonathan Fortney, Roberto Manduchi, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Jeb Purucker (Graduate Student Representative)

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies

Routine Announcements

Chair

Chair Kletzer updated the Council on the status of the response to the VPAA regarding combined Bachelor's/Master's program guidelines.

Dean Miller planned to arrive late for this meeting. The Council agreed to move the PBSE Request agenda item until his arrival.

Dean of Graduate Studies

Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Jim Moore gave announcements from the Graduate Division. He announced that the Grad Slam event is taking place on March 6, 2015. Ten graduate students will each be giving at here minute exposition of their work. A systemwide Grad Slam will take place in May, and will be simulcast to all campuses.

Graduate applications are up by over one hundred over this time last year. Assistant Dean Moore estimated that the campus will likely be 160 over Grad Division expected baseline numbers for Ph.D. enrollments, which puts the campus "almost" on track in terms of Graduate Division growth goals. Assistant Dean Moore also announced that a lot of faculty and departments are picking up momentum and getting into the mindset of trying to grow graduate programs and finding creative ways to fund students.

Graduate Student Representative

None.

Librarian Representative

None.

Graduate Council Charge

The Council finalized changes to its charge and approved the proposed changes. Chair Kletzer provided an overview of the next steps in the process, which includes review by the Senate's Committee on Committees (CoC) before going to the Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections (RJ&E) committee and the Senate floor.

SEC Framework for International Engagement

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) developed a Framework for International Engagement, presented at the February 18, 2015 Senate meeting. SEC agreed to bring the report to the Senate committees to

identify what is relevant to their purview. The Council's deliberation raised several issues, including: the campus goal of increased revenue, the placement of the SIO under the VPDUE (and potential effects on campus internationalization), the impact on compare favorably, and concern with the quality of international applicant pools and admitted students. The Council raised the concern that increasing international students that are less prepared academically impacts graduate student TAs. The Council did praise the report for reframing international engagement more broadly to include research. The Council will draft a short response to SEC.

PBSE Request to Move Deadline for Submission of Fellowship Nominations

The Executive Committee of the Graduate Program in Biomedical Science and Engineering (PBSE) sent a communication to VPDGS Miller and Graduate Council to request moving the deadline for fellowship nominations for the Cota-Robles, Chancellor's and Nonresident Tuition Fellowships to accommodate the annual PBSE on campus recruitment and interview event in late January. PBSE would like to select fellowship nominees after meeting candidates.

VPDGS Miller provided a brief overview of the current nomination timeline and process. He noted there needs to be one key deadline for the Cota Robles. All the nominations are received, and the Graduate Division makes a final selection from the Graduate Council rankings. He indicated there is not a whole lot of flexibility in this process, but they've tried to work out the deadline so it doesn't cause excessive distress for some departments. The Chancellor's and Nonresident Tuition fellowships are put out as an allocation to the divisions and divisional deans run whatever process they want for making the nominations and selections. Dean Miller noted this year there seemed to be a lot of confusion, and that it appeared to stem from the divisions not consulting with their departments. The Graduate Division is trying to take the lessons from this year, and being more diligent before changing deadlines. Assistant Dean Moore added that that the Cota Robles deadline has always been between January 24 and January 26 of each year. Awards are usually announced by January 31-early February. This year, they decoupled the fellowships and that caused some confusion because deadlines historically have been parallel.

The Council deliberated the issues and noted differences across divisions in terms of the consequences of an earlier vs. later deadline. One member asked about the variations between divisions, how many awards go to each. This member also noted that while understanding the process for the awarding of fellowships is helpful, the historical distribution of awards would also be helpful information. The Council further discussed the merits of allocating by division vs. central awarding, with no clear consensus. Dean Miller noted that in general there's no blanket answer to the question about whether the campus loses students from having offers go out later, but also acknowledged that late offers means you have students who have offers from other places and accept those offers. At the end of deliberation, the Council did not make a recommendation for changing the process of awards.

Program Statement Changes

The Council conducted its annual review of proposed program statement changes.

Digital Arts and New Media was approved.

The Council is requesting additional information before further considering program statement changes for Anthropology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Politics. Technology Management proposed changes in their cover letter that were not reflected in their program statement, and the Council will request clarification before further review.