

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
November 6, 2014  
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Ken Kletzer (Chair), John Bowin, Pranav Anand, Kimberly Jannarone, Roberto Manduchi, Dean Mathiowetz, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Stefano Profumo, Wang-Chiew Tan, Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

**Absent:** Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Jonathan Fortney, Leta Miller, Miten Jain (Graduate Student Rep)

**Guest:** Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies

**Routine Announcements**

*Chair*

Chair Kletzer encouraged members to attend the Senate meeting of November 7, 2014, where SEC's Graduate Growth Principles are on the agenda.

Chair Kletzer also announced that the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) approved the proposal for an M.S. in Science Computing and Applied Mathematics from our campus, which will now go forward to the Office of the President for final approval.

*Dean of Graduate Studies*

Dean Miller also encouraged members to attend the Senate meeting of November 7, 2014.

Dean Miller noted that UC President Janet Napolitano is scheduled as the keynote speaker at the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) meeting in December. He noted that members of CGS met with her in Oakland the previous week and talked about graduate education and what her role might be. He also noted that Napolitano is showing an interest in graduate education, and it is significant she is willing to present at CGS.

Dean Miller also highlighted an initiative from the Doctoral Student Support Packet on the agenda today. He noted the significance of initiatives that have to do with intersegmental relations, and the advantages to having a CSU/UC pathway. UC's train 25% of CSU faculty. This type of initiative has the potential to make a public impact and bring with it increased possibility for funding.

*Graduate Student Representative*

Graduate Student Representatives raised the importance of multi-year support and encouraged the Council to examine UC Irvine as a model.

Dean Miller responded that the majority of students are supported for five years. He noted that the trick with that is funding comes from a variety of sources. Irvine, he stated, has put forward policy without working out details of what insurance policy behind it might be. On our campus,

we'd like to have a sense of where the backstop is coming from. He noted UCSC has been cautious about multi-year offers, and that it is a matter of working with departments to get them to accept that risk.

*Librarian Representative*

None.

### **Environmental Arts and Social Practice M.F.A. Proposal**

The Council considered the revised proposal for an M.F.A. in Environmental Arts and Social Practice with the goal of determining if the Council would endorse or request further revisions. A previous version of this proposal was submitted to the Council for review in 2011-12.

The Council considered the proposal and the issues outlined by VPAA Lee in his transmittal letter. The Council will continue discussion of this issue at the next meeting, when it expects to finalize a response incorporating comments from the Committee on Planning and Budget.

### **Doctoral Student Support Proposals**

The Doctoral Student Support Proposals and Recommendations, outlined a number of proposals in the areas of non-resident supplemental tuition, competitiveness in net stipends, professional development, and diversity first identified at the All-UC Doctoral Student Support Conference (April 2014) and subsequently refined by a steering committee for the purpose of presentation to the Regents.

The Council was in support of eliminating NRST for academic doctoral students after their first year, however, review of the non-resident tuition proposals raised some concerns. The first option would seek to change Regental policy and provide a definitive system-wide solution. Members expressed concern that this approach could be risky for the University as undergraduate resident fees continue to rise and some revenue from outside fellowships and grants would be foregone. The Council, however, determined it could not make an informed assessment of such risks. An attraction of this option was that published non-resident fees would be lower, thus further improving the competitiveness of the University for the best Ph.D. students and extramural support. The second option proposed waivers for just faculty grants. The Council opined that NRST waivers are important for TAs, as well. The Council expressed that the third option, encouraging campuses to engage in financial NRST work-around, and sharing those plans across campuses, might provide the most flexibility for each campus.

The Council also discussed net stipend competitiveness and multi-year offers. The Council agreed that increasing net stipends, producing transparent offer letters, and offering multi-year funding support (four or five years) is an important goal. The Council supported all four of the recommendations made for improving net stipend competitiveness. Multi-year funding, they noted, should be a stated policy of each UC Graduate Division to increase UCSC's ability to draw excellent students. Further, the Council agreed that campus back stop funding for multi-year offers needs to be made explicit and accounted for in campus budgets so that programs do not become overly conservative extending multi-year support offers. The Council discussed whether there should be 100% fellowship support for all first year students. Members noted that providing fellowship during the first year will help attract students, and recognized that asking

students to TA in their first year is not ideal. Members also argued that 100% fellowship support for all first-year doctoral students would constrain the number of students that can be recruited, and that fellowship support might be better invested in dissertation support. The Council, however, expressed support for multi-year funding packages and advised that our campus should actively seek models that are doing this successfully in order to formulate “best practices” for our campus.

Members expressed concerns about the proposed creation of a UC-wide graduate student career portal. Professional development is important for doctoral students, but needs and existing services vary widely across disciplines and programs. To be useful, a common portal must be kept comprehensive and up to date; it could replicate resources provided by professional associations and government agencies at unnecessary expense. The Council supported the recommendation that existing resources and support for graduate student professional development be identified and assessed, and gaps addressed.

The Council did not review the diversity proposals in detail. The recommendations of the report are well developed and address a core public mission of the University. The Council supported all four initiatives to increase access for underrepresented minority students to UC academic doctoral programs (the UC HSI-TCU initiative, the UC HBCU initiative, UC Leads, and the Summer Bridge program).

### **TIM Graduate Programs Report**

The Council expected to review the report requested from the Technology Management Department regarding TIM graduate programs (M.S. and Ph.D.), due on November 1, 2014. This report was requested by the Council in a May 28, 2014 letter, and asked TM to report on five criteria to be met in order to avoid suspension of their graduate programs. On October 31, 2014, the Council received a request from the Interim Dean of the Baskin School of Engineering to postpone the deadline for the TM report to December 1, 2014, which was approved by the Council.

### **External Reviews**

Supplemental Questions for External Review Committee (Stage 1)

#### *Computer Science*

The Council discussed the upcoming review of the Computer Science Department. The Council raised several question areas for the external review committee. The Council is interested in the committee’s comments on the impact of the recent creation of the Department of Computational Media on CS graduate programs. The Council also expressed an interest in the ERC’s comments on the appropriate ration of Ph.D. students to faculty in the department, as well as thoughts on how the department could increase its extramural funding and range of external funding sources for graduate student support. The Council also raised a question about the optimum balance between M.S. and Ph.D. enrollments. The Council will also request the committee’s comments on admissions process, and how this can be improved.

#### *Computer Engineering*

The Council discussed the upcoming review of the Computer Engineering Department, and proposed several questions for the external review committee. The Council requests more

information about the Ph.D. and M.S. student to faculty FTE ratios, and why this ratio is sub-optimal in comparison to the rest of Engineering at UCSC. The Council also noted that it would like the ERC to comment on possibilities for improving extramural funding, as well as graduate student morale and student criticism of frequency of course offerings. The Council expressed interest in the committee's comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the B.S/M.S. degree program. The Council also requested the committee's comments on how the admission process can be improved.

#### Comments on ERC Report (Stage 2)

##### *Latin American and Latino Studies*

The Council commented on the Latin American and Latino Studies Department external review report. The report reviewed the launch plan for the LALS Ph.D. program, with matriculation of the inaugural class in fall 2014. The Council noted that overall, this was a very positive review which highlights the Department's path-breaking and innovative spirit, their hemispheric and multidisciplinary framework for bridging the fields of Latin American Studies and Latino Studies, and the excellence of the faculty. Graduate Council focused its recommendations on two areas highlighted by the ERC: projected resource needs for the Ph.D. program and the development of the Ph.D. curriculum. A major concern of the Graduate Council was the discrepancy in projected needs and resources for graduate student funding in different appraisals, and the Council recommended that the department and division work together to arrive at a realistic support plan. The Council noted that the ERC emphasized the need for the Department to develop elective courses for the Ph.D. program and fill out the curriculum plan for the second and third years of the program, and also expressed concern about the reliance of LALS on methods courses offered by other departments.

##### *Theater Arts*

Discussion of this item was moved to the next meeting.