

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 04, 2014
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Ken Kletzer (Chair), Pranav Anand, John Bowin, Jonathan Fortney, Kimberly Jannarone, Dean Mathiowetz, Leta Miller, Stefano Profumo, Wang-Chiew Tan, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Erica Smeltzer (Graduate Student Rep), Daniel Rudin (Graduate Student Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Roberto Manduchi, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Miten Jain (Graduate Student Rep)

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved:
Minutes 10/23/14

Routine Announcements

Chair

Chair Kletzer announced that the Joint Senate/Administrative Task Force on graduate growth is moving forward, and reminded the Council that one additional GC member is needed to serve. Members will be approached via email.

He also provided a brief update on the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting of December 3, 2014. The proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access was discussed at CCGA. Chair Kletzer noted that the CCGA discussion raised two interesting points on this topic—the strong recommendation for an opt-in rather than an opt-out option for the non-Senate Open Access policy, which would eliminate the need for authors to opt-out article by article, and the opinion that the Senate policy should be examined and changed to opt-in as well.

Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Miller was absent. Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Jim Moore announced that Dean Miller was traveling to attend a Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) meeting, where Janet Napolitano was scheduled to speak. Assistant Dean Moore also noted that the Graduate Division is working out block allocations, which it hopes to have ready by Monday, December 8, 2014. He also announced that the Graduate Leadership Certificate program has 27 applications this cycle.

Graduate Student Representative

None.

Librarian Representative

None.

Pre-Consultation Discussion: VPDGS Miller

The Council discussed the upcoming consultation with VPDGS Miller regarding the block allocation formula and strategies for graduate growth. In the past, Graduate Council has reviewed the block allocation formula on an annual basis, and is re-instituting this annual review. The Council agreed that they would like to better understand the block allocation formula, how it is determined, and how allocations are made across programs. Members noted that they would like more transparency about this complex process.

The Council also determined they would like an orientation to current graduate growth strategies, the Dean's vision for campus graduate growth, and how he envisions graduate growth across campus. Members noted some confusion by campus faculty about the focus of graduate growth (Ph.D. vs. Masters) and would like to better understand the process and strategy, which areas are being incentivized, and how that is determined. Finally, members raised that they would like an orientation into the possibilities of instituting (or identifying roadblocks to) multi-year offers on our campus.

Administrative Home Change: Games and Playable Media M.S.

Graduate Council reviewed the proposed administrative home change of the Games and Playable Media M.S. from the Computer Science Department to the newly established Computational Media Department. The Council supported the change.

TIM Graduate Programs Report

Previously, GC reviewed a proposal from the Technology and Information Management (TIM) M.S. program to self-suspend admissions for 2014-15 for fiscal reasons (October 23, 2014). The Council now reviewed a report it requested regarding the TIM graduate programs (M.S. and Ph.D.) in a letter dated May 28, 2014, which outlined a set of criteria to avoid suspension of admissions to their M.S. and Ph.D. programs. The report from TM was received by the Council December 1, 2014. The Council's deliberation led to a decision to 1) not to suspend admissions to the Ph.D. program, and 2) to suspend admissions to the M.S. program indefinitely beginning in 2015-16. The Council remains concerned about the capacity of the program to offer UC-quality instruction for its graduate programs. At its next meeting, the Council will continue deliberation of this issue.

External Reviews

Comments on the ERC Report (Stage 2)

Literature

The Council commented on the Literature external review report, and noted that the report observed substantial improvement in the collegial atmosphere of the department and in faculty morale since the last review. This showed in the graduate student survey responses and the ERC's high praise for the Ph.D. program. The ERC credited this change, in part, to the adoption of new systems of internal governance that acknowledge and clearly account for the work that faculty members do with graduate students. The Council commended departmental transparency about workloads that is supported by the department's point system.

The Council commented on five points specific to the graduate program that were noted by the ERC: 1) lack of traditional study areas defined by canon and period, the effects on students' sense of flow throughout their training, and implications for student advising needs, 2) milestones to keeping students on track toward completion, use of Independent studies, and cohort size, 3) graduate student funding at MA and Ph.D. levels, 4) TA workload, and 5) proposed Ph.D. program in Creative/Critical Writing.

Mathematics

The Council commented on the Mathematics external review report, and noted the report was positive about the quality of the faculty, the atmosphere of the department, and its graduate programs. The Council agreed with the ERC recommendation to increase the department FTE. While the Council is aware of budget realities outlined by the Dean's response, the Council agreed with the ERC report that post-doctoral scholars significantly benefit Ph.D. research and add to departmental research strength. The Council also supported the department's plan to organize itself into two broad research areas, which would help the small department coalesce faculty around broadly defined research areas and create a critical mass of faculty and graduate students within each group. The Council further commended the department on their efforts to increase awareness among graduate students of non-academic career paths early in their graduate careers. Finally, the Council strongly recommended that the department look for and pursue opportunities to nurture interdisciplinary relationships with other departments on campus.