

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 14, 2015
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Smith (Chair), Pascale Garaud, , Roberto Manduchi, Dean Mathiowetz, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Ruby Rich, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Anjali Dutt (Graduate Student Rep), Jess Whatcott (Graduate Student Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: David Brundage, Dard Neuman, Stefano Profumo

Guests: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, Xavier Prochaska

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved (Minutes 10/8/15; 10/22/15; 11/05/15; 11/19/15; 12/3/15)

Member's Items

The Council welcomed Committee on Committees (COC) member and liaison to the Council Xavier Prochaska, who sat in for the first few minutes of the meeting.

The committee welcomed new member for winter quarter Vilashini Cooppan.

Chair Smith provided an update on the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). He reported that it was confirmed that there will no additional enrollment funding for an additional 600 graduate students systemwide in 2016-17, as was previously anticipated, but there will be an additional 5000 undergraduate enrollments systemwide in 2016-17.

Dean Miller noted that the increase in undergraduate students will likely translate to additional TAs on our campus, but there are issues of classroom capacity, housing and LRDP (Long Range Development Plan) to contend with.

Dean Miller announced that the campus is in the midst of admissions season. He also announced that rebenching money is coming to the campus one year earlier. This puts pressure to show accountable progress on graduate growth. The target is 300 new doctoral students next year.

One member noted that the Council might more explicitly incorporate graduate student welfare in its regular business, whether instituted in the charge or simply incorporate more into the work of the Council. Council members agreed this was an important issue, and plan to devote some time in a future meeting to how the Council might address this. Issues raised by members related to graduate student welfare included housing, graduate student to faculty ratios, access to support services, and TA workloads.

External Review Closure Meeting Briefing

Member Manduchi provided a brief recap of the closure meeting for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Bachelor's/Master's Guidelines

During 2014-15, GC reviewed and commented on guidelines developed by VPAA for five year contiguous bachelor's/master's paths using existing bachelor's and master's programs (reviewed by GC in May 2015 as "One Year Master's Pathways" and February 2015 as "Joint Bachelor's/Master's). In November 2015, VPAA Lee approached the Council with a third revision, requesting that it take the lead

in the development of the guidelines. Bachelor's/Master's paths are under purview of the Graduate Council.

GC formed a subcommittee to address this issue and developed a set of draft guidelines. The committee reviewed and deliberated the guidelines, and made minor further changes. The Council agreed to review and finalize the document, once changes were incorporated, via online review.

Technology and Information Management Report

Graduate Council in 2014-15, after lengthy deliberation and assessment of the TIM graduate programs due to concerns about the capacity of the programs to offer UC-quality instruction, made the decision to indefinitely suspend the M.S. program (but not the Ph.D. program) beginning in fall 2015 (communicated in letter of February 18, 2015). The Council also requested an annual report on the status of the Ph.D. program and plans for the M.S. program, to be submitted to the Council for the duration of the suspension, with the first report due January 4, 2016.

At today's meeting, the Council reviewed the report, which provided an update on the doctoral program and a request for reinstatement of the TIM M.S. degree. Members reviewed the report and decanal letter of support. Members also reviewed GC's letter of February 18, 2015, including the conditions and criteria set by GC for reinstating admissions. The Council decided that the report did not address the issues outlined in GC's letter of February 18, 2015, and agreed that this information is needed before proceeding with review.

Proposal for Reduction of Classroom Time Slots and Final Examination Block

The Council reviewed Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education (VPDUE) Hughey's proposal on changes to standard classroom time slots, passing times, and final exam block time. The Council recognized that the expected large increase in the size of the undergraduate class in the coming academic year necessitates solutions to address classroom capacity issues our campus faces. Overall, the Council expressed concerns about the proposal, particularly around issues of pedagogy, student safety, and the potential negative impact on graduate students. The Council concurred with the potential utility of moving from a four to five day examination schedule, and using the Curriculum Management system to allow instructors to "opt in" for scheduling final exams to effectively use available classrooms.

VPDGS Response: Dissertation Fellowship Changes Proposal

Graduate Council discussed Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) Miller's responses (January 8, 2016) to the Council's review of his proposal for Dissertation-Year and Dissertation Quarter Fellowship Changes, first reviewed by the Council at its December 3, 2015 meeting. The VPDGS proposal would change the process of review for the Dissertation Year and Quarter fellowships from the current process where GC reviews and ranks the candidates, and provides recommendations to the Graduate Division for selection and administration of the fellowships, to a process where candidate review and selection is performed at the level of the academic division, with the divisional deans deciding on a division specific process for review and selection. Dean Miller proposed to provide one Presidential DYF and one Chancellor's DYF, along with a number of 1 – 3 quarter Dissertation quarter fellowships to each of the five academic divisions. He also proposed moving the selection and awarding process timeline from spring to winter quarter. The proposed changes remove Graduate Council from review and recommendation of the DYFs.

The Council agreed to support Dean Miller's proposed changes, with the following agreements:

The Council agreed on the need for a common framework for the divisional review process that is transparent and equitable, while also balanced with sufficient flexibility to accommodate the disciplinary

differences across divisions that should be considered in the review of the DYF candidates. The Council requested that Dean Miller develop/clarify a common framework for the review process at the divisional level, including the aspects of review that are common across divisions and those aspects that have dean discretion and flexibility for change.

The Council agreed that it is appropriate to maintain oversight of the DYF recommendation process, citing that Systemwide Senate Bylaw 330 states as one of the duties of divisional Graduate Councils, to: “recommend the award of fellowships and graduate scholarships, including honorary traveling fellowships, according to the terms of the various foundations.” Graduate Council agreed to delegate this authority to the Graduate Division, with understanding that Dean Miller would redelegate the DYF review and selection process to the academic divisions, with a common framework for evaluation as noted above. The Council requested that the Graduate Dean report in writing annually in fall quarter to the Graduate Council on the review and selection process used in each of the academic divisions, and a summary of the number of candidates reviewed (broken down by academic department/program), their ranking, and selection.

Mid-Cycle Reports: Environmental Studies and Science Communication

The Council reviewed mid-cycle reports for Environmental Studies and Science Communication, along with Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Lee’s recommendation for an eight year review cycle for the external reviews of both programs. The Council concurred with VPAA Lee on an eight year cycle for Environmental Studies, but recommended a six year cycle for Science Communication, given the transition in program directorship and the anticipated proposal to turn the certificate program into a master’s program expected in the near term.