

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 28, 2016
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Smith (Chair), David Brundage, Pascale Garaud, Dean Mathiowetz, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Dard Neuman, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Anjali Dutt (Graduate Student Rep), Jess Whatcott (Graduate Student Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Vilashini Cooppan, Roberto Manduchi, Stefano Profumo, Ruby Rich

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies

Member's Items

Chair Smith announced upcoming anticipated new degree proposals for Council review.

Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) Miller announced three upcoming spring events. Grad Slam (the three-minute thesis) presentations will take place April 6, 2016. The Graduate Student Commons will present workshops on presentation skills. This event is a great outreach vehicle for UCOP. Last year, the campus had a turnout of approximately 300 attendees. The second event is the Graduate Research Symposium, on April 29, 2016, which is during Alumni Weekend. The third event is Graduate Research Advocacy Day, where graduates speak to legislators about their research and graduate work.

One member who was part of the Cota Robles subcommittee review panel raised that it would be helpful to departments to articulate that their mentoring plan section of their nomination should address specifically their plan to advise underrepresented minority students. Many of the applications addressed mentoring generally, but given the nature of the award, there should be a plan to specifically address URM needs. VPDGS Miller agreed that this should be communicated, and that a five-year fellowship is a commitment to more intensive mentoring. A second member raised that the mentoring should account for more than the small percentage currently allocated to mentoring in the review process. VPDGS Miller noted that improvements that are not resource intensive can make an impact, and that his office would like to provide more information/resources and workshops to help departments build capacity in mentoring. Members suggested this topic should be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Pre-Consultation Discussion: VPDGS Miller

The committee prepared for its planned consultation with VPDGS Miller on February 11, 2016. The Council planned to follow up on issues not covered at the fall (November 19, 2015) consultation due to lack of time, including vision and strategic plan for graduate growth.

GC Delegation Policy

The Council deliberated a draft of its "Graduate Council Delegations of Authority," the first delegation policy created by the Council. As noted in its recently revised bylaws (May 2015), the Council will monitor and review on an annual basis any delegations of routine administrative decisions related to its academic regulations and policies. The document came before the Council at its December 3, 2015 meeting, and the Council decided to conclude its review of the VPDGS Dissertation fellowship proposal before finalizing its delegation policy.

Members reviewed the draft delegation policy alongside UC Senate Bylaw 330, governing divisional Graduate Councils, as well as the Santa Cruz Graduate Council bylaws.

There was some discussion about Graduate Council review of Graduate Student Instructor “Exception to Policy Requests” (Graduate Council reviews applications for graduate students proposed to teach graduate courses). The Council agreed that this should remain under Graduate Council review (delegated to Graduate Council Chair) and should not be delegated to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Course Approval Internal Guidelines and Form

The Council continued discussion of the Graduate Course Approval Supplemental Form and the need for internal course review guidelines from its December 3, 2015 meeting. This discussion began in response to questions raised by the subcommittee about the review of courses taught in conjunction (undergraduate and graduate level). Members reviewed and approved a revised Graduate Course Approval Supplemental Form and also approved internal course review guidelines.

3+1+1 Guidelines

Senior International Officer (SIO) Joel Ferguson requested Senate review of guidelines he developed for 3+1+1 programs, which are intended for International students who complete three years at their institution abroad, one year as limited status students at UCSC (with bachelor’s conferral from their institution abroad), and one year as a Master’s student (with master’s conferral from UCSC). The guidelines are intended for departments seeking to propose such pipelines to the master’s degree programs for International students.

The Council reviewed the guidelines in context of GC’s recently approved Contiguous Bachelor’s/Master’s Guidelines, with attention to how the master’s pathway proposed by SIO Ferguson addressed the guidelines established by GC. The Council noted its general support for 3+1+1 programs, recommended that SIO Ferguson attend to issues of timeline for advising and applying for the Master’s portion of the 3+1+1, and that this be carefully and clearly addressed in SIO Ferguson’s guidelines. The Council also recommended that SIO Ferguson encourage departments to develop a contiguous Bachelor’s/Master’s path before establishing 3+1+1 program guidelines in order to help smooth the process for creating paths between bachelor’s and master’s programs for International students.

Program Statements Review

The Council reviewed and approved the Feminist Studies program statement.

External Reviews

Comments on ERC Report (Stage 2)

Computer Science

The Council commented on the Computer Science external review report. The Council noted that the report pointed out that the department is under significant stress and is somewhat demoralized, but also raised that it has great potential, largely due to its strong faculty and recent hires. Graduate Council noted that the ERC assessed that graduate students appeared to be “happy and engaged” with the program and commended the department for that. The Council discussed three areas that should be raised for discussion at the closure meeting: the balance between M.S. and Ph.D. enrollments and overall rationale for the large M.S. program, the potential merger with the Computer Engineering department and potential impacts on graduate students and curriculum, and the quality of doctoral students.