

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
February 11, 2016  
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Don Smith (Chair), David Brundage, Vilashini Cooppan, Pascale Garaud, Roberto Manduchi, Dean Mathiowetz, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Dard Neuman, Ruby Rich, Stefano Profumo Anjali Dutt (Graduate Student Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

**Absent:** Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Jess Whatcott (Graduate Student Rep)

**Council Business**

Minutes (1/14/16) were approved.

Chair Smith provided an update on the system wide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting of February 3, 2016. He reported that CCGA discussed the agreement between the UC President and the Governor on enrollment, and that the Office of the President is addressing funding graduate enrollment as a necessity for graduate growth.

Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Miller announced the Grad Slam event, in which students present their “three-minute thesis” and noted that faculty should encourage students to enter video submissions. He has invited Graduate Council members to judge the submissions. The Graduate Research Symposium is taking place during Alumni Weekend (April 29, 2016).

**Computer Science: Proposed Changes to Previously Approved Master’s Project Track**

The Computer Science Department proposed to change its project track M.S. degree in order to scale up the program to accommodate more students. The department proposed to institute a default “team” project track where 3-5 students work together on a project, to replace the current model where individual students produce projects. The department also proposed that students who have difficulty forming teams still be allowed to work on individual M.S. projects.

Graduate Council supported the changes, however requested minor revisions to the proposal including a more clearly elaborated discussion of how projects are presented to students and how students would select projects, a discussion of the mechanism by which individual student contributions to the team capstone project would be evaluated, and the alignment of reading committee composition with Senate requirements.

**External Reviews**

Comments on the ERC Report (for closure meeting)

*Economics*

The Council commented on the Economics external review report. The Council noted that the External Review Committee’s (ERC) review emphasized the quality of the faculty and the positive reputation of the department in several sub-discipline areas of Economics. The ERC also commended the department for establishing the professional M.S. program. Areas of concern discussed by the Council included faculty size, difficulty attracting top quality Ph.D. students, and funding as a barrier to attracting doctoral students. The Council was unclear as to what extent ladder rank faculty teach in the M.S. program, and its impacts on quality of instruction and integration of the M.S. into the broader graduate training mission of the department.

**Program Statements Review**

The Council reviewed proposed program statement changes for Ocean Sciences, and is requesting additional information before further review.

**Consultation: VPDGS Miller**

The Council formally consulted with VPDGS Miller on his division's vision and supporting strategic plan for graduate growth.

VPDGS Miller indicated that Graduate Division prepared a strategic plan over the summer of 2015, which he will share with the Council. He noted that a strategic plan involves planning for graduate growth, in a context where all departments are independent admitting units. He noted that the most important work taking place is in individualized conversations with programs on targets, resources, and how to package these. Strategic planning is therefore aligning these different goals. He also noted that there are some aspects he has control over and not others—for example, he does not have control over how FTE are allocated or how TAs are allocated. As Graduate Dean, he is helping to set overall goals, policies and frameworks, and holding conversations about how programs can work within that.

VPDGS Miller noted that historically, the campus has been under committed to being a graduate research institution. Graduate growth is a matter of institutional transformation of the campus. He suggested that we can become like other UC campuses, but define a set of particular distinctive strengths that allow us to profile as an AAU quality institution. While we have some programs that are highly regarded, and across the board good quality, we have a reputational gap because when people think of UCSC they don't think "quality graduate institution." VPDGS Miller articulated a need to strengthen the research and graduate element of the campus mission and align with planning. We are now getting to the place where this is a campus goal, commitment, development of initiatives, and relating these to a resource envelope. Graduate education as an integral part of the campus needs invested attention, public voice, and resources.

A member asked about the ratio of funding for TA/GSRs, and whether this is part of VPDGS Miller's strategic plan. VPDGS Miller replied that we have a history of growth in relation to undergraduate growth, so in essence, the campus has funded graduate growth through undergraduate enrollment growth. He noted that we also need research growth to achieve these goals. He also acknowledged that we look different from UC norms on instructional support/non-instruction support funds for our graduates. While campus faculty are successful in securing grants, these tend to be smaller in dollar amount and less diversified in sources.

VPDGS Miller was asked about the status of the nonresident tuition (NRST) waiver fellowship proposal he has been working on. He described the proposed program, which following other campuses, might involve nonresident student tuition covered from the block allocation the first year. The second and third years, the program could request a waiver/fellowship. This would be done to ensure that the campus does not subsidize students who are funded by their governments. The Office of Planning and Budget is working on the cost-benefit analysis. VPDGS Miller wants to ensure that the NRST program is instituted in context of meeting graduate growth goals.

The Council discussed the rebenchmarking 12% goal with VPDGS Miller, and whether there should be achievable incremental goals for the campus. VPDGS Miller stated the campus has achieved credible progress, but the campus will not reach the 12% goal by 2021. However, it is possible to achieve 10% by then. VPDGS Miller also noted the size of the campus doctoral class is 275, and the campus needs to admit 350 per year to get close to that target number.

On the question of multi-year packages, VPDGS Miller responded that what his office has been able to implement are smaller measures—risk reserve and carry forward funds, for example. Members also noted there should be more integration between TAS funds and the block allocation. VPDGS noted part of the

reason for the current state is the culture (the deans, the center, program planning), but also that other campuses have more flexibility for programs that enables targeting funds over a few years.

When asked for his input on how the Council might engage with the administration to encourage support for graduate growth, VPDGS Miller responded that graduate growth should be clearly articulated as a priority for the faculty, which has not been so clear and that change is going to take investment, leadership and cultural change.

VPDGS Miller noted that he is continuing to work on data requested by the Council in its February 3, 2016 pre-consultation memo.