

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
March 31, 2016  
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Don Smith (Chair), Anjali Arondekar, Robert Boltje, Jonathan Kahana, Roberto Manduchi, Dean Mathiowetz, Dard Neuman, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Anjali Dutt (Graduate Student Rep), Jess Whatcott (Graduate Student Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

**Absent:** David Brundage, Pascale Garaud, Stefano Profumo, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep)

**Guest:** Jim Moore, Assistant Dean of the Graduate Division

**Member's Items**

A graduate student representative raised a concern with response time to graduate student complaints to the Title IX office, and asked if there is an appropriate role for Graduate Council. The Council briefly discussed the issue.

Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) Miller announced the upcoming University Relations Donor Event— “Giving Day.” The Graduate Division will participate, and funds raised will go toward summer internships. He also reminded the Council that the Grad Slam (three-minute thesis) competition is coming up April 6, in the Music Recital Hall. The top prize comes with a \$3,000 award, \$1,500 for second place, and \$750 for the People’s Choice Award. The winner goes on to the systemwide finals. The Graduate Student Research Symposium will take place during Alumni Weekend (April 29, 2016). There will be poster, oral, and multimedia presentations, and a graduate reception afterwards. Professor Susan Gilman (Chair of Senate Special Committee on Development and Fundraising), is organizing an alumni panel on alternate career paths.

VPDGS also announced that Associate Dean of the Graduate Division Sue Carter is running a business design showcase in Silicon Valley, and is also organizing a “Carbon Slam” about carbon neutrality for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, to be held in May 2016 in Palo Alto.

A member raised a question about pass/no pass grading, and asked if it is possible to have a letter grade for graduate students by default and the pass/no pass option by request. Dean Miller noted departments have the option to choose a default.

**2016-17 Divisional FTE Requests**

The Council continued its discussion of the 2016-17 divisional FTE requests. The Council’s recommendations were grounded in the guiding principle that the proposed hire directly contribute to strengthening and growing doctoral programs on campus. Recommendations were based on Council judgement of the broader impact the requested FTE might have on strengthening and growing existing doctoral programs in areas of need or campus strength. As a secondary principle, the Council also considered whether the proposed FTE would enhance faculty contributions to diversity, promote cross divisional collaborations, and/or reinvigorate areas of historical excellence, consistent with the EVC’s criteria. The Council will send its final recommendations to the EVC.

**Program Statement Review**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**Proposal for a Bachelor’s/Master’s Path: Computer Science**

Graduate Council reviewed and approved the revised proposal from Computer Science for a five-year contiguous bachelor's/master's path coordinating existing B.S. and M.S. degrees.

**Closure Meeting Briefings**

Member Mathiowetz provided a summary of the external review closure meeting for the Economics Department (March 16, 2016).