

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 5, 2015
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Smith (Chair), Anjali Arondekar, Robert Boltje, David Brundage, Pascale Garaud, Roberto Manduchi, Dean Mathiowetz, Dard Neuman, Stefano Profumo, Ruby Rich, Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Anjali Dutt (Graduate Student Rep)

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies

Member's Items

The Council welcomed new member Robert Boltje.

Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Jim Moore reported that the Graduate Division is starting to plan its admissions meetings with departments. They will send out their “enrollment projections” separated out by masters and doctoral levels “soon”.

Chair Smith reported on the CCGA meeting of November 4, 2015. The revised Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment was on the agenda. The interim policy in place will expire at the end of the calendar year. Our divisional Council’s response to the proposed policy has been sent out. A second item of discussion at CCGA was initiatives (still in evaluation phase) dedicated to increasing resources for graduate student mental health. Members discussed this issue and expressed concern given findings of the UC Berkeley *Graduate Student Happiness & Well-Being Report* (2014) about the rate of depression among graduate students, and the anxieties produced by uncertainty around funding and future jobs.

Proposed UCSC Economics/Hastings MOU

The Council considered a proposal for a non-degree program agreement between the Economics Department and Hastings College of the Law, which would allow Hastings law students to pursue the M.S. in Applied Economics and Finance while completing their Juris Doctor degree from UC Hastings. In its review, the Council considered comments from the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB).

The Council agreed that the proposed MOU was well structured and commended the Economics Department for this exciting collaboration, which promises to bring additional bright and motivated students to the M.S. program.

The Council approved this non-degree pathway, and expressed support for allowing Hastings students to use the LSAT for application to the program in lieu of the GMAT or GRE. The Council recommended that instead of stating the program is waiving 10 credits for Hastings students, the agreement should state that the M.S. program allows Hastings students to count 10 units from their institution for the M.S. The Council noted there is a plan in place to properly advise students, and encouraged monitoring the progress of the students to ensure their success in the M.S. program.

The Council concurred with CPB's suggestion that it should be explicitly stated that the degrees are separable, that is, students should be guaranteed that if they fulfill the requirements for one of the degrees, it will be conferred even if they do not fulfill the requirements of the other.

Graduate Certificate Proposal: Graduate Student STEM Teaching

The Council reviewed a proposal from the Graduate Division and the Institute for Scientist and Engineering Educators (ISEE) for a graduate certificate (non SR 735 conforming) in Graduate STEM Teaching. The Council approved the certificate, effective for the fall 2016 cohort, and further approved the certificate to students who are currently in the process of completing the program. The Council also suggested, but will not require, the proposers consider a focused renaming of the certificate to better reflect and serve the needs of the program and its students.

Graduate Growth Report

The Council reviewed the *Joint Senate/Administrative Task Force on Graduate Growth Report* (June 2015) and discussed in context of its broader goal to facilitate development of campus strategic and long term achievable goals for growth. Members raised several issues including the issue of administrative and institutional support for growth, the connection between undergraduate education and graduate growth, setting achievable goals and targets for growth, resources for growth, graduate student recruitment, and graduate student welfare.

VPDGS Risk Reserve Funding Proposal

Members reviewed the Block Risk Reserve Fund for Doctoral Programs proposal presented by VPDGS Miller at the 10/22/15 meeting. The proposal sought to establish two new features for Graduate Division block allocation funding: 1) a risk reserve equal to 10% of a program's block allocation, and 2) a carry-forward option up to 10% of the block fund allocation. The Council enthusiastically supported this proposal, and members noted they would like to see increased administrative focus on initiatives that will help campus programs be more competitive in attracting and retaining graduate students.

The Council viewed this proposal as a positive starting point, and members also discussed the need to establish 1) a funding model that supports programs in making multi-year offers, and 2) implementation of non-resident tuition remission to further increase the competitiveness of our doctoral programs for attracting top graduate student talent, at a national and international level.

Council members raised a concern about the three year averages used in calculating allocations and how this might impact programs differentially. Members raised that it might be helpful to have different models, for example, to account for newer programs, and that might provide probabilities for different scenarios. Members also suggested it might be helpful to clarify whether the carry-forward retains the over-offer ratio.

Pre-Consultation Discussion: VPDGS

Members prepared for their upcoming consultation (November 19, 2015) with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) Tyrus Miller on the block allocation and the broader context of graduate student funding and graduate growth at UCSC. Members discussed engaging the VPDGS on strategy and vision for campus graduate growth.

External Reviews

Supplemental Questions for External Review Committee (Stage 1)
Digital Arts and New Media (DANM)

The Council discussed the upcoming review of the Digital Arts and New Media program. The Council raised questions about the long term sustainability of the program, program curriculum and faculty availability for advising, as well as resources for TAships.

Feminist Studies

The Council discussed the upcoming review of the Feminist Studies Department. The Council raised questions about the size and shape of the department, including its graduate seminar offerings; department faculty relations, and impacts of the undergraduate curriculum on the graduate curriculum and growth of the graduate program.

Politics

The Council discussed the upcoming review of the Politics Department. The Council raised questions about the attrition rate of graduate students, impact of the undergraduate program on graduate course offerings, and shared staffing impacts on graduate advising.

Comments on the ERC Report (Stage 2)

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB)

The Council commented on the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology external review report. The Council noted the External Review Committee (ERC) comments about the graduate program were very positive, and no major issues were found. GC fully supported the ERC assessment, and commended EEB for maintaining a healthy graduate program, which receives excellent student feedback on almost all accounts. The Council also discussed the department's plan to address the relative long time to degree for Ph.D. EEB students, the findings of the Graduate Student Survey regarding student dissatisfaction with TA preparation, and the ERC's recommendation on exploring campuses with programs similar to the envisioned Masters' program in Coastal Sustainability.