

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 3, 2015
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Smith (Chair), David Brundage, Pascale Garaud, , Roberto Manduchi, Dean Mathiowetz, Dard Neuman, Stefano Profumo, Ruby Rich, Anjali Dutt (Graduate Student Rep), Jessica Perez (Graduate Student Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Anjali Arondekar, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Jess Whatcott (Graduate Student Rep)

Guests: None

Member's Items

Chair Smith reported on the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting of December 2, 2015. CCGA discussed the additional undergraduate enrollments mandated for the UC system. The agreement also includes funding for an additional 600 graduate students to the UC system for 2016-17.

One member raised the topic of the Chancellor's recent trip to China, and the funding for 10+10 program for Astrophysics that includes 10 U.S. universities and 10 universities in China, with funding from the China Scholarship Council (CSC). This member also asked about a potential second agreement with the CSC, but members did not have specific information.

Post-Consultation Discussion: VPDGS Miller

The Council de-briefed its November 19, 2015 consultation with Dean Miller, and discussed priority areas related to graduate growth for Council follow up. The Council discussed bringing back Dean Miller to formally consult on issues not covered at the previous consultation, including vision and strategic plan for graduate growth. The Council emphasized the need for a vision and strategy to inform choices and prioritization about specific initiatives. Other issues raised by members included targeting FTE for graduate growth, merit structure and incentive policies, and TA:undergraduate ratios. The Council will continue to discuss how to best engage with the Graduate Division and the broader administration to help advance strategic graduate growth goals on the campus.

GC Delegation Policy

The Council reviewed a draft Delegation Policy, the first such policy created by the Council. The Council's recently revised bylaws (May 2015) call for the Council to monitor and review on an annual basis any delegations of routine and administrative decisions related to its academic regulations and policy. The Council decided to conclude its review of the VPDGS fellowship proposal before finalizing the delegation policy. The policy will be discussed again and finalized at a winter Council meeting.

VPDGS Proposal: Dissertation Fellowship Changes

VPDGS Miller has proposed changes to the review process for Dissertation Year fellowships, including Presidential Dissertation-Year Fellowships and the Chancellor's Dissertation Year Fellowship which are currently reviewed and recommended by Graduate Council on the basis of nominations from programs. VPDGS Miller is proposing to shift evaluation and decision for dissertation fellowships to the divisions. The Council has decided to discuss this proposal over two meetings.

At today's meeting, members evaluated the proposal in context of Senate Bylaw 330, which outlines the duties of divisional Councils as related to fellowship awards. Members raised issues and questions about the impacts of the proposed changes, including both the benefits (enhanced disciplinary involvement in fellowship review) and drawbacks (Graduate Council would no longer be involved in the review process, possible selection bias and loss of transparency if process is overseen by divisional deans).

As proposed, the Dissertation Year Fellowship (DYF) review and nomination process would change significantly. Currently the Council reviews and ranks Dissertation Year Fellowship candidates annually, with subsequent selection and awarding by Graduate Division during spring quarter. The proposal would change the process so that one Presidential DYF and one Chancellor's DYF would go to each of the five academic divisions. Members noted the language proposed states that the divisional deans would then "decide on an appropriate division specific process for evaluation, but most likely selection should be done via a committee of department chairs, program graduate directors, or other representative faculty body." The Dean also proposes to change the timeline of the awards from spring to winter quarter annually.

The Council raised a set of questions that should be addressed by Dean Miller in a revised proposal, which include clarifying the review structure within and across divisions, ensuring independence from dean discretion in the review process, mechanisms for ensuring Graduate Council oversight, consultation with graduate directors on timeline, and clarification on the number of awards currently in place verses proposed. The Council expects to revisit a revised proposal in winter quarter.

External Reviews

Comments on the ERC Report (Stage 2)

Anthropology

The Council commented on the Anthropology external review report. The Council noted that the external reviewers praised the department's weathering of difficult budgetary conditions and expressed enthusiasm for the department's intellectual livelihood, research success, and graduate training. The Council agreed with many of the reviewers' recommendations and commended the department and administrative responses to them. The Council also found areas that warranted further comment at the closure meeting. Areas of discussion included graduate student funding, graduate student recruitment, graduate student professional development, and strategic planning.

Course Approval Process: Applying Senate Regulation 762

The Council course review subcommittee raised questions about review of courses that are taught in conjunction (undergraduate and graduate level), and requested full Council discussion with the goal of clarifying internal guidelines for assessment. Members reviewed Senate Regulation 762, which governs such courses. After discussing the issue, the Council decided to revise the course supplementary form and develop a revised set of internal review guidelines. The Council expects to review a draft early in winter quarter.

VPDGS Proposal: Mentorship Award

VPDGS Miller has developed a proposal for a new annual Graduate Mentorship Award, which he has forwarded for consideration by Graduate Council. The award would recognize excellence and innovation in graduate mentorship, support, and professional development. As proposed, the Graduate Division would fund one award per academic division per year, a one quarter GSR appointment, and recognition in the Graduate Division's award page. The Council agreed the proposal is a positive development, and raised a number of suggestions for VPDGS Miller to consider in a revised proposal, including considering

having the award be either a one quarter GSRship or a one course teaching relief for the awarded faculty. The Council also raised questions about the nomination, review and selection process and has requested clarification of the expectation criteria for “excellence and innovation.” Members overall expressed enthusiasm for the proposal and expect to review a revised proposal during winter quarter. Members expressed that with some modifications, the proposed award could more effectively reward faculty in ways that maximize opportunities to meet both faculty research and student support goals.