

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 2, 2017
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Smith (Chair), Ben Crow, Lissa Caldwell, Michael Dine, Judith Habicht-Mauche, Kimberly Jannarone, Athanasios Kottas, Paul Roth, Fitnat Yildiz, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Yulia Gilichinskaya (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Roberto Manduchi, Melanie Dickinson (Grad Rep)

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Division of Graduate Studies

Council Business

Council approved minutes (11/3/16, 11/17/16, 12/1/16).

Environmental Art and Social Practice M.F.A. Proposal (Revised)

The Council reviewed the revised proposal for an MFA in Environmental Art and Social Practice, proposed by the Art Department (previously reviewed by the Council in 2012 and 2014).

The Council noted the revised proposal is a very compelling and well-developed proposal that presents a persuasive vision for both intellectual and professional development within the Division and across the campus, and expressed its support of the proposed program. The Council also identified a few items that needed clarification to further strengthen the proposal, and encourages that the department make these changes quickly so the Council can review and move it to the next stage of review off campus as soon possible. Recommendations for revision included the following areas: proposed budget and level of staffing support, clarification on availability of TAships, clarification of space issues. The Council also requested that the Arts Dean provide clarification on resource issues.

2017-18 Divisional FTE Requests

The Council began review of the 2017-18 divisional faculty recruitment requests. Material reviewed in addition to the FTE requests includes the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) pre-consultation memos to the divisional deans, as well as written responses from each division.

Consultation: VPDGS Miller

Council consulted with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Tyrus Miller on review of the block allocation formula. While the Council planned to discuss delegations of authority, with the new policy just recently in effect the Council left this as an “as needed” item for discussion.

VPDGS Miller provided hard copy handouts on projected enrollments and a list of actual block allocations. He began with an overview of the block allocation formula, which he noted is based on enrollment and degrees granted data. He noted that two programs have had drops in block allocation amounts due to enrollment drops.

Members asked about the over-offer ratio, which VPDGS explained is a formula that allows making twice as many offers to get target number of enrollments, with round number calculations based on data on offers and acceptance rates. Members asked about how increasing admissions as a strategy works for individual departments. VPDGS Miller responded that typically, the Graduate Division begins with the formulas, and where there is an anomaly detected, it can become the basis for inquiry into strategy and provide opportunities for readjustment.

VPDGS Miller clarified that students greater than nine quarters past candidacy don't figure into the block, however, because of the two factors are used in calculating the block allocations (enrollment figures, degrees granted), these students will count back in at graduation.

VPDGS Miller discussed a recent shift. All master's have now been pulled out of the block and are now in the Master's Incentive program (MIP). In addition, he reminded members that MFA degrees are weighted at half of a Ph.D. enrollment.

The conversation then shifted to overall planning. VPDGS Miller noted that when enrollment numbers grow, not increasing the block allocation effectively reduces the block allocation. He noted there hasn't been a transparent mechanism that allocates a certain amount for a given amount of growth. He has had conversations with central administration about the funding structure. VPDGS Miller noted he has also put forward a set of initiatives, one that has been implemented is the International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship (IDRF). He noted he hopes to shift how the Graduate Division is allocated funds in the future.

VPDGS Miller noted that while the block allocation "looms large" because of how it figures into admissions, it really is only 1/5 or 1/6 of what is needed to support a graduate (doctoral) student for a typical 5 – 6 year program, with the bulk coming from other sources (TAs, GSAs, fellowships). In response to a member question, he also noted there are two cushions to mitigate elements of risk for departments/programs. The risk reserve allows up to 10% of block to be used, with two years to pay back. The other is the carry forward, which allows carry over of some portion each year.