

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 16, 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, Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Roberto Manduchi, Fitnat Yildiz, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Christy Caldwell (Library Rep), Melanie Dickinson (Grad Rep), Yulia Gilichinskaya (Grad Rep)

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

Members Items

Member Crow provided a briefing on the Politics department closure meeting of March 10, 2017.

2017-18 Divisional Faculty FTE Requests

The Council continued its review of the 2017-18 divisional faculty FTE requests. The Council emphasized that strong graduate programs should be a high priority for the campus, since they increase our research excellence and reputation, enhance our undergraduate educational mission, and increase our graduate education profile. Given this, Council reviewed the divisional requests with a guiding principle that the proposed hires directly (or indirectly) contribute to strengthening and growing doctoral and MFA programs on campus. In particular, GC recommendations were based on the broader impact the requested FTE might have on strengthening and growing existing doctoral and MFA programs, or contributing to the establishment of new doctoral and MFA programs in areas of need or campus strengths. Council agreed that the most effective way to achieve the goal of doctoral growth is to invest in growing and strengthening departments and programs with faculty able to mentor and support doctoral and MFA students in numbers appropriate for their discipline. Members noted this principle is entirely consistent with the EVC's first of two primary drivers for evaluating this year's faculty recruitment requests (i.e., enhancing the research profile of the campus by supporting significant doctoral (or MFA, as appropriate) growth in existing programs or supporting new programs with high growth potential). As a secondary principle, the Council considered whether the proposed FTE would enhance faculty contributions to diversity, promote cross-divisional collaborations, and/or reinvigorate areas of historical excellence, again consistent with the EVC's complementary evaluation criteria. The Council will send its final recommendations to the iCP/EVC.

Revised Proposal: Coastal Science & Policy M.S. (PDST)

The Council reviewed the revised proposal for an M.S. degree in Coastal Science and Policy and professional degree supplemental tuition (PDST) proposal. The program was proposed as an interdepartmental program, with primary administrative oversight from the PBSci Dean. The Council approved the proposal, and requested that the initial three-year review include examination of several issues, including in the following areas: internship/capstone sponsor program, ability of students to secure appropriate internships, ability of program to attract a strong pool of applicants and secure the level of enrollment necessary for its financial viability and sustainability, workload of faculty involved in the program, and ability of graduates to secure employment post-graduation.

Review: CM Graduate Course

The course review subcommittee led a discussion on the request for approval for a graduate course proposed by the Computational Media department. The subcommittee, in consultation with the Chair, brought this course for full Council review because of its potential precedent setting implications.

Graduate Council carefully evaluated the course approval form, course approval supplement form, and the correspondence between the course proposer and Council, and concluded that the proposal did not meet expectations for what constitutes a credit-bearing course. The proposed course would teach no new material. The stated purpose of the course, which would meet two to three times over the quarter, is to prepare MS and PhD students for a first year qualifying examination on material covered in three core courses taken during the first year. Graduate Council acknowledged the “invisible work” done by faculty to prepare graduate students for qualifying exams, and some of the logistical challenges the department faces in scheduling the annual first year exam. However, the Council noted that this rationale for creating a credit-bearing course to help students prepare for the exam simply invites a proliferation of courses in a futile attempt to institutionally catalog all faculty time. Even more importantly, inasmuch as students have already received course credit for the content to be covered, no rationale exists for allowing them to receive credit again for simply reviewing this very material. Council also noted what appeared to be a conceptually similar course, proposed in the CM graduate program proposal that was approved by Council in October 2015. Council advised that while course approval materials for that course have not yet been submitted to Council for review, the department should consider GC’s recommendation for this course in the planning and preparation of that second course.

LALS Mid-Cycle Report & Review Cycle Recommendation

Members reviewed the mid-cycle report and recommendations from Acting VPAA Berger on the external review cycle for the Latin American and Latino Studies department. The Council concurred with the recommendation of an eight-year cycle for the department’s program review.