

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
April 6, 2017  
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Don Smith (Chair), Ben Crow, Lissa Caldwell, Gerald Casel, Michael Dine, Judith Habicht-Mauche, Athanasios Kottas, Roberto Manduchi, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Fitnat Yildiz, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Melanie Dickinson (Grad Rep), Gordon Keller (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

**Absent:** Paul Roth

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

**Members Items**

Member Dine provided a brief summary of the March 24, 2017 closure meeting for the Biomolecular Engineering department.

Member Yildiz provided a brief summary of the March 27, 2017 closure meeting for the Ocean Sciences department.

A member raised for discussion concerns about Office of Sponsored Research staff interactions with the member's advisee. Members registered concern with overall staff support services of the office.

Guest Moore announced a new four week intensive graduate student preparation program for international students who will want to TA. The program will fulfill the language requirement.

Chair Smith announced that a revised Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) policy was approved by the Regents.

Chair Smith reported on the April 5 meeting of the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting. He summarized topics of discussion which included CCGA's project to put together best practices guidelines from campuses on graduate student mentoring. Chair Smith noted the Council can take these guidelines and adapt or adopt for the campus. Members were in support of this work.

**Feminist Studies Report**

Graduate Council (winter 2017) requested additional information from the Feminist Studies department on measures the department has taken or plans to take over the coming months to address the issues raised during their external review. Members reviewed the FMST department response report, which included a response letter to GC, department letter to graduate students, department handbook and the department's recent retreat agenda.

The Council noted the progress made to date by the department in addressing concerns, and also noted the that department's response did not sufficiently address the request outlined in GC's January 27, 2017 letter. GC agreed to request further information from the department in areas where more complete information/responses were needed, including the following areas: department climate, appointment of the graduate director position and articulation of responsibilities, graduate student advising and communication, graduate handbook, and department staffing.

**Graduate Growth Statement and Subcommittee Report**

The GC Graduate Growth subcommittee has drafted a statement and report, now ready for full Council review. Members reviewed and provided feedback. The Council plans to obtain further feedback from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) before sending on to the EVC and presenting at the spring Senate meeting.

**Program Statements**

The Council reviewed and approved the following program statements: Chemistry and Biochemistry, Environmental Studies. The Council is requesting additional information before further considering Education, Latin American and Latino Studies, Linguistics.