

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
June 1, 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), Paul Roth, Fitnat Yildiz, Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Melanie Dickinson (Grad Rep), Gordon Keller (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: none.

Committee on Research: COR Budget Cuts for 2016-17

The Senate Committee on Research (COR) drafted a letter to interim CP/EVC on the imposed budget reduction for COR funding of seed grants to faculty. COR Chair Whittaker reached out to Chair Smith to ask for GC's endorsement of the enclosed draft letter. Members reviewed and supported co-signing the letter.

Mentoring Best Practices

The Council reviewed mentoring guidelines from other UC campuses, systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) draft guidelines, as well as UCSA Graduate and Professional Student Committee "Principles of Mentorship" document. The Council discussed generation of a division specific list of mentoring best practices based on CCGA and other campus models. Members discussed elements for incorporation into guidelines, as well as timeline for a draft document. A subset of members will work on producing a document, which can then be the basis of continued work next year.

Feminist Studies Report

Earlier this quarter, the Council reviewed a report provided by Feminist Studies responding to GC's request following up on issues identified during the department's external review, specifically related to department climate, graduate program and students. Council found that the department's response did not sufficiently address the concerns in its previous letter, and requested additional information from the department (GC to FMST 4/21/17). The department response was reviewed by the Council.

Council noted the progress the department has made to date in addressing the issues raised by the Council, and agreed that a number of important core questions require further monitoring. Members noted further follow up is needed, and that Council will continue to monitor progress in the next year. Council is requesting a written update in fall 2017, including in the following areas: status, implementation and impact on measures taken for resolving campus climate issues, graduate handbook, communication with graduate students, and staff reorganization. The Council is also requesting that the department seek feedback from graduate students in order to gauge the impact of the department's efforts to address student concerns and provide a summary of findings to the Council during spring 2018.

Proposal to Discontinue the Social Documentation M.A.

The Council reviewed the proposal to discontinue the Social Documentation M.A. program, set in motion by the program faculty who have recently had their Social Documentation M.F.A (intended to replace the M.A.) approved. Purview for the decision of graduate program discontinuance not motivated by fiscal considerations rests with GC, in consultation with CPB and CEP. GC approved the M.A. discontinuance.

Proposal to Change Games & Playable Media M.S. (PDST), Continued

The Council continued its review of the revised proposal to change the Games and Playable Media M.S. The revised version proposes a change to a five quarter program from the current one year program (the fall proposal reviewed by the Council proposed a two-year program). The Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) proposal was also reviewed by the Council.

GC agreed that the revised five-quarter program appears to be better structured, with a more academically sound curriculum, a diversified set of elective courses and more room for electives for all students in the program, and a clearer plan for accommodating students of varying background in terms of technical skills. The elimination of the PDST-funded positions of the Program Director and Creative Director – enabled by the infusion of additional centrally funded FTE positions – and the resulting reduction in the PDST-associated cost of the program were also viewed quite favorably by GC. Council also noted that the revised enrollment projections based on changes in the program and the lowering of the PDST appeared encouraging with regard to GPM's viability. Council requested clarification of FTE and/or TAS resources to sustainably mount the program and consistent reporting of enrollments in terms of student FTE in the proposal and PDST forms. The Council agreed that with these changes, the proposal should be ready for approval.

Council recommended that as the program is launched a) CM should continue to work closely with campus administration and Senate leadership to assure that the appropriate physical and administrative structures are in place to assure the success of this and other programs planned for the Silicon Valley campus; b) CM should work with the administration to develop a comprehensive plan, encompassing all three M.S. programs proposed for the Silicon Valley campus, to facilitate transportation and remote attendance for meetings and seminars, both for faculty and graduate students; and c) BSOE and CM Department should develop a plan within the first year of the revised program to assess i) how well the integration of the Silicon Valley faculty with the rest of the department is working, and ii) how well the Master's and PhD students are being provided and benefiting from curricular and training opportunities at the two campuses.

Proposal for an M.S. and Ph.D. in Statistical Science

With member Kottas recused, the Council reviewed a proposal to establish M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Statistical Science. The proposal is for an independent graduate program that grows out of the Statistics track of the existing Statistics and Applied Mathematics program, and proposed to be housed in the Applied Mathematics and Statistics Department and administered by the Statistics program faculty.

GC agreed this was a strong proposal and applauded the program faculty for their work in putting together a proposal with a clearly articulated rationale, intellectual strengths, and urgency for the proposed program. The proposal makes a convincing case that the Statistical Science graduate program will compete more effectively for top graduate student applicants, and provide additional value and career opportunities to graduates in the statistical science-related fields. GC suggested minor revisions, included separating the proposal for a Bachelor's/Master's path from this proposal, which should be reviewed separately by GC once the M.S. and Ph.D. is approved at the systemwide level.

A second issue that raised concerns for the Council was evident in the letters from the Applied Math and Statistics Chair and the BSOE Dean. These concerns have to do with governance and administration-- both with the administrative handling of the applied math track as the Statistical Science proposal moves forward, and with the appropriate allocation of TAS funds between the statistics and applied math disciplines within the department. The BSOE Dean requested Graduate Council input and GC will address these issues separate from the proposal response.