

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 1, 2018
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Gina Dent (Chair), Lissa Caldwell, Gerald Casel, Weixin Cheng, Carolyn Dean, Judith Habicht-Mauche, Athanasios Kottas, Paul Roth, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Ben Crow, Alexander Sher, Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Joseph Lehnert (Grad Rep), Amani Liggett (Grad Rep),

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division

Members Items

Chair Dent provided a briefing on the closure meeting for the Applied Mathematics and Statistics Department external review (January 30, 2018).

Member Caldwell provided a briefing on the closure meeting for the Music Department external review (January 31, 2018).

Consent Agenda

Consent agenda (GC Delegations of Authority 2017-18) approved.

Systemwide Review: Senate Bylaw 128

Graduate Council reviewed the proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 128, proposing to add a new section governing conflicts of interest on systemwide Senate committees, subcommittees, and taskforces. The Council did not find any issues to comment on.

External Reviews

Stage 2: Comments on ERC Report (for closure meeting)

Earth and Planetary Sciences

The Council discussed the documents pertaining to the external review of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department. Members noted the external review committee (ERC) commented that the program is robust and attracts excellent graduate students. The Council identified several topics for discussion at the closure meeting, including in the following areas: size of the Ph.D. program, BS/MS pathway and MS enrollment growth, professional development and graduate student experience.

Astronomy and Astrophysics

The Council discussed the external review documents for the Astronomy & Astrophysics Department. Members commended the department for a successful external review, and the positive comments from the ERC for the department's overall excellence. The Council identified several topics for discussion at the closure meeting, including in the following areas: relative low graduate student to faculty ratio, graduate student applications and yield, attrition rate of admitted graduate students.

Graduate Council also noted that the long delay between the ERC report and department response and the subsequent Dean's response introduced difficulties for the review, as some issues for the department could have been resolved (and on the other hand, new issues may have arisen) during the interim. GC will request from the VPAA that a mechanism be put in place so that such delays are avoided in the future.

Mid-Cycle Reports

Members reviewed the mid-cycle report for the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) Department and the MCD Biology Department, in preparation for providing the VPAA with recommendations on review cycle length. The Council recommended a review cycle of eight years for both department review cycles.

2018-19 Divisional Faculty FTE Requests

Graduate Council began its review of the 2018-19 divisional faculty FTE requests. This year was an anomalous cycle, with two submission points 1) FTE proposals for divisionally-held open provisions, and 2) proposal for Competitive Target of Excellence proposals (coming mid-February). 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. The Graduate Council Chair noted she is attending all CPB consultations with the divisional deans on the FTE requests.