

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
April 5, 2018  
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Lissa Caldwell, Sharon Daniel, Carolyn Dean, Judith Habicht-Mauche, Athanasios Kottas, Alex Pang, Alexander Sher, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Amani Liggett (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

**Absent:** Gina Dent (Chair)

**Members Items**

The Council welcomed new members Sharon Daniel and Alex Pang.

Chair *Pro-Tem* Habicht-Mauche provided an update on Chair Dent's report of her April 4, 2018 Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting. Two campus graduate proposals (Coastal Science and Policy M.S., Science Communication M.S.) were approved by CCGA and will now go to the President's office for approval.

Library Representative Peter announced the planned three-month library ordering freeze due to a technology migration and fiscal close activities beginning May 18th. She noted that Interlibrary Loan will be ready to support faculty needs for research materials and eBooks with records in Cruzcat will continue to be available for purchase. If faculty have an urgent need for any print library material purchases during this time, exceptions will be made on a case by case basis. She also noted that the Library Reserves department is available to work with faculty and instructors to get summer session items ordered prior to May 18th.

Member Caldwell announced that one of her graduate students was awarded the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Member Kottas provided an update on the closure meeting for the external review of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department (March 16, 2018).

**Graduate Growth Initiatives/GSI Proposal**

With VPDGS Tyrus Miller recused, Graduate Council (GC) reviewed two Graduate Growth Initiative proposals: 1) for central funding of GSI benefits, and 2) for TAs for courses with large graduate student enrollments. GC noted that, in principle, it strongly supported both initiatives, and appreciated that these changes had the potential to enable departments to have greater flexibility in determining how to allocate TAs and GSIs to support departmental curricular and pedagogical needs for both undergraduate and graduate education.

Members also raised questions and made additional comments. On the proposal for central funding of GSI benefits, these included questions about: how the initiative would be funded, given that funding would come from reallocation of existing funds; how department and divisional contributions would be determined; and pedagogical training and mentorship. On the proposal for TAs for courses with large graduate enrollments, members raised questions and comments in the following areas: criteria for evaluation of the initiative after its pilot phase; clarification on what constitutes a "large" graduate course, and whether that differs by discipline; instructor oversight and mentoring; and clarification of types of masters programs in response to CEP comments.

**Proposal to Establish M.S. in MCD Biology**

Graduate Council reviewed the proposal to establish an M.S. degree in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology (MCD Bio). The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) also reviewed the proposal and submitted feedback to the Council. The proposed program is intended to replace the currently existing MCD Bio M.A. degree.

Members pointed out that the letter from Acting Dean Belanger provided a timeline for beginning admissions to the proposed MS program in fall 2018, with a plan to halt admissions to the current M.A. program in fall 2017. Both the Council and CPB noted that the department's proposal was dated June 2017 and the dean's letter was dated July 2017, however, the proposal was not transmitted to the Senate until February 2018. The Council noted that this delay may potentially impact the plan for the first cohort of M.S. students to begin as outlined in the proposal. Further, Graduate Council requested that the proposal to discontinue the M.A. degree take place after systemwide approval of the MCD Bio M.S. The Council stipulated that admissions into the new program may begin once the new M.S. degree has been approved. With that clarification, Graduate Council approved the proposal for the Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology M.S. degree for consideration by the Office of the President and CCGA.

**Program Statements**

The Council reviewed and, pending minor edits, approved program statement changes for Chemistry and Biochemistry. The Council is requesting further information before further review of Biomolecular Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Feminist Studies.