GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 19, 2018
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Present: Gina Dent (Chair), John Bowin, Sharon Daniel, Carolyn Dean, Judith Habicht-Mauche, Athanasios Kottas, Alex Pang, Alexander Sher, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Lissa Caldwell, Amani Liggett (Grad Rep)

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies Division

Members Items
GC welcomed new member John Bowin.

VPDGS Miller announced that CP/EVC Tromp has asked him to help craft a working group on graduate welfare. This group will include members from Graduate Council, and will have its first meeting this month. He reported that the charge is to identify key nodal points of graduate welfare issues and needs. The group will focus programmatically on a limited number of recommendations (three to four meetings are planned). VPDGS Miller noted that he expects this to produce short term improvements or mitigation of problems. The list of recommendations will be forwarded to the CP/EVC to determine if any can be funded. Associate Dean Sue Carter is chairing the working group.

VPDGS Miller reminded the Council that the call for applications for the VPDGS position has gone out, and encouraged all interested to apply. Chair Dent added her encouragement as well, and stressed the desire to have a high quality and diverse pool of applicants.

VPDGS Miller briefly reported on graduate admissions, which includes 270 doctoral and 313 masters students admitted for the coming year. A member asked if the number included internal masters to Ph.D. applicants. Assistant Dean Moore replied that this number represents external applicants only, and we should see the internal masters to Ph.D. in third week enrollment counts.

Program Statements
The Council reviewed and approved the following program statements: Anthropology, Economics, Mathematics. The Council approved Electrical Engineering, pending minor edits, and requested additional information before further considering Computer Science, Applied Math & Statistics.

Review: SmartCatalog New Program Statement Mockups
Curriculum Management Project (CMP) Manager Don Moonshine asked the Senate to review four mock-ups of program statements. The Council reviewed the mockups, with the goal of generating ideas for organizing and presenting program statements that Chair Dent could then relay back to the CMP team. Members offered a number of specific suggestions, for example, members agreed that they preferred the option 2 with tabs that was presented, did not like drop down menus, disliked random empty boxes (and these should disappear if not needed). Overall, however, members agreed that the templates should provide flexibility for program statements, to fit the variety of graduate programs.

Review: SAP Internal Campus Barriers
Graduate Council reviewed the list of 53 internal campus barriers, identified by the campus as part of the Strategic Academic Planning process. AVPAA Berger requested that Senate committees prioritize this list

and provide an unranked list of 15 top-tier and 15 second-tier barriers. Council approached the list of barriers with special attention to its role in evaluating graduate programs and in advocating for graduate students. In addition, members identified more general areas that impeded their functioning as faculty members who are able to work successfully with their students. Members will forward their complete list of ranked barriers, which included among top barriers the lack of graduate support funding, pressure to increase graduate enrollment without adequate support, OSP grant procedures, and general lack of administrative staff support—all of which the Council emphasized were significantly interrelated. Members also highlighted that the campus has repeatedly declared its strength in inter-disciplinary research. The Council agreed that interdisciplinarity should accommodate disparate ways of thinking across fields, disciplines, units and divisions. Members noted that the delivery of an interdisciplinary curriculum may require team-teaching and training TAs to address new field formations with a diverse student population. Finally, members raised that reviews of proposals for Silicon Valley programs have caused concern with the relationships between campuses, especially for graduate students.

Proposal to Establish M.S. in Natural Language Processing (PDST)
With member Alex Pang recused, Graduate Council (GC) reviewed the proposal to establish a new M.S. degree in Natural Language Processing (NLP), and its accompanying Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) proposal. The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) also reviewed the proposal and submitted feedback to the Council.

Graduate Council approved the proposal for submission to CCGA and Office of the President for systemwide review. Members raised some areas of concern, particularly around the slow response from the administration on strategic planning for Silicon Valley programs more broadly. GC requested that before the program is submitted to CCGA for review, a more concrete commitment on space should be provided by relevant principal officers.

Council highlighted that it was keen to see the program succeed, and in that spirit offered additional suggestions and recommendations, including in the following areas: enrollment projections; EDCO position, faculty position and contingency planning; and the PDST plan.

Graduate Council also requested that the following areas should be examined in detail during the program's three year review: ability of the NLP program to attract a strong pool of applicants and secure the enrollments necessary for its financial viability; placement of graduates into jobs commensurate with the training provided by the program; initial assessment of the core and elective courses in terms of achieving the objectives articulated in the program learning outcomes; workload of the program faculty—including the ability of the two new faculty specially recruited into the program to participate in main campus activities beyond the NLP profession MS program; and the balance of teaching and advising responsibilities across both the graduate and undergraduate curriculum for the new faculty.