

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 17, 2018
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: John Bowin, Lissa Caldwell, Sharon Daniel, Carolyn Dean, 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), Judith Habicht-Mauche

Members Items

None.

Consultation: VPDGS

The Council formally consulted with VPDGS Miller on graduate applications, admissions, and acceptances for the coming year. Members reviewed data provided ahead of the consultation. VPDGS Miller noted that the campus is continuing to get record applications, and there is an uptick in doctoral applications. There is also a drop in the offers that were made, which VPDGS Miller stated he interpreted as the results of constraints impacting the ability to make offers to qualified applicants.

VPDGS Miller noted that the Physical and Biological Sciences (PBSci) division and Social Sciences division had lower yields in term of graduate applicants over the last four years. He noted that more resources into support could yield higher numbers in those divisions. Engineering admissions were up, and Arts and Humanities were relatively steady.

VPDGS noted that there are significant differences between divisions on gender composition. Divisions are taking measures to change that. He also highlighted that there are still very low numbers of African American and Latinx applicants all the way through to accepted offers. He reported there is a drop in numbers in both applications and acceptances, and this is an area where more work is needed. He further expressed that there is more work to do to recruit and support students, and to create a mentorship culture. Given the campus's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status, he noted it is unfortunate to have this gap from undergraduate to graduate, and there is work to be done to increase the numbers.

International student numbers, however, are increasing, and VPDGS Miller attributed this to the International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship (IDRF).

Program Statements

The Council reviewed and approved program statement changes for Feminist Studies and Computer Engineering. The Council is requesting additional information before further considering Computer Science.

SAP: Themed Academic Working Groups (TAWGs)

Members continued discussion of the 28 Themed Academic Working Group (TAWGs) proposals solicited as part of the campus Strategic Academic Planning (SAP) process. While members felt that Graduate Council should have a say in the proposals, and would have substantive feedback to contribute from its purview, there simply was not enough time and space on the agendas to conduct a substantive review and respond by the deadline.

Members also indicated that they would be willing to review a shorter list of proposals, if that opportunity were to become available. Members discussed principles on which they might focus should the opportunity to review a selected number of TAWGs arise. Member comments on principles included the following: 1) the ability of the TAWG to generate funding in support of graduate students with attention to its concrete plans to do so; 2) the degree to which the TAWG will add to the distinctiveness of UCSC, increasing the university's attractiveness to graduate students; 3) the degree to which the TAWG will contribute to the formation of an interdisciplinary intellectual community from which graduate students can draw; 4) the likelihood that the TAWG will increase the diversity of our graduate students, with attention to its explicit plans to deliver greater diversity by means of outreach and other specific actions; 5) the likelihood that the TAWG will create new graduate programs that will attract strong students to UCSC, and 6) the degree to which the TAWG will provide meaningful opportunities for graduate research with attention to its explicit plans to accomplish this.

BSOE Reshaping Proposal

Graduate Council continued its review of the Baskin School of Engineering Reshaping proposal, with members Kottas and Pang recused.