

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
November 9, 2017  
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Pranav Anand, Gerald Casel, Weixin Cheng, Ben Crow, Carolyn Dean, Judith Habicht-Mauche, Athanasios Kottas, Alexander Sher, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Joseph Lehnert (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

**Absent:** Gina Dent (Chair), Lissa Caldwell, Amani Liggett (Grad Rep)

**Members Items**

VPDGS Miller provided an update on the GOP tax plan, proposed to tax endowments and charitable giving and to tax tuition remission for graduate students.

VPDGS Miller provided an update on a bill proposed to take GSRs out of exemption for collective bargaining, and the likelihood of a resulting unionization campaign. He noted that the UC position is neutral but there is concern that students are apprised of the process and aware of the implications.

**Feminist Studies Report**

With Chair Dent recused, the Council reviewed the most recent report submitted by the Feminist Studies Department on its status in addressing issues of climate and graduate student impacts, first raised during the external review. Members also reviewed documents and correspondence from review of Feminist Studies in 2016-17.

Council commended the Department and Dean for efforts to stabilize the departmental staffing situation, especially in regards to reorganization and hiring of a new department manager/graduate program coordinator. Council also commended the department's efforts to revise the Graduate Student Handbook. Council did note inconsistencies and requested that the handbook be reviewed to match the approved program statement, and in particular, noted that any changes to the requirements for the M.A. will need to be reviewed by GC through the program statement review process. Members noted continuing concern over department and program governance and climate, and requested a written update outlining a multi-year chair succession plan for the department or alternative plan with a focus on implementing structural or procedural changes to alleviate lingering climate issues and their impact on graduate training. Council also agreed to request a three year succession plan for the faculty Graduate Director position, demonstrating multi year commitments. Finally, the Council requested that the department seek feedback from graduate students to assess the impact of implemented changes in program administration, staffing, and communication and funding on student morale and academic success, to be reported at the end of the academic year.

**Review of Proposed Intellectual Property Policies**

Graduate Council discussed the new proposed Intellectual Property Draft Policies submitted by the Industry Alliance and Technology Commercialization (IATC) unit of the Office of Research (OR): 1) Patent Royalty Disposition Policy (extension to UC Patent Policy), 2) Copyright Royalty Disposition Policy, and 3) Tangible Research Product Royalty Income Disposition Policy. The policies are intended to bring campus practice to a consistent model and allow for partially funding operational costs within the IATC unit of OR.

The Council agreed on the need for consistent and transparent campus-wide policies for distribution of patent, tangible product, and copyright royalty income. However, the Council found that the proposed policies did not adequately justify why IATC should receive the share of this income that is specifically

earmarked to support research, and found the proposal and accompanying documentation to be vague about exactly how these funds would be used within IATC, making it difficult to assess the impact of such a reallocation on graduate research and support. Council members also found the proposed copyright royalty policy to be unclear in terms of exactly what types of copyright contracts are and are not covered. In particular, the Council was concerned about how graduate students fit into this policy, how “student employment” status is defined, and whether this definition is aligned with current UC policy, which treats most graduate student employment as “financial aid.” Given the lack of clarity and analysis on potential impacts of the proposed policies on graduate students and graduate student research opportunities, Council agreed it did not support the proposed policies.

### **Proposed Policy: Conflicts of Interest Related to Consensual Relationships**

Graduate Council reviewed the proposed new campus policy, “Conflict of Interest Related to Consensual Relationships.” The policy draft, developed by the campus Coordinated Community Review Team (CCRT), is intended to address potential conflicts of interest related to consensual relationships and is proposed to be applicable to *all* members of the campus community.

Graduate Council agreed that campus policy to address conflicts of interest in context of consensual relationships is needed, and commended the CCRT for taking first steps toward development of a policy, and for seeking wide campus input at this very early developmental phase of the policy. However, the Council also raised serious concerns about the draft in the areas of definitions of terms and applicability, compliance and responsibility to report, disciplinary consequences, and role and positionality of graduate students.

### **External Reviews**

Stage 2: Comments on ERC Report

#### *History*

The Council discussed the documents pertaining to the external review of the History department. Council focused discussion on the ERC comments urging the department to be bold in reimagining of the intellectual focus of its graduate program in a way that builds on existing strengths. Members raised additional related issues that should be addressed as the reconfiguration process moves forward, including optimal size for the Ph.D. program, planning for the planned BA/MA, curricular challenges presented by reconfiguration of its graduate program, future job markets, and diversity of faculty and graduate students. Members also raised several issues for closure meeting discussion, including availability of office space for graduate students, support for continuing graduate students at critical points in their progress, and preparation of graduate students for non-academic career opportunities.