

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 30, 2017
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Gina Dent (Chair), Lissa Caldwell, Gerald Casel, Weixin Cheng, Ben Crow, Carolyn Dean, Judith Habicht-Mauche, Athanasios Kottas, Alexander Sher, Tyrus Miller (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Amani Liggett (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Pranav Anand, Joseph Lehnert (Grad Rep)

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division

Members Items

Members were reminded about the upcoming Senate meeting (December 1, 2:30-5, Stevenson Event Center).

Chair Dent provided an update on the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) November meeting. She noted that topics of discussion included SB201 (Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act: Employees”

Chair Dent also briefed the committee on her recent conversations with the Committee on Research (COR) Chair regarding grant-writing support from the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), a topic COR has already been discussing with VCR Brandt. Chair Dent also provided an update on a recent meeting with VPAA Lee and Analyst Bañuelos related to the dual degree process and potential WASC substantive change form requirements.

VPDGS Miller reported that the Council of Graduate Schools, in collaboration with Mellon and NSF launched a project to create alumni and current student surveys to track career paths for Ph.D.s. The first round of the alumni survey has yielded a 33% response rate. The current student survey will take place in spring. The survey will allow analysis at both the campus and system level. Twenty-five universities are participating in the survey.

VPDGS Miller also briefed the Council on the recent \$3M of funding available to each campus as part of a one-time housing allocation for housing initiatives. This funding was part of a UC Regents approved reallocation of \$27 million of reserve funds from the Mortgage Origination Program (MOP) to fund student, faculty, and staff housing needs. He noted that two Grad Division proposals were funded: 1) revamping the community rentals web portal for \$25K, and 2) \$1M over two years for first year incoming doctoral student housing support (for a range of \$1200-1500 per student).

Proposal to Establish M.S. in Science Communication

Graduate Council reviewed the proposal to establish an M.S. degree in Science Communication. The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) has also reviewed the proposal and submitted feedback to the Council. The proposed program is intended to replace the Science Communication Graduate Academic Certificate. Citing the strength of the proposal and the current program’s high quality and national reputation, GC noted its enthusiastic support for the proposed M.S.

GC also noted a couple of minor considerations related to timeline of the discontinuance of the current program. The letter from Program Director Hayden noted that the current Graduate Academic Certificate will be proposed for discontinuance once the Science Communication receives approval. The letter from

the Dean, however, stated plans to “halt admission to the certificate program in fall 2017” and plans to begin the admissions process now and in winter quarter. Graduate Council requested that the proposal to discontinue the Graduate Academic Certificate take place after systemwide approval of the Science Communication M.S. They further noted that admissions into the new program may begin once the new degree has been approved.

Proposal for a Contiguous Five-Year Bachelor’s/Masters: Mathematics

The Council reviewed the Mathematics Department’s proposal to establish a contiguous five-year Bachelor’s/Master’s pathway that coordinates the existing BA and MA degrees in Mathematics. The Council was supportive of the motivation and objectives of the proposed pathway. The pathway will enable outstanding undergraduate students to complete the BA and MA degrees in five years, with the potential to increase Master’s student enrollments (and thus also MIP funds), even though such increases will likely be modest based on the projected enrollment. Members noted that no additional resources are required in order to offer the pathway. Concerns were also raised, including around the reduction of coursework for the master’s degree, whether the pathway will be open to Math or majors or include other majors, and projected need and expected student demand. Council will request revisions to the proposal.

Mid Cycle Reports: Mathematics and Electrical Engineering

The Council reviewed mid-cycle reports for the Mathematics and Electrical Engineering Departments. The Council recommended a six year cycle for Mathematics. The Council recommended a six year cycle for Electrical Engineering, citing concerns in the External Review report with infrastructure (telecast classrooms) and integration of course offerings for its graduate program and discussion of re-organization between departments related to EE (Computer Science, Computer Engineering). The Council noted that a six year review would provide an early opportunity to review issues affecting the graduate program, as the Baskin School of Engineering reshaping process takes place.

External Reviews

Stage 1: Supplemental Questions for External Review Committee (ERC)

Chemistry and Biochemistry

The Council discussed the upcoming review of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, and raised questions in the following areas: potential for graduate growth in the department, impact of participation in the graduate training program in Biomedical Sciences and Engineering (PBSE), interaction and impacts between the M.S. and Ph.D. programs given recent master’s program growth.

Consultation: CP/EVC

The Council consulted with CP/EVC Marlene Tromp on GC’s statement and report on graduate growth in context of campus efforts towards a strategic academic plan taking place this year and the 2018-19 FTE process.

CP/EVC Tromp talked about some recent initiatives from the Graduate Division as well as more recent proposals that will be coming through for Senate review, including a proposal for Centers of Excellence and for graduate student instructor support.

One member raised that while the Council has been supportive of Graduate Division and some of the recent initiatives, this is not sufficient, and there is a need for a campus-wide comprehensive plan for graduate growth and buy-in for that plan. CP/EVC Tromp raised that the Centers of Excellence and the graduate student instructor proposals are two initiatives with a commitment to graduate growth. She also noted that there are now conversations with the divisional deans about targets and support structures to make graduate growth possible, alongside setting benchmarks. VPDGS Miller noted that it is crucial to take a look at the culture of the campus.

Members also raised a question about Silicon Valley. Particularly as graduate programs begin and grow in Silicon Valley, there is a need to consider infrastructure, transportation, and services to students as part of a broader plan. CP/EVC Tromp noted that as the Strategic Academic Plan (SAP) emerges, more meaningful conversations about next steps will also emerge.