

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 27, 2020
307 Kerr Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Smith (Chair), Nameera Akhtar, Banu Bargu, John Bowin, Andrew Fisher, Daniel Friedman, Longzhi Lin, Patricia Pinho, Edward Shanken, Quentin Williams (ex officio), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Nobuhiko Kobayashi, Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Elizabeth Goldman (Grad Rep),

Guest: None.

Member Items

Acting VPDGS Williams announced that this week Graduate Division restated/clarified a few initiatives. He reported that the graduate student \$2500 housing allowance is intended for all doctoral and MFA students that are within the first five years (doctoral) or two years (MFA) of their graduate careers. He also reported, related to the actions for students that have withheld grades, that students can have the letters out of their files by end of the academic year, if they turn in grades by the communicated deadline. He also reported that the needs-based qualification was removed from the housing allowance. One issue is that International students cannot submit FASFAs.

Update: Planned Working Groups Related to Graduate Education

Chair Smith provided an update on two working groups related to graduate education. First, Chancellor Larive announced she will convene a joint Administration-Senate working group focused on graduate education issues as recommended by Graduate Council in follow up to the recent consultation (GC to Chancellor and iCP/EVC 2/5/20). The second group focused on issues related to graduate student cost of attendance, which may include members of CPB and GC (as well as others) was also in process.

External Reviews

Stage 2: Comments on ERC Report (Closure Meeting Preparation)

Art

Council discussed the documents pertaining to the external review of the Art department. GC agreed with the External Review Committee's (ERC) assessment that the Art department is a thriving department, with remarkable faculty achievements, a ready to go MFA program (Environmental Art and Social Practice), talented staff, and a strong vision for the future. GC also agrees that the department faces important challenges, with solutions depending on institutional support. GC raised several questions for discussion at the closure meeting, including in the following topic areas: curricular planning and teaching load for faculty, faculty hiring plans, recognition of faculty achievements, space, development of a Visiting Artists Program.

UCSC Five Year Perspectives

As an informational item, Graduate Council reviewed the campus Five-Year Perspectives report of proposed academic degree programs, schools and colleges, to be submitted to UCOP.

Program Statement Review

Graduate Council continued review of graduate program statements (Computer Science & Engineering, Biomolecular Engineering, Computational Media, Electrical & Computer Engineering).