

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

Present: Don Smith (Chair), Banu Bargu, John Bowin, Sharon Daniel, Andrew Fisher, Daniel Friedman, Nobuhiko Kobayashi, Longzhi Lin, Alex Pang, Patricia Pinho, Quentin Williams (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Elizabeth Goldman (Grad Rep), Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Edward Shanken

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division

Member Items

Graduate Council welcomed members Sharon Daniel and Alex Pang.

Chair Smith provided a brief update on the planned Cost of Attendance Working Group, which is beginning to meet. The exact focus of the group is still in development.

Closure Meeting Briefings

Member Bowin provided a brief update on the recent closure meeting related to the Psychology external review. Member Fisher provided a brief update on the Philosophy department external review closure meeting.

2020-21 FTE Review

Council continued its review of the 2020-21 faculty FTE requests.

Program Statement Review

Graduate Council continued review of graduate program statements (Physics).

Change in Student Standing Language

Graduate Council reviewed a letter, signed by seventeen graduate directors and department chairs (3/18/20), to aVPDGS Williams and Assistant Grad Dean Moore and cc'd to Graduate Council Chair Smith. The letter raised recent changes in Graduate Division practices regarding review and approval of graduate program requests for block fund deployments, and revision of language in graduate student acceptance letters expanding the categories of good student standing necessary to remain eligible for the three categories of student support (TA, GSR, fellowship). The letter expressed concern that Graduate Division was changing the definition of "good standing" without consultation with the Academic Senate and department faculty, conflating employment contract sanctions with academic sanctions. Members also reviewed student standing language in offer letters (from the current and previous year). Chair Smith provided an overview of recent discussions related to the received correspondence, and GC considered next steps. aVPDGS Williams and guest Assistant Dean Moore participated in the first part of the discussion and were recused from the latter part of the discussion, as were the two graduate student representatives.

After review of the documents, and discussion with aVPDGS Williams, Graduate Council discussed formal follow up to the Graduate Dean. GC recommended that Graduate Division produce updated written guidelines of practice for management of student support funds from the block, and that Graduate Council be formally consulted as updated policies/practices are developed. Specifically, Council recommended that the updated guidelines of policy/practice for block fund management make clear 1) the level of autonomy

that departments/programs will have in deploying block funds throughout the year, and whether departments/programs will be required to provide detailed budgets for block fund deployment; 2) the process for requesting deviations mid-year in block fund deployments, and how disagreements about block fund deployments between departments and the Graduate Division will be resolved; and 3) regarding the expansion of the definition of “good standing” to include academic standing, student conduct, and employment standing, to make clear how ineligibility for one category of support would affect eligibility of support for the other two categories, as well as how eligibility for support would be managed in cases where a student has filed an appeal of ineligibility, given that the timeframe of the appeal process may run counter to the more immediate time frame of decision making for student TA or GSR appointments.