

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
April 16, 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, Edward Shanken, Quentin Williams (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Elizabeth Goldman (Grad Rep), Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

**Absent:** None.

**Guest:** Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division

**Member Items**

Chair Smith provided an update on the systemwide CCGA meeting of April 8, 2020. He reported that COVID-19 issues were a major focus of the meeting.

A member raised a question about graduate students serving as instructors of record for courses, and specifically on the working relationship of graduate student instructor and teaching assistant for such courses. GC briefly discussed the review of GSI requests (CCI reviews GSI requests for undergraduate courses, GC reviews GSIs for the much less common requests for graduate courses). Chair Smith noted these and related issues would be taken up in depth when GC revisits its form and process for GSI requests.

Acting VPDGS Williams reported on graduate admissions, reporting that 692 funded offers were made, 315 taken, with 12% of offers still outstanding. This is higher than the same time last year.

One member raised a question about the disciplinary process related to graduate students that participated in the strike, and what GC could do to learn more and assess the impact on graduate and undergraduate education. A member also noted this issue intersects with (but can be separated from) the issues discussed at the most recent GC meeting regarding “good standing” and autonomy of departments regarding funding for students dismissed from spring positions. Acting VPDGS Williams noted he had just received the GC correspondence and was working on a response. He also noted the distinction between employment/labor processes and student conduct processes. Members discussed gathering additional information before taking up the issue further.

**COVID-19 Impacts on Graduate Education**

Council discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on graduate education and the steps that GC could take in its plenary role. Graduate Council discussed a number of intersecting issues, including the ways in which the pandemic impacts students across divisions and disciplines, and across race/ethnicity (with graduate students of color and graduate women of color in particular disproportionately providing the institutional service work to fill the gaps in supporting undergraduate students, particularly URM). Council examined areas within its authority and temporarily implemented extensions by one year for for current full time graduate students to meet milestones such as advancing to candidacy and to complete their degrees. Council also recommended that departments/programs consider flexibility with program requirements to address challenges faced by graduate students, including considering waiving GRE admissions requirements, extending program milestone deadlines within the program’s purview, and to consider any temporary modifications to degree requirements that could be

proposed to Graduate Council for approval in areas where these might meet the exceptional needs of graduate students and programs during this time

**2020-21 FTE Review**

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