

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 28, 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, Edward Shanken, Quentin Williams (ex officio), Katharin Peter (Library Rep), Elizabeth Goldman (Grad Rep), Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez (Grad Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Patricia Pinho

Guest: Jim Moore, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division

Member Items

Members Bowin and Fisher provided an update on the Cost of Attendance Working Group, on which they serve as representatives, established by the Committee on Planning and Budget. They noted some early progress had been made defining the “basket of goods” that make up graduate student costs and that the group has held some graduate student focus groups.

Chair Smith and aVPDGS Williams provided an update on the Senate-Administration Working Group on Graduate Education (JWG). They reported progress into defining sources of funding and overall progress on what will comprise a three year dataset on inputs/outputs related to the graduate enterprise.

COVID-19 Impacts on Graduate Education, Continued

The Council continued its open discussion of the impacts of COVID-19 on graduate students and graduate education. Graduate student representatives on Graduate Council were hearing from graduate students serving as TAs and GSIs that they were not getting the support and materials needed to do their jobs adequately, and put together a survey, on a very short timeline, to learn more. This survey was reviewed by Graduate Council. The report indicated that while some resources are available, many graduate students were not aware of them and were not receiving information about availability and access to these resources, that resources were not being offered consistently across departments, that types of available resources varied by departments, and some resources and funding had not been delivered as promised to graduate students (small funding grants and/or supplies). The Council decided that the Graduate Council Chair would reach out to Senate leadership and with them, to iCP/EVC Kletzer on this topic (and provide the survey findings) to better and more evenly support graduate student ASEs.

Proposal to Extend CE Ph.D. Suspension of Admissions to 2021-22

Graduate Council reviewed a request from the Computer Science & Engineering Department (CSE) to extend the suspension of admissions currently in place for 2020-21 for the Computer Engineering (CE) Ph.D. program one additional year, through 2021-22.

Graduate Council approved the suspension of admissions to the CE Ph.D. program through 2021-22. GC is requesting that in its report to Council this coming fall, the CSE department provide a plan for resolution of the future of the CE Ph.D. and an update on plans for the M.S. degree. GC decided that no further requests for extending suspension of admissions to the Ph.D. will be granted.

External Review Deferral Request: Anthropology

Graduate Council reviewed the request for deferral for the Anthropology Department’s external review. Council deems the request sufficiently justified and supported a one year deferral of the external review.

UCSC Astronomy & Astrophysics /Swinburne University of Technology Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing Ph.D. Dual Degree Proposal

GC reviewed a request, transmitted by VPAA Lee, to establish a dual degree pathway between the Astronomy and Astrophysics Department at UCSC and Swinburne University of Technology Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing in Australia. The pathway would result in selected students receiving two PhDs, one from each institution. Graduate Council has reviewed two prior iterations of the proposal; after the review of the revised proposal during winter/spring 2019, Council made the unanimous decision to not approve the proposal (GC to VPAA Lee 7/25/19), and instead advised that the department explore the model of a joint degree in consultation with VPAA Lee.

After substantive discussion and careful consideration, Graduate Council voted, again, to not approve the proposal, and instead encouraged the department to explore the model of a joint degree. A number of lingering issues were raised in the review of the proposal that led Council to this outcome, the most substantive being that Council did not find the rationale for a program leading to two PhD degrees in the same field, versus a joint degree program, to be compelling or convincing. In fact, the primary rationale for pursuing a dual degree versus joint degree program appeared to be logistical (less effort) rather than pedagogical. GC noted that this was also raised as a major issue by GC and CPB in the prior review cycles. Council members agreed that, as described, the collaboration between UCSC and Swinburne could achieve many of the same benefits to students (access to additional collaborators and/or instrumentation) via more typical institutional/investigator collaborations as commonly occurs in many disciplines. Further, while the revised materials attempted to clarify how a student's doctoral work at the two institutions leading to the two PhDs would not be substantially the same, Council was still troubled by the fact that a UCSC student in the dual degree program would be earning two PhDs in essentially the same time period it takes current UCSC Astronomy & Astrophysics students to earn one degree.