

GRADUATE COUNCIL 2019-20 Annual Report

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

2019-20 was a very active year for Graduate Council (GC). Graduate labor actions around cost of living began in the fall and continued through the year, raising anew questions about how to best support and strengthen graduate education on the UCSC campus. Other events, including power outages¹ and then COVID-19, have forced the campus to grapple with a range of other issues from curricular to budgetary, with potential impacts on graduate education that are still emerging. This formed the basis for much of the proactive work of Graduate Council. Additional proactive work included a continued focus on strengthening graduate education; policy and process changes and updates related to GSIs for graduate courses, Plan I and Plan II masters degrees, the role of GRE scores in UCSC admissions, and graduate dual degrees, and collaboration with the acting Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (aVPDGS) on changes to fellowship review process and applications. Other business included review of graduate program curricular changes (these changes are reviewed on the new campus SmartCatalog platform, entering its second year of implementation), review of new non-degree program proposals, including addition of pathways to existing degrees, participation in the external reviews for several departments, monitoring of graduate programs under GC review, reviewing and updating GC's delegation policy, review of divisional faculty recruitment requests, and review of applicants for the Cota-Robles Fellowships. The Council began working with new acting Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Quentin Williams this year² (and effective summer 2020 now appointed interim VPDGS), and formally consulted with him on several issues, including an orientation into the "state of graduate education" for members at the start of the year, Dissertation Year and Cota-Robles Fellowships, review of the block allocation formula, and graduate admissions applications and outcomes. A detailed summary of the Council's work in 2019-20 is provided below.

Graduate Student Support and Welfare

This year, graduate students organized a wildcat strike for a cost of living adjustment (COLA). In January 2020, Graduate Council consulted with the leadership of the Graduate Student Association addressing the strike and graduate student welfare issues that included access to affordable and safe housing, as well as stability in funding packages and planning.

A number of evolving issues related to graduate student well-being emerged out of the COLA movement, and were brought to the attention of Graduate Council by faculty and graduate students. These included concerns from faculty about seeming changes to practices related to graduate student funding from the Graduate Division, and concerns raised by graduate students and faculty about the student conduct process. In addition, ongoing work by GC and the Senate broadly related to strengthening the graduate enterprise were taken up by the administration. This third topic is discussed in the following section. Here we focus on the first two points, which were reviewed and discussed by Graduate Council during spring quarter.

In late March, Graduate Council was made aware of a letter to aVPDGS Williams and then-Assistant Dean Moore, signed by seventeen graduate directors and department Chairs. This letter expressed concerns about changes in Graduate Division practices regarding review and approval of graduate program requests in winter 2020 for block fund deployments, and revision of language in incoming graduate student acceptance letters expanding the categories of good student standing necessary to remain eligible for the three

¹ See GC and CEP Chairs re Cancelled Days of Instruction (October 2019) regarding impacts of power outages on courses and research.

² Now Interim VPDGS Quentin Williams served in an Acting VPDGS role for most of the period covered by this report, and so is referred to as aVPDGS throughout.

categories of student support (TA, GSR, fellowship). The letter from faculty and department chairs expressed concern that the 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. The letter also requested clear guidelines regarding graduate student funding protocols. Graduate Council discussed this letter formally with aVPDGS Williams at its first spring meeting. With aVPDGS Williams formally recused from a discussion of next steps, Graduate Council discussed formal follow up to the Graduate Dean. This correspondence (GC to aVPDGS 4/10/20) 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. To better understand the scope of the issue, Senate Chair Kimberly Lau and Graduate Council Chair Don Smith sent out a request to faculty graduate directors to complete a short survey related to any graduate program requests for deployment of block funds (4/21/20). The findings of that survey indicated that 15 programs (out of 35 responding) made a total of 17 mid-year requests to re-deploy block funds, of which 12 were fully approved, two partially approved, one denied, and two remained pending at the time of the survey. Overall, the denied requests were a relatively small proportion of requests, and it appears that requests involving students that received a Notice of Intent to Dismiss were generally, but not exclusively, denied.

While aVPDGS Williams did not provide a formal response to Graduate Council’s letter of April 10, 2020, he did via email communication (4/30/20 and 6/8/20) forward two responses that went out to the campus Graduate Advisory Group (GAG) listserv that addressed concerns in the faculty graduate directors and department chairs letter and Graduate Council’s letter. These responses were reviewed at Council’s last meeting of the year. aVPDGS Williams’ position was that there have not been any process changes associated with distribution or management of block allocation, but acknowledged that there were shifts in perceptions about central management of the block and perhaps a lack of understanding of block management. The Graduate Division decisions about block management were framed in the context of new fiscal constraints imposed by the five year funding guarantee (two year for MFAs), which mandate heightened fiscal judiciousness by the Graduate Division. The seeming expansion of the definition of “good standing” may be viewed in part as a clarification of the various categories of student standing relevant to funding eligibility, though it may be discussed further by Graduate Council in the upcoming year.

During spring quarter, Council also considered the issue of racialized bias in student conduct summons, stemming from an anonymous email that was circulated among the campus community describing one specific case, alongside the Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity’s (CAAD) open letter (6/5/20) addressing institutional racism more broadly. The specific example that was brought to Council’s attention was an anonymous staff email account describing interactions between students and administrators, and what the staff perceived as differential treatment of the student demonstrators by race which led to charges against only the student of color. Graduate Council was disturbed by allegations that have been raised both about racialized language in student conduct summons and the particular ways in which students of color may have been disproportionately identified and disciplined (an issue also raised by CAAD’s open letter). Having heard over the past months sufficient accounts of racial bias, both overt and covert, and recognizing

that UCSC and other institutions of higher education are not immune from the systemic racism that structures our social institutions, our policies, and even our everyday interactions, Council decided to request that the Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor (CP/EVC) address this issue (GC to CP/EVC 7/23/20). In its letter, Council asked that the CP/EVC investigate these concerns and anecdotal accounts of racial bias in the graduate student conduct summons process, by 1) directing a full review of disciplinary procedures, and the ways in which these may, even inadvertently, disproportionately impact and discipline students of color. Council is interested in ensuring that there be a process and set of best practices in place so that graduate students of color are not unfairly targeted or impacted by racism, however subtle, in interactions between students and institutional representatives and processes; and 2) directing a retrospective review of the student conduct cases over the last two years, through the lens of sensitivity to racial bias, to determine whether, for example, students of color are disproportionately represented in (and impacted by) graduate student conduct summons as compared to white students, or whether there are significant differences in disciplinary decisions and/or severity of disciplinary actions across race/ethnicity.

Council's position is that as a campus, we must be proactive in ensuring that our practices and policies are consistent with our values in promoting justice, and a climate that engenders belonging and dignity for our diverse body of students. To this end, student conduct processes must not only be free from bias, but must also reflect our values to embody anti-racist practices. Council, as part of its focus on graduate student welfare and its commitment to the campus goal that we attract, retain, and graduate a diverse graduate student body, is open to collaborating with the CP/EVC and other campus offices to provide input and recommendations on this issue, and Council hopes this will take place within the coming academic year.

COVID-19 Impacts

Graduate Council has approached the issues and impacts of COVID-19 from two perspectives: 1) making necessary changes and exceptions to policy to facilitate a smoother functioning graduate curriculum, and 2) focusing on graduate student impacts and voicing support, where possible, for graduate students to have the needed support as the campus transitioned to online instruction. Graduate Council, in collaboration with other Senate committees, sent out communications related to aiding curricular planning to faculty and departments³, and in collaboration with the administration sent out a communication connecting faculty to resources for maintaining educational continuity in context of COVID-19.⁴ Council also reviewed and approved requests from a few programs/departments to make temporary amendments to degree requirements.

Graduate Council also discussed, over spring meetings, COVID-19 impacts on graduate students, in their multiple and intersecting roles as students, researchers, teachers, and employees. Council's concerns were underscored by comments and questions received from students and faculty across the campus broadly related to graduate student well-being and welfare. These concerns included how students are impacted by the loss of outside employment and/or their partner's loss of employment, need for support for basic needs to address food and housing insecurity, and the availability of mental health services and support; challenges with accommodating the increased workload as they navigate to online teaching and support undergraduate learning; student concerns about progress on research, particularly for laboratory or human subjects-based research that has been halted; adapting to uncertainties in their ability to meet program milestones and completing degrees; suspension or loss of professional engagement and networking opportunities critical to their success; and the potential for a loss of funding. Council also understood that often hidden is the differential impact of these issues across disciplines, highlighting the need to recognize disciplinary differences in student needs during this time. Graduate students of color and graduate women

³ See CCI, CEP, GC, COT re Changes to Syllabus (3/6/20); CEP, GC, CCI re Contingency Planning for Interruptions in Instruction and Modified Program Course Availability (3/16/20)

⁴ Chancellor, iCP/EVC, CEP Chair, CCI Chair, Graduate Council Chair re Maintaining Educational Continuity in the Context of COVID-19 (3/5/20)

of color in particular are often a source of support for underrepresented minority undergraduate students, and disproportionately do the institutional service work to fill the gaps in undergraduate support needs for the campus. Council examined areas within its authority and temporarily instituted a one year extension of the normative to degree 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 of 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 (see GC and aVPDGS re COVID-19 Impacts on Graduate Education 4/29/20). Council also brought to the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), together with other campuses, the need to temporarily extend the systemwide 18 quarter limit for graduate students to hold an Academic Student Employee (ASE) title, which was later approved and implemented by UC Provost Brown (see letter to Chancellors dated 6/19/20).

Finally, Graduate Council also discussed the additional burdens placed on graduate student Teaching Assistants, and the need for online instruction resources to support their needs. Graduate student representatives on the Council, on a very short timeline, conducted a survey of graduate students on access to online instruction resources and provided a brief report to 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 these resources, resources were not being offered consistently across departments, types of available resources varied by departments, and some resources and funding had not been delivered as promised to graduate students (e.g., small funding grants and/or supplies). The Graduate Council Chair participated in Senate leadership conversations with then iCP/EVC Kletzer on this topic (and provided the survey findings). iCP/EVC Kletzer followed up with a communication to Deans about the need to make available a more standardized approach to supporting TA instructional needs, requesting that they follow up to make resources needed and information about accessing these resources available and accessible within their departments/divisions.

Strengthening Graduate Education

Graduate Council, has for a number of years, proactively focused on issues of growing and strengthening the graduate enterprise at UCSC, most recently beginning in 2015-16 with the establishment of a Graduate Council subcommittee focused on making recommendations to catalyze campus strategic planning and action for growing and strengthening graduate programs and making more visible the progress towards these goals.⁵

The 2019-20 Graduate Council began the year planning to engage the campus administration on strengthening and growing graduate education, following up on recommendations to the administration in its earlier reports. With a new Chancellor in place and a new interim CP/EVC, Graduate Council was interested in discussion the administration's vision and goals for supporting the graduate enterprise, and how this administration viewed supporting current graduate students and growing graduate enrollments over other campus needs. The Council consulted with Chancellor Larive and then-iCP/EVC Kletzer in January 2020. Council welcomed their articulated commitment to strengthening graduate education at UCSC, as well as their clear appreciation for the critical role that graduate education and mentorship play

⁵ See Graduate Council Statement and Report on Strengthening and Growing Graduate Programs at UCSC (May 2017); Graduate Council Report on Growing and Sustaining Graduate Student Research (May 2019). This most recent work of the Council was informed by previous campus efforts, including work that resulted in the Joint Senate Administrative Task Force on Graduate Growth Report and Recommendations (June 2015) and the Joint Senate Administrative Task Force Report on Academic Structures (2013).

in fulfilling our mission as a research university, and was heartened by their expressed interest in working collaboratively and in partnership with GC and the Senate (by this time, Graduate Council had begun to articulate a stronger focus on strengthening graduate education, over its previous focus on strengthening *and* growing graduate education).

It has become apparent that areas that pose challenges to developing a strategic plan for strengthening graduate education include the lack of clarity regarding revenue flows related to the graduate enterprise, and the extent that those revenues support the graduate enterprise (versus, for example, the undergraduate enterprise). Graduate Council made clear that without this knowledge, it is difficult for the campus to plan strategically and make informed choices. Both the Chancellor and iCP/EVC supported this perspective. Graduate Council, in follow up communication to the Chancellor and iCP/EVC (2/5/20) articulated that the campus has yet to fully examine the extent to which graduate enterprise revenue is used to support the mission of undergraduate education or vice versa. The Council agreed that in order to develop a plan for the appropriate size and shape of the graduate enterprise at UCSC, the campus needs a full assessment of the extent to which divisions and departments themselves want and/or are poised to strengthen and grow their graduate programs, as well as what resources they need to do this.

From Graduate Council's perspective, another area that poses significant challenges is that existing mechanisms for graduate student support are poorly coordinated and somewhat unpredictable from year to year, leading to potential instability and uncertainty in many graduate programs.⁶ Council urged the Chancellor and iCP/EVC to consider a revised TAsip and graduate funding allocation model that accounts for both undergraduate and graduate enrollments, and thus is responsive to the broader need of graduate support.

The Council also articulated once again that it was ready to begin working with the administration on a comprehensive, realistic, and actionable strategic plan for enhancing graduate welfare and strengthening graduate education. This planning should be driven by the central administration, in collaboration with the Graduate Division and the Senate, with data gathered from the divisions and departments as needed. Council recommended the establishment of a small to medium-sized working group, comprised of representatives from Graduate Council, the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB), Office of Planning and Budget staff, and the acting Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. Council noted that it is imperative for the health of the graduate enterprise that we are able to understand current capacity and barriers to improving and growing graduate programs, in order to strategically identify and direct campus resources to appropriately support graduate education. The campus should have a clear understanding of the totality of revenues related to the graduate enterprise and how those revenues are directed at present, and an understanding of where there is capacity for graduate growth. From this could emerge graduate enterprise funding models that provide stability for students and programs, including perhaps by linking funding to 'cohorts' of incoming graduate classes. Models should also include incentives for faculty to increase mentoring and securing of external resources, and other actions that will enhance graduate student welfare and success more broadly. Council urged the Chancellor and iCP/EVC to identify a structure and process for carrying out this important work.

Chancellor Larive at the February 2020 Senate meeting, announced the establishment of the Joint Senate Administration Working Group on Graduate Education, to be co-chaired by Graduate Council Chair Don Smith and then aVPDGS Quentin Williams. The Joint Working Group initiated their work in spring 2020, and their efforts will continue into fall 2020. Graduate Council will continue to collaborate closely with and participate in the Working Group, which is expected to complete its work by end fall quarter 2020.

⁶ Although the five-year doctoral (two year MFA) support packages for current and incoming students, along with a need-based housing supplement of \$2,500, is an important first step.

As a related effort, the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget Chair Bruce Schumm has asked for Graduate Council participation in a working group focused on graduate student cost of attendance. Two representatives from Graduate Council are participating in this group. Graduate Council will continue to participate in this group and expects this working group to produce a final report by early fall 2020.

Policy and Process Changes & Revisions

During 2019-20, Graduate Council reviewed its policies on a number of issues, and made changes and updates where necessary. Some of the issues outlined below will remain continuing issues in 2020-21. A brief summary of each policy change, update, and/or review is included by topic below.

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) for Graduate Courses

Graduate Council has reviewed and updated its policy and process for requests to appoint Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) to teach graduate courses. Instances of graduate students assuming instructional roles in graduate courses should be rare, though may be appropriate in limited cases. Historically, the relatively small number of requests that are typically reviewed (in comparison to requests reviewed by CCI for undergraduate courses) has meant that Council has relied on usage of the CEP/CCI request form for requests to Graduate Council in recent years. However, given the differences in policy, process, and expectations between requests for GSIs to teach undergraduate versus graduate courses, Council decided to develop a request form specific to its purview over GSI appointments to graduate courses. Graduate Council has also updated the forms to clarify that the extent of faculty oversight of the assessment process for graduate students teaching graduate courses must include listing the faculty mentor/supervisor as co-instructor for the proposed graduate course. A link to the form can be found on the Senate's Graduate Council website⁷.

Masters Degrees: Plan I and Plan II

In an effort to better clarify the distinction between Plan I and Plan II Master's degrees, Graduate Council revisited and made changes to its guiding policy (UCSC Senate Manual, Appendix D, Section VI), in particular, clarifying language that a Thesis Plan I requires a research thesis, while a Capstone Plan II has a capstone requirement, which may be a comprehensive exam, an individual project, or a group project. Graduate Council, with this year's program statement review process, began asking programs that had already submitted program statement changes, to examine their master's degree requirements in catalog copy, if applicable, to align with the revised language in Appendix D. All other programs will submit any changes to align with the new language in next year's cycle of program statement reviews. The updated language can now be found in the UCSC Senate Manual, Appendix D.

The Role of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) in UCSC Admissions

During the 2018-19 academic year, Graduate Council, in collaboration with then VPDGS Kletzer, examined the role of the GRE in the fellowship review process, and eliminated the consideration of GRE scores in the Cota-Robles selection process, and encouraged departments to consider blocking the GRE information in reviews for the Chancellor's fellowship for entering doctoral students (see GC Annual Report 2018-19).

This year, Graduate Council, again in context of research that has called into question the predictive ability of the GRE for graduate student "success" and the desire of many departments/programs at UCSC (in line with national trends) to not require GRE scores in admissions, decided to make GRE scores an optional requirement for UCSC admissions. Effective with the 2019-20 application cycle, GRE scores are an optional requirement for UCSC graduate admissions, to be decided at the department/program level (by a vote of the faculty). The change is now reflected in the UCSC Senate Manual, Appendix D, Section II. Admissions.

⁷ <https://senate.ucsc.edu/committees/gc-graduate-council/index.html>

Graduate Dual Degrees

Defining a process and policy for programs proposing a graduate dual degree pathway has been an ongoing Graduate Council project for a number of years (and at key junctures, in collaboration with the VPAA and VPDGS), sparked by former VPDGS Tyrus Miller's interest in this issue at the end of the 2016-17 year.

During 2019-20, Council re-examined its guidance for review of graduate dual degree pathways that it released in 2018-19, in part because of additional information revealed via review of a graduate dual degree proposal, as well as Graduate Council chair consultations with CCGA and UCOP staff. Council released the updated principles and process document, in correspondence to VPAA Lee (November 20, 2019). It was noted in the correspondence that these are not yet intended to be released to the wider campus, as CCGA discussions about how to review graduate degree pathways are ongoing, and anticipated to result in additional information, and perhaps a CCGA issued communication to standardize these kinds of reviews across the system. Graduate Council expects this issue to continue to be discussed at CCGA in 2020-21, and will work to issue updated guidance for the campus following CCGA policy issuance.

Curriculum Management: SmartCatalog

2019-20 was the second year of the implementation of SmartCatalog, the new curriculum management system. Graduate Council is appreciative of the work of the Curriculum Management Project (CMP) team, led by Don Moonshine, for their active collaboration with the Senate as we continued to work out issues with and fully shifted to the new system. The CMP team has been very attentive and responsive to the requests of GC, within the parameters of what SmartCatalog can provide. Graduate Council also collaborated with the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), particularly in development of workarounds to systemic issues. Council is working over the summer and into fall 2020 to resolve, where possible, the issues that most negatively impact Senate review. One major issue, for example, has been working on separation of currently shared "primary" pages in the platform so that CEP and GC can better work independently from each other. Council anticipates that its work with the CMP team, in collaboration with CEP, can help better meet the needs of review end-users/Senate faculty for the next and future review cycles.

Delegation Policy

The Council's "Delegations of Authority" document is intended to provide a comprehensive list of routine administrative decisions delegated to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, as well as those decisions delegated to the Council Chair and other administrative officers. The document also states, as established in GC bylaws, that the Council will annually monitor and review its delegations of authority and consult with the VPDGS, who will report annually on 1) the formulation of general procedures established in conformity with the delegations of authority, and 2) any re-delegations of authority.

The Council reviewed its delegation document and extended the delegation of review of graduate courses of instruction (including new courses, changes in existing courses, and course discontinuations) to the Committee on Courses of Instruction (CCI) for the 2020-21 year. This delegation be reviewed at the end of the next academic year.

aVPDGS Consultations

There are a number of issues on which Graduate Council and the Graduate Division formally consult throughout the year. To facilitate communication and review of key issues, the Council maintains a formal consultation calendar with the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, produced collaboratively during the summer. Consultation topics, anticipated to occur annually, focused on the following:

"State of Graduate Education" Overview: The Council welcomed Acting Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (aVPDGS) Quentin Williams, appointed at the end of the 2018-19 year. This consultation focused on a general overview of the Graduate Division, including mission and vision, as well as aVPDGS

Williams' key goals for the division. aVPDGS Williams presented a high-level overview of the budget, and contextualized this with a comparison to one of our sister campuses, UC Riverside which has had more central support for the graduate enterprise. He also discussed the structure of UCSC's Graduate Division, which is leaner compared to other UC campuses, and discussed priorities in context of our new Chancellor's stated priorities for the graduate enterprise. aVPDGS Williams provided data focused on graduate enrollment trends as a general orientation for members.

Dissertation Year, Dissertation Quarter, and Cota-Robles Fellowship Report: This consultation focused on process and outcomes for the Dissertation Year Fellowships (DYF) and Cota-Robles (CR) Fellowships. Council requested to review data on process and outcomes for both DYF and CR fellowships. Recommendations from Graduate Council that emerged from the discussion included that for the DYF fellows the call should state that 1) each division should be required to have a representative from each department/program for DYF review/selection committee; divisions with a large number of programs should be required to have all departments represented at least every two years; 2) all candidates for DYF fellowships must have been advanced to candidacy for two quarters before being nominated; and 3) a department/program should be ineligible for the subsequent year's fellowship call if a fellowship awardee does not complete their dissertation in the award year, as expected (note that this latter stipulation will not be implemented until 2021-2022 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student progress to degree). For the CR fellowships, Council suggested that departments/programs be provided more robust guidance on how to complete the mentoring plan for the CR candidate so that there is more consistency in mentoring plans across programs. Council expects to review data on fellowship outcomes during next year's consultation on the DYF and CR process, which Graduate Division is just beginning to track. Council expects these data will facilitate longer term assessment of sub-disciplines that may trend toward over or under representation for the DYF and CR, and identify if there is a notable difference in yield by discipline (for the CR). Graduate Council and aVPDGS Williams have agreed that during fall 2020, Council will review the fellowship calls and application forms, and provide feedback ahead of the winter 2021 review cycle to address issues raised during the consultations (mentoring plans, highlighting diversity), as well as improve the collaborative review process for the GC subcommittee reviewing the CR fellowship applications (GC to aVPDGS 4/10/20).

Review of Block Allocation Formula: This consultation focused on the annual overview of the block allocation formula, the Master's Incentive Funds Program (MIP), an update on multi-year capabilities across the campus, and discussion of the pros and cons of the cohort funding model. GC also requested information related to delegations of authority and academic integrity cases as part of its annual review, as informational items. Graduate Council raised several questions about MIP funding, and expressed interest in obtaining further data and analysis from the Graduate Division about how MIP funds are used to support doctoral students and programs. Given that MIP funds do not flow through the Graduate Division, the extent to which MIP supports doctoral education is not entirely clear. GC suggested a survey of all graduate programs that queries categories for type of funding uses, amount of funding used per category, and an "other" category to capture uses not listed, in order to gain a better understanding of how MIP funds are deployed across the campus, as well as what similarities and differences exist across divisions. Graduate Council will follow up on this issue in the 2020-21 year.

Graduate Admissions Report: aVPDGS Williams presented data on graduate applications, admissions, and acceptances. The year saw a high percentage of offers accepted, higher than other years, with raw numbers comparable to last year. Graduate Council also requested, given concerns previously raised by Graduate Deans about racial/ethnic diversity, an update on racial/ethnic diversity in application, acceptance, and admission data in context of the Graduate Division's goals for increasing diversity. Data was provided on race/ethnicity by admissions. Post consultation, Graduate Council requested racial/ethnic data covering applicants, offers, and acceptances, by division. GC has also requested data on international students,

including international students by country. GC hopes to receive this data for consideration in fall 2020 (GC to aVPDGS 6/29/20).

Review of 2020-21 Divisional Faculty Recruitment Requests

Graduate Council has participated in the review of divisional faculty recruitment requests since 2012-13, in context of campus planning for and implementation of graduate growth. The Graduate Council Chair attended all of the Committee on Planning and Budget's (CPB) consultations with the academic deans, and the Council received and reviewed CPB pre-consultation memos and dean responses, where available, to inform its review.

While the initial faculty FTE call suggested an envelope of 12-15 central FTE available for allocation, Council was informally advised that, with the anticipated fiscal impacts of COVID-19, that envelope would likely be reduced, and Council approached the review of the requests more conservatively. Council worked from the belief that strengthening existing graduate programs should be a high priority for the campus, since this will increase UCSC's research footprint, excellence, and reputation, enhance UCSC's undergraduate educational mission, and enhance UCSC's graduate training profile. Given this, Council reviewed the FTE requests with a guiding principle that recommended hires that would directly contribute to strengthening graduate and particularly doctoral programs on campus. Council believes that the most effective way to achieve the goal of strengthening graduate programs is to invest in departments and programs having faculty able to mentor and support graduate doctoral students in numbers appropriate for their discipline. This principle is consistent with two of the four criteria for evaluating this year's recruitment requests in the iCP/EVC's faculty FTE call (i.e., *Enhancing the research and creative scholarship profile of the campus by supporting doctoral growth in existing programs or supporting new programs with high growth potential; Improving the educational experience and outcomes of undergraduate students*). As a secondary principle, Graduate Council also considered whether the proposed FTE would enhance faculty contributions to diversity, promote cross divisional collaborations, and/or reinvigorate areas of historical excellence, consistent with your other two evaluation criteria (i.e., *Investing strategically in areas of campus strength and consistent with your articulated multiyear divisional/school hiring plans and high-impact cross-divisional interdisciplinary initiatives; Increasing faculty diversity*).

While the overall impact of Council's FTE recommendations is not clear, Council appreciated the opportunity to participate in the FTE process, and believes its review is particularly important in context of current campus-wide efforts aimed at strengthening graduate education, as discussed elsewhere in this report. It should be noted that meaningful review of the divisional FTE requests continues to be challenged by GC's heavy agenda, limited meeting schedule, and bandwidth.

Program Monitoring

Digital Arts and New Media M.F.A. Program

During 2018-19, Graduate Council, over several meetings, reviewed proposed curricular changes to the Digital Arts and New Media (DANM) M.F.A. program, and during that review, additional issues emerged related to program governance and impacts on the program (GC to DANM 6/21/19). During early fall 2019, the Graduate Council Chair and the Graduate Council Analyst met with then-Program Chair Mark Nash, Arts Dean Ted Warburton, Arts Assistant Dean Stephanie Moore, and DANM Program Manager Bennett Williamson regarding curricular plans for DANM in more detail. This meeting helped inform curricular revisions for DANM. Council's review of DANM's planned curricular changes during spring 2020 surfaced a continuing issue—planning for topic areas. DANM has worked to resolve this issue by shifting changes to topic areas to take place every three years. Graduate Council anticipates that DANM planning efforts in 2019-20 will yield a smoother review process in future years.

Feminist Studies Ph.D. Program

Graduate Council monitoring of Feminist Studies began in 2016-17 during review of the 2015-16 External Review Committee report findings. During spring 2020, Council reviewed and discussed the report submitted by the Feminist Studies Department in response to the most recent Council questions (GC to FMST 6/28/19). Council commended the department for its attention to addressing most of Graduate Council's issues, and also noted the gaps in the most recent report in areas of critical concern to GC. Council once again requested additional information in further communication to the department (GC to FMST 5/19/20). The Council reviewed this additional information, including IRAPS graduate student survey results, at its last meeting. Graduate Council monitoring of Feminist Studies will continue in 2020-21, with the next report due to Graduate Council in early fall 2020 (GC to FMST 7/7/20).

Regular Committee Business

New Non-Degree Proposals

Non-degree proposals include Designated Emphases (DE), Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor's/Master's paths, and non-SR 735 certificates. Graduate Council reviewed and approved one proposal for a Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor's/Master's proposed by the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department (May 2020), linking the M.S. with various related existing undergraduate degrees, for a fall 2020 launch. The Council also reviewed and approved a proposal for Designated Emphasis in Data Science proposed by the Statistics Department (February 2020), launching fall 2020. Council also reviewed and approved a proposal for a non-SR 735 certificate in Graduate Student Professional Development, proposed by the Graduate Division (November 2019) and approved for launch in fall 2019.

Graduate Council reviewed a request from the Astronomy and Astrophysics department to re-review a previous proposal (reviewed in 2018-19) to establish a Ph.D. dual degree pathway with Swinburne University of Technology Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing. In review of the proposal in 2018-19, Council decided to not approve it, and instead encouraged the department to pursue, with the support of the VPAA's office, a joint degree model. Council's practice is to not revisit previous decisions, but nonetheless reviewed the new request this year. After substantive discussion and careful consideration, Graduate Council again decided not to approve the request, and encouraged the department to pursue the model of a joint degree (June 2020).

Requests for Suspension of Admissions

During fall 2019, Council reviewed a request from the Computer Science & Engineering Department to amend its existing suspension of admissions to the Computer Engineering (CE) Ph.D. program to an effective date of 2020-21 (the program had been approved for suspension of admissions for 2019-20 on program/department request). During spring 2020, Council received a request to extend the suspension of admissions for one additional year, through 2021-22. Graduate Council approved the extension, with a request that the department report to Council during fall 2020, with a plan for resolution of the future of the CE Ph.D. program and an update on plans for the M.S. degree.

External Reviews

Graduate Council annually participates in department and program external reviews. During 2019-20, Council reviewed department/program self-studies and submitted questions to supplement the universal charge for upcoming external reviews in History of Art and Visual Culture, History of Consciousness, Mathematics, and Theater Arts. In addition, the Council prepared external review report responses for closure meeting discussions for Art, Computational Media, Philosophy, and Psychology. Council reviewed mid-cycle reports and made recommendations on the length of review cycle for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Earth & Planetary Sciences, History, and Music. Graduate Council additionally reviewed an external review deferral request for Anthropology.

Program Statement Changes

Council reviewed graduate program statement changes for the 2020-21 catalog copy. Late submissions of program statements from programs and/or the divisions continued to be an issue this year, and Graduate Council will be working with the Registrar's Office proactively as they communicate deadlines to departments and programs to address this issue for future cycles.

GSI Requests

The Council delegates to the Council Chair review and approval of Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) requests. Instances of graduate students assuming instructional roles for graduate courses are rare, and the systemwide University Committee on Educational Policy and the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs have taken the position that no graduate student should take on an instructional role for which they can influence the grade of another student's performance unless faculty oversight of the assessment process is sufficient to prevent any semblance of conflict of interest. This year, the Council reviewed thirteen GSI requests from the Astronomy & Astrophysics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Economics, Education, Film and Digital Media, History of Consciousness, Music, Physics, and Statistics departments.

Fellowship Review

A Graduate Council subcommittee advised the acting Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies on the selection of Cota-Robles Fellowships.

Local and Systemwide Issue Review

In addition to the issues discussed in earlier sections of the report, the Council reviewed and commented on the following issues and/or policies:

- Request to Waive Bachelor's Degree Requirement for Admission to Theater Arts M.A. (September 2019)
- Chair's Response (with CEP Chair): Cancelled Days of Instruction (mitigating impacts of power outages on courses and research) (October 2019)
- Two FTE Transfer Requests (November 2019)
- Chancellor's Request for Feedback: CDO/ODEI Restructuring (November 2019)
- Student Success Task Force Report (November 2019)
- Review of Draft Changes to Academic Programs and Units: Policy and Procedures Governing Establishment, Disestablishment, and Change (APU) (November 2019)
- UCSC Forward Funding Model for Faculty Partner Hires (November 2019, May 2020)
- Communication Regarding Graduate Council Input into CCGA Requirements on Contributions to Diversity in Graduate Degree Proposals (December 2019)
- UCSC Draft Internationalization Goals and Action Plan (January 2020)
- Chair Response (with CEP and CPB Chairs): Teaching Assistants in Graduate Courses (December 2019)
- UCSC Proposed Revised Guidelines for Development of New Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program (SSGPDPs) (March 2020)
- Proposed Temporary Amendment to Economics Graduate Programs for Fall 2020 (March 2020)
- Proposed Temporary Amendment to Computational Media M.S., Serious Games M.S., Games & Playable Media M.S. for Fall 2020 (May 2020)
- Economics Request to Implement Option for Deferred Enrollment (APEF M.S.) (June 2020)
- CCI Proposed Changes to GSI Criteria for Undergraduate Courses (June 2020)
- Review of Appeal of Academic Judgment (July 2020)
- Review of Request from Computational Media Department to Waive Game 280A Course Requirement for Serious Games MS, fall 2020 (August 2020)

- Review of iVPDGS Request to use TOEFL iBT Home Edition speaking score for TAship qualification and admissions as a temporary substitute for standard TOEFL (August 2020)

The Council deliberated a guest policy, and agreed to extend a formal invitation to Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Jim Moore to attend Council meetings as a guest for 2019-20. The Council guest policy is agreed to by Council members at the start of each academic year.

Continuing Issues for GC in 2020-21:

- Graduate program monitoring— Feminist Studies Ph.D. program, Digital Arts and New Media M.F.A. program
- Strengthening Graduate Education —the Council will continue to actively participate in and monitor campus planning for supporting and strengthening graduate education (including graduate student funding and size and shape of the graduate enterprise), and graduate student well-being.
- Collaborate with interim VPDGS on issues related to graduate education, both pro-active and routine
- Continue review and analysis of Master’s Incentive Program (MIP) funding
- Collaborate with Curriculum Management Project team, jointly with CEP, during third year of implementation of SmartCatalog
- Consider emerging CCGA and systemwide consensus with respect to self-supporting graduate programs and dual degree pathways
- Follow-up with CP/EVC regarding analysis of racial bias in the student conduct process
- Continue participating in/monitoring efforts of Joint Senate-Administration Working Group on Graduate Education (JWG), including Council review of report and findings, as well as collaboration with administration as recommendations are implemented in the next year
- Continue to monitor the efforts of the Cost of Attendance Working Group, including Council review of final report.

Respectfully submitted,

GRADUATE COUNCIL

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August 31, 2020