

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL 2006-207 Annual Report**

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

Generally the Graduate Council (GC) met bi-weekly during the academic year, with a total of 14 regularly scheduled meetings over the course of the year. The voting membership of the Council comprised: Robert Boltje, Carolyn Dean, Barbara Epstein, Donka Farkas, Daniel Linger (W,S), Pradip Mascharak, Tyrus Miller, Michael Urban, Anujan Varma, with Don Brenneis (Chair), with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Lisa Sloan sitting *ex officio*. Meetings were also attended by Laurie Babka of the Academic Senate staff, Bob Hastings of the Graduate Division; Graduate Student Association Representatives Berra Yazar, Alisha Thompson, Foad Khosmod (F), Marina Sarran (F), and Teresa Betts (W, S); Postdoctoral Student Association Representatives Sina Farsiu (F), Heather Van Epps (F), and Jason Triplett (W, S); and LAUC Representatives Beth Remak-Honnef (F, S) and Fred Yuengling (W). Guests included Joe Konopelski (COC), Kelly Feinstein (GSA), and Chelsey Juarez (GSA). In his capacity as Chair, Don Brenneis served as representative to the systemwide Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), the advisory committee for the Technology and Information Management program, and the Senate Executive Committee. Because, as he had notified COC when asked to serve as Chair, Don Brenneis had a number of prior longstanding off-campus commitments, especially in winter and spring terms, Vice-Chairs Tyrus Miller and Barbara Epstein carried a considerable part of the burden of chairing and off-Council representation.

### **1. Graduate Council organization**

Several subcommittees met separately, both throughout and at particular moments in the year. The standing subcommittee on courses included Robert Boltje, Donka Farkas, and Carolyn Dean, and Robert Boltje, Barbara Epstein, and Pradip Mascharak served on the subcommittee on graduate student welfare. Don Brenneis, Tyrus Miller, and GSA representative Kelly Feinstein served as a committee to discuss a possible Graduate College. During Winter quarter, Donka Farkas, Robert Boltje, Michael Urban and Pradip Mascharak evaluated applications for the Cota-Robles Fellowship. In the Spring Carolyn Dean and Donka Farkas reviewed Dissertation Year Fellowship candidates and Dan Linger and Barbara Epstein were central to the Outstanding Teaching Assistant competition.

Laurie Babka of the ASO was invaluable to the Council, bringing deep knowledge, good humor, patience, and a remarkably clear understanding of both the issues and what we did about them, and Bob Hastings' expertise, knowledge, and reflective counsel was similarly appreciated. Graduate Council thanks both of these colleagues for their singularly indispensable participation in our work over this and many other years.

### **2. New program proposals**

The Council reviewed proposals for two new doctoral programs, including comments and concerns from the parallel reviews done by the Committee on Planning and Budget. We approved proposals for Ph.D. programs in Film and Digital Media and in Visual Studies; both proposals are moving forward.

We also had several discussions concerning the possible emerging M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Technology and Information Management (TIM), and Don Brenneis served on an ad hoc

advisory committee for TIM. The Council voted to postpone a full consideration of the proposed degree programs until a new Dean of the School of Engineering has been able to make a recommendation and the recommendations of the TIM advisory committee can be incorporated into a revised proposal.

### **3. Graduate program review**

During the 2006-07 year GC representatives provided reports on and participated in closure meetings concerning the routine reviews of Art, Electrical Engineering, MCD Biology, Latin American and Latino Studies, and the Santa Cruz Institute of Particle Physics (SCIPP) ORU.

Graduate Council also reviewed and responded to requests from a number of programs for relatively small-scale alterations in their graduate degree requirements. Parenthetical degree notations were approved for History of Conscious (in Anthropology and Philosophy) and Statistics and Stochastic Modeling (for AMS concentration).

### **4. Conditions for Growth and the Strategic Academic Plan**

Graduate Council was active in reading, discussion, and responding to both Academic Senate discussions of conditions for growth and several iterations of the Strategic Academic Plan (SAP) developed through the office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (VPAA). Council views these two topics as inseparably related. Our response to the SAP stressed both questions of infrastructure (in regard to which both the Long Range Development Plan and the Senate discussions of conditions for growth figured centrally) and the underlying importance of interdisciplinarity in proposed future program development. A recurring concern had to do with the desired and feasible proportion of graduate students at UCSC in the future: is the Association of American Universities (AAU) standard of at least 15% appropriate and possible? Would capping undergraduate enrollments be necessary? What would the implications in terms of faculty FTE and financial support be likely to be? And, perhaps most concretely, to what extent would focusing on self-supporting professional Master's programs be desirable and practicable?

### **5. Graduate Student Appeals**

The GSA and the Graduate Division worked throughout the year on revising and clarifying official procedures for graduate student appeals and hearings. Graduate Council had several detailed discussions of possibilities and problems, as we see such revisions as critical. Council will be receiving and discussing a final document early in the Fall term.

### **6. Graduate College**

An ad hoc committee of Tyrus Miller, Kelly Feinstein (GSA), and Don Brenneis discussed possible models for a Graduate College, and GSA representative Teresa Betts reported on an informal survey of graduate students concerning such a college. There were also several Council-wide discussions in which, among other things, alternative models were proposed and discussed. The Council will resume discussion during the next academic year.

### **7. Graduate Student Welfare**

Considerable progress has been made on improving the night-time parking situation. Graduate Student health insurance remains a major financial challenge, and both Dean Sloan and her counterparts at several other campuses and the systemwide Graduate Student Association are continuing to pursue the possibility of pooled coverage and consequently lower rates. At present, however, costs have been going up and provided services decreasing.

## 8. Other business

Council reviewed several systemwide policies and discussed a number of other local issues, among them:

- UCEP and CEP proposed changes in the graduate student instructor process (ongoing);
- proposed systemwide regulations concerning off-campus and distance instruction for graduate students; Council expressed considerable unease with what appeared an implicit assumption that such forms of instruction would become more widespread;
- the level of resources available to the Library for new graduate programs, an area in which there seems to have been some cause for mild optimism.

## 9. Looking to the coming year

From the perspective of the Council, completing, discussing, and ratifying a new appeals procedure is a very high priority; the Council plans to pursue this question as soon as the new term starts.

While there is less pressing concern regarding a possible Graduate College, it is clear that there is widespread graduate student interest in developing some kind of framework – both institutional and physical – for a range of activities. Council will also be continuing discussions in this area.

Respectfully submitted,  
GRADUATE COUNCIL

Robert Boltje  
Carolyn Dean  
Barbara Epstein  
Donka Farkas  
Dan Linger (W, S)  
Pradip Mascharak  
Tyrus Miller  
Michael Urban  
Anujan Varma  
Lisa Sloan, *ex officio*  
Don Brenneis, Chair

Beth Remak-Honnet, LAUC (F, S)  
Fred Yuengling, LAUC (W)  
Teresa Betts, GSA (W, S)  
Marina Sarran, GSA (F)  
Foaad Khosmod, GSA (F)  
Alisha Thompson, GSA (F, W)  
Berra Yazar, GSA  
Sina Farsiu, PSA (F)  
Jason Triplett, PSA (W, S)  
Heather Van Epps, PSA (F)

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