

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL 2005-2006 Annual Report**

*To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:*

The Council met bi-weekly during the academic year, with a total of 15 regularly scheduled meetings over the course of the year. An additional ad-hoc meeting was held in the winter term to follow through on an Appeal of Academic Judgment that was brought before the Council late in the fall quarter. The voting membership of the Council comprised: Ram Akella, Robert Boltje, Don Brenneis, David Brundage, Teresa DeLauretis (F), Donka Farkas (W,S), Donna Hunter (Vice-Chair), Norma Klahn, Ronnie Lipschutz, Pradip Mascharak, Bruce Schumm (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 Ian Dobbs-Dixon, Lisa Downward (F), Allison Luengen, and Foad Kosmood (S); Postdoctoral Scholars Association representatives Heather Epps (F,W) and Sina Farsiu (S), and LAUC representative Beth Remak-Honnef. In his capacity as chair, Schumm served as a representative to the systemwide Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), the Senate Executive Committee, the Chancellor's Advisory Board, the Academic Advisory Committee, and the Vice Chancellor for University Relations Search Committee. Guests to the Graduate Council in 2005-2006 included Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor David Klinger, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Alison Galloway, University Librarian Virginia Steel, Vice Chancellor for University Relations Donna Murphy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications Elizabeth Irwin, Principal Analyst Betsy Moses, VP and Dean of the University Extension Cathy Sandeen, and Director of the University Extension Science Writing Program Ann Caudle.

### **1. Graduate Council Organization**

The 11-member Graduate Council designated several subcommittees that met separately throughout the year. The Council continued to have a standing subcommittee on courses (Klahn, Lipschutz, Boltje), and empanelled a new subcommittee on Graduate Student Welfare (Lipschutz, Brundage, Boltje, Hunter; see below). In addition, ad hoc subcommittees were formed for the selection of Cota Robles (Brenneis, Boltje, Hunter, Schumm) and Dissertation Year (Brundage, Farkas) Fellowships and the Outstanding TA Award (Klahn, Mascharak) recipients, and program external reviews (see below). The Council as a whole reviewed new program proposals as well as all other academic and policy issues that arose that were related to graduate education.

The Council depends critically on the Senate staff for its efficient functioning and for providing vital institutional memory; as always, it is deeply indebted to Laurie Babka for her knowledgeable, patient, and good-humored support throughout the year. The Council is similarly indebted to the broad-ranging expertise and precision of Graduate Division staff member Bob Hastings.

### **2. The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)**

The systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) is charged with assessing new graduate programs and recommending for or against their approval. It examines each program proposal rigorously, making use of expert reviews from referees both within and without

the UC system. Additionally, the advice of the CCGA is solicited for all systemwide policies related to graduate and post-doctoral education. During the 2005-2006 academic year, UCSC's proposal for a Ph.D. in Music was reviewed and approved. Specific topics of policy discussed at CCGA during the 2005-2006 academic year included:

- Competitiveness of graduate student financial support
- The environment for international graduate students
- The abolition of non-resident tuition
- Sunset on CCGA approval of graduate programs that are slow in implementation
- The evolution of guidelines for scholarly communication and its evaluation
- The use of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in state-sponsored University instruction (see item below)
- Senate Regulation 694 on residency requirements (see item "Remote Learning and Online Classes" below)

Of these items, Chair Schumm played a lead role in the development of policy for the use of students in University instruction, as well as in drafting new systemwide Senate Regulations on remote and online learning. Both of these are currently under review by the Academic Council. Chair Schumm also served as the lead reviewer for a proposal for a joint Ph.D. program between Cal State Fresno and UC Davis in Forensic and Behavioral Sciences.

### **3. Oversight of the Mathematics Ph.D. Program**

In 2002-2003, Graduate Council exercised its plenary authority by suspending admissions to the Mathematics Program, beginning with the 2003-2004 academic year. In re-authorizing admissions to the program for 2004-2005, the Council stipulated that the PB&S Division provide the Council with annual reports on Mathematics graduate curriculum, enrollments, hiring and personnel actions, and student quality and welfare. The 2005-2006 report was made available by Dean of Physical and Biological Sciences Thorsett at the beginning of the academic year. In addition to this report, which was reviewed by the full Council, a Council member (Mascharak) reviewed the course evaluations for all Graduate courses taught in 2004-2005. The Council continued to be satisfied that the Mathematics Graduate Program was operating at a level warranting continued admissions to the Ph.D. program, although concerns were raised about the overall graduation rate, as well a lack of information from Math graduate students on their mentoring/advising experiences. The Council will continue to review the program in this way on a yearly basis, until the Council deems by formal vote that the reviews are no longer necessary.

### **4. New Program Proposals**

The Council reviewed proposals for three new graduate programs, incorporating comments and concerns from the parallel reviews done by the Committee on Planning and Budget: an M.S. and Ph.D. in Statistics and Stochastic Modeling (School of Engineering), an M.A. and Ph.D. in Feminist Studies (Humanities, with participation from Arts and Social Sciences), and a Ph.D. in Film and Digital Media (Arts).

The Council reviewed the Statistics and Stochastic Modeling proposal, and provided feedback to the proponents in October 2005. Concerns included the limited emphasis on frequentist methods, placement of the program in the larger context of the UC system, coverage of the curriculum, inclusion in the proposal of faculty that had not expressed a willingness to participate, the lack of a clear governance structure, and the nature of the Master's capstone. The proponents worked during the fall and winter quarters to address the Council's concerns, and the proposal received approval from the Council in April. The proposal is currently under review by CCGA.

The Council reviewed the proposal for an M.A. and Ph.D. in Feminist Studies in May 2006. The Council was favorably disposed towards the general thrust of the proposal, and the strong credentials of the proponents. However, several issues arose in the Council's review of the proposal. The Council found the language presenting the proposed fields of emphasis to be somewhat limited and vague, and had questions about the nature and appropriateness of the Master's capstone requirement and Ph.D. qualifying exam. The Council also noted that all members of the proposed core and affiliated faculty are female, and wondered if this group would represent an optimally diverse set of viewpoints. CPB had several concerns about the adequacy of faculty resources, including the commitment of faculty outside the Feminist Studies Department, as well as the size of the core faculty within Feminist Studies. CPB's analysis suggested that another (8<sup>th</sup>) core faculty member needs to be appointed to make the program viable, and the Council has asked the proponents to assess CPB's analysis. The Council has also requested that outside departments offering essential curriculum provide explicit letters of commitment to providing those classes. The proponents are in the process of addressing these comments; however, in the meantime, it has come to the attention of the Council that a number of members of the core faculty are considering offers from other institutions. Thus, the status of the Feminist Studies proposal is a bit unclear as of summer 2006.

Finally, the Council reviewed the proposal for an M.A. and Ph.D. in Film and Digital Media, also in May 2006. Again, the Council was generally supportive of the proposal, but had specific comments for the proponents to consider. The program would be unique in its incorporation of practice into the advanced study of the theory of visual media, but the Council felt the proposal should be more expansive about how the content and structure of the program would allow this to play out. The Council raised a concern about the adequacy of graduate student support, particularly in comparison with UC norms, and also requested a curriculum staffing plan for the first several years of operation, making explicit the roles that would need to be filled by new hires. Upon CPB's recommendation, the Council also requested that the proponents provide a detailed operating budget, and provide evidence that this budget can be met as the program begins. The Council is looking forward to reviewing a revised proposal in the fall of 2006.

## **5. Graduate Program Review**

During the 2005-2006 academic year, the results of the following programs' periodic reviews came to the attention of the Graduate Council: Environmental Studies, Science Communication, Physics, and American Studies. Reports from the Graduate Council were generated under the lead of members Brenneis, Boltje, Mascharak, and Brundage, respectively. The Council provided feedback to the office of the VPAA regarding the status and future plans of these programs.

In addition, the Graduate Council consulted with Vice Provost of Academic Affairs Alison Galloway on the proposed revision of procedures for the review of academic programs. Several suggestions were provided to VPAA Galloway, based on its recent experience, as well as its careful consideration of the existing policies as they were developed in close consultation with the Council by former VPAA George Brown during the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 academic years.

## **6. Individual Program Degree Requirements**

The Council has plenary authority over titles of and degree requirements for graduate programs. During the 2005-2006 academic year, this responsibility played itself out in several ways. A

number of programs requested, and were granted, permission to alter degree requirements, including those for the DANM (Digital Arts and New Media) MFA, and the Education, Psychology, and Politics Ph.D.s.

Several years ago, the Council became concerned that some programs may have changed their degree requirements without Council approval. The Council undertook a systematic review of changes to program requirements, requesting that all graduate programs submit a list of degree requirement changes since 1993, the last time that a comprehensive review of degree requirements was undertaken. This review was completed this year, with the final remaining programs submitting and gaining approval for their current requirements.

In 2003-2004, the Council established a formal policy for the approval of parenthetical degree titles for students with a “minor” concentration in allied fields. Under this policy, the Philosophy Department requested, and was granted, approval for a set of degree requirements that would lead to a parenthetical notation in Philosophy. Subsequently, the Sociology Department requested, and was granted, approval to award the parenthetical notation in Philosophy to its Ph.D. for students completing the Philosophy Department’s parenthetical requirements. The Council noted that its 2003-2004 parenthetical notations policy would benefit from language clearly specifying that both departments – the department providing the parenthetical curriculum as well as the department permitting the parenthetical designation – need to join in the request to allow the parenthetical designation.

### **7. Systemwide Academic Senate Policy**

As a member of CCGA, Council Chair Schumm led the drafting of two revisions to systemwide Academic Senate policy. Both of these are currently under review by the Academic Council.

Prompted by increasing requests for approval of online and remote delivery of instruction (including an online Master’s degree in Engineering at UCLA), CCGA felt the need to update the UC Academic Senate’s residency requirements, and to set basic standards for online delivery of instruction. Schumm led a revision of Senate Regulation 694, which defines residency and contains minimum residency requirements, as well as the drafting of a new regulation, SR695, that sets standards for online instruction.

The question of the prevalence and degree of independence of instruction provided by graduate students lies just beneath the surface of the University’s – and indeed, the nation’s as a whole – educational enterprise. UC Administrators have become increasingly concerned that current policies, and their inconsistency from campus to campus, are not serving the University as well as they may, and raised this issue with the Academic Senate in early fall of 2005. With Denise Segura of Santa Barbara (2005-2006 Chair of the University-wide Committee on Educational Policy), Schumm led the drafting of a comprehensive new policy that would regularize the delivery of instruction by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows across the entire UC system, re-defining graduate student instructional titles, establishing minimum qualifications for those titles, and establishing the associated modes of faculty oversight. This new policy would apply for all state-supported instruction, including summer session.

### **8. Graduate Student Welfare**

New to Graduate Council for 2005-2006 was the formation of a subcommittee on Graduate Student Welfare, including members Lipschutz (chair), Brundage, Hunter, Boltje, Dobbs-Dixon

(GSA), and Luengen (GSA) . This subcommittee was quite active in the latter half of the year. The committee identified numerous issues that it could lead the Council in addressing, and chose for this year to narrow its focus to several areas: the process for negotiating health care coverage and premiums, working with the GSA to develop mentoring guidelines, and night-time parking fees. A draft set of mentoring guidelines awaits final revision by the GSA and will be distributed to departments and academic administrators when completed. A request to excuse graduate students from night-time parking fees has been formulated and sent to Transportation and Parking Services.

### **9. Plans and Minimum Requirements for Academic Master's Degree**

In researching systemwide Senate policy on academic Master's degrees, Chair Schumm discovered that the definition of Plan I (thesis) and Plan II (comprehensive examination) Master's plans, and the establishment of minimum requirements, falls to the individual campuses. Of all ten UC campuses (including Merced), UCSC alone had no language defining the two Master's plans and establishing minimum requirements. A subcommittee consisting of Schumm (chair), Brenneis, and Mascharak researched language from other campuses, and did a comprehensive review of the requirements of existing UCSC Master's programs. The subcommittee then recommended language defining Plan I and Plan II Master's, and setting minimum unit requirements, to the Council. The Council adopted this language in spring 2006. Chair Schumm is working with the few programs whose requirements may fall short of the newly-established minimums.

### **10. Appeal of Academic Judgment**

The Council considered an appeal of academic judgments in a special meeting on January 4, 2006. The appeal was resolved in a memo from the Council on January 9, 2006.

The Council considered a proposal to significantly rework the appeals procedure put forth by the Council's GSA representatives, with significant input from Dean Sloan and Chair Schumm. Goals of the new procedures would be to increase the involvement of students in evaluating the merits of the appeal, and to lessen the impact of the appeals process on the Council's agenda. Although much progress was made on the draft proposal, several comments remained to be incorporated by GSA at the end of the 2006 academic year. This revised draft should be brought before the full 2006-2007 Council for review, and then circulated for comment to department chairs, graduate directors, and deans before final approval is given.

### **11. Block Allocation Policy**

The Graduate Council establishes policy for the awarding of the Division of Graduate Studies "block allocation" funds to graduate programs. Existing Council policy allocated the funds based on program enrollments, with a weighting of 1.5 to 1.0 for Ph.D. students relative to Master's students. Certificate programs were not awarded block allocation funding.

With the recent introduction of non-Ph.D. doctoral programs (Ed.D. and DMA) and terminal Master's programs (MFA), the Council found it necessary to reconsider the principles under which it awards block allocation funding. After considering the possibility of establishing overarching principles that would guide allocation to non-Ph.D. doctorates and non-academic Master's, it was decided instead to consider new programs on a case-by-case basis. It was decided that the DMA program would receive funding at the Ph.D. (1.5) level, while the MFA in Digital

Arts and New Media would receive funding at the academic Master's (1.0) level. No funding was awarded to the Ed.D. program, as similar funding is already built into the support provided by UCOP.

In addition, citing the inability of students to obtain Teaching Assistantships, as well as its service to a needed and underrepresented field, the Science Communication Certificate program was awarded funding at the Master's (1.0) level. While clear majorities arose for these decisions, the vote was not unanimous in all cases.

## **12. Other Divisional Policy**

The Council also reviewed a number of proposed changes to the policies of the Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate. The Council reviewed and approved a proposal to change the name of the Committee on Education Abroad Programs to the Committee on International Education, with a somewhat expanded charge. The Council also joined with the Committee on Educational Policy in reviews of final examination requirements and policy relating to the permanent cross-listing of courses.

## **13. Review of Proposals for New or Modified Graduate Courses**

As in previous years, the Subcommittee on Courses reviewed all new course proposals, as well as any course change requests that were not deemed to be pro-forma according to previously established course review policy.

## **14. Statements of Position**

A number of issues came before the Council that required the generation of memos presenting the stance of the Council. These included a review of the 10-year Divisional Plans generated by the Deans in Winter 2006, a review of pre-proposals for professional schools generated as a result of the call put forward by the Senate Executive Committee in 2004-2005, a review of proposed systemwide guidelines on Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry, a review of the report of the Task Force on University Extension, a consideration of the role of language in campus academic programs, and a review of the draft white paper from the systemwide Special Committee on Scholarly Communication. Copies of the Council's statements of position are available from the Academic Senate Office upon request.

## **15. Library Funding for Graduate Programs**

Based on input from a number of sources, the Council developed a deep concern about the state of library funding for graduate programs. As a result, Chair Schumm and Committee on Research chair Judith Aissen had a series of meetings with University Librarian Steel to discuss how to build the case to increase Library funding, and if appropriate, argue before the Executive Vice Chancellor that increased budgetary priority should be given to the Library. In a subsequent meeting between Librarian Steel and EVC Kliger, the EVC expressed his own concern about the state of Library funding, and agreed to look into it. Thus, the GC/COR effort was put on hold pending the outcome of the EVC's decisions about Library funding. It is recommended that the Council explore this issue with Librarian Steel early in the 2006-2007 academic year.

## **16. Graduate Catalog Rights**

In 2004-2005, the Council voted to extend “catalog rights” – the right to be held to the requirements published in the catalog at the time of matriculation – to graduate students, beginning with the 2006 entering class. Until this time, only undergraduate students could refer to the general catalog as the document of record. Recognizing the legal import of this change, the 2005-2006 Council required and received a letter from all graduate programs acknowledging cognizance of the change. The Chair worked with the Registrar’s office to develop language for the general catalog stating informing readers that it stands as the document of record for graduate degree requirements.

## **17. Graduate College**

The notion of a Graduate College was discussed in several meetings, with Schumm, Sloan, and Brenneis, along with GSA representative Kelly Feinstein, forming subcommittee to discuss its formation in a more focused manner. The formation of a Graduate College must be carefully thought through, as to become designated as such, the entity will need approval from the Regents. The idea that emerged would be to have initial activities and curriculum “prototyped” under the auspices of two sponsoring, and diverse, divisions, such as Engineering and Humanities. Academic content would focus in two areas: professional development (pedagogy and career preparation, including professional ethics), and interdisciplinary forums. Social aspects of the college would also revolve around fostering interdisciplinary exchanges. It was generally felt that lack of meetings rooms and eating facilities make the current Graduate Commons somewhat undesirable as an initial locus for the Graduate College. Space being created in the McHenry Library expansion may serve better. To move forward with developing the Graduate College, it is felt that a list of roughly one dozen “Founding Fellows” from the faculty would need to be invited to take part in working out and implementing a prototype proposal.

## **18. Science Illustration**

The 2004-2005 Council oversaw the transfer of the successful Science Illustration certificate program from campus to UCSC Extension. In 2005-2006, the Council invited Extension Dean Cathy Sandeen and Certificate Program Director Ann Caudle to report on the health of the program in its new home. Although with a somewhat larger student-to-teacher ratio to allow the program to be self-supporting, the Science Illustration Program appears to be flourishing.

## **19. Issues Carrying Forward to 2006-2007**

The following issues remain unresolved going into the 2006-2007 academic year:

- Continue exploring the reworking of the procedure for hearing appeals of academic judgment;
- Follow through with editing changes to mentoring guidelines, and distribute to departments and programs;
- Amend the 2003-2004 parenthetical notations policy with language clearly specifying that both departments – the department providing the parenthetical curriculum as well as the department permitting the parenthetical designation – need to join in the request;

- Numerous items relating to the overall welfare of graduate students, including the process of negotiating health insurance packages and premiums, housing, night-time parking, and Student Health Center practices, including billing;
- Continue to examine the crisis in Library funding for graduate programs;
- Ensure that all Master's programs meet the minimum unit requirements established by the 2005-2006 Council;
- Continued probationary oversight of the Mathematics Department;
- Continued review of the Feminist Studies and Film and Digital Media proposals, as the revisions become available;
- Continue to work with the Division of Graduate Studies in developing a structure and plan for a prototype Graduate College

Respectfully submitted,

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Ram Akella

Robert Boltje

Don Brenneis

David Brundage

Teresa DeLauretis (F)

Donka Farkas (W, S)

Donna Hunter

Norma Klahn

Ronnie Lipschutz

Pradip Mascharak

Lisa Sloan, *ex officio*

Bruce Schumm, Chair

GSA Representatives: Ian Dobbs-Dixon Lisa  
Lisa Downward (F)  
Allison Luengen  
Foaad Khosmood (S)

PSA Representatives: Heather Van Epps (W,S)  
Sina Farsiu (S)

LAUC Representative: Beth Remak-Honnef

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