

GRADUATE COUNCIL 2012-13 Annual Report

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Introduction

The Graduate Council coordinates all academic policies and procedures at UC Santa Cruz that bear on the conferring of higher degrees. The Council's primary responsibilities include the review of proposed and existing graduate programs, proposals for new courses and the revision of existing courses, and changes to graduate programs and policies. Council regularly consults with other Senate committees, administrative units, divisions, and departments about a broad range of issues pertaining to graduate education. In 2012-13, the Council's work was focused on (1) generating a broad conversation within the Senate about aspirational graduate growth, (2) carefully considering new program proposals, changes to existing graduate programs, proposals to revise or offer new courses, fellowship reviews, and (3) responding to a wide range of issues pertaining to the Senate and graduate education more generally. A brief overview of Council's work in 2012-13 is provided below.

Aspirational Graduate Growth at UCSC

An Opportunity for Graduate Growth

Despite its history of receiving one of the lowest shares of per-student funding of any of the University's ten campuses, UC Santa Cruz has managed to evolve into a dynamic and well-respected institution that provides significant service to the region, state, and nation. The recent initiative to redress the State's historical practice of providing less funding per student relative to our sister campuses (called 'rebenching') places this campus in a strengthened position to further its stature in the area of research and research-driven education. The increased funding has been tied formally, via conditions imposed by the UC Office of the President, to the goal of increasing the ratio of academic doctoral students to undergraduates to 12%, a significant increase relative to our current ratio of approximately 7%; this amounts to roughly 800 additional Ph.D. students. In a sense, the rebenching resources represent a partial forward-funding, towards the aspirational goal of 12%, of resources associated with the higher cost of educating more Ph.D. students, leading to the use of the term "aspirational graduate growth" to refer to the increased focus on academic doctoral education in response to the rebenching incentive. While this goal will be a challenge to reach, the focus on increasing graduate enrollments on our campus presents an unprecedented opportunity to work towards a long-stated common goal of both the faculty and administration.

Our campus has as of yet received only a fraction of this anticipated relative funding increase. But with the passage of Proposition 30 and the associated stabilization of UC funding, we might expect the remaining implementation to materialize roughly as proposed. It is of interest to the Senate to understand how rebenching resources that have already arrived on campus have been allocated, and to engage the discussion of how further rebenching resources will be allocated. To this end, the Graduate Council kindled a campuswide conversation about graduate growth by delivering oral reports to the Senate at the March 8 and May 29 meetings.

Approaches to Growth

The Graduate Council regularly consulted with ex-officio member, and Dean of Graduate Studies, Tyrus Miller. Under his leadership, the Division of Graduate Studies explored the implications of

reaching towards the 12% goal through a straw scenario that would grow Ph.D. enrollments in a way that would largely preserve the existing disciplinary and programmatic shape of the campus. While no constituency has espoused this as an optimal approach in the deployment of rebenching resources toward the goal of increasing Ph.D. enrollments and overall campus stature, the exercise provides an important benchmark in our development of an understanding of what will be required of the campus and its faculty, staff, and administrators in order to reach toward the 12% goal. Other possible principles for guiding the allocation of rebenching resources, demonstrably associated with but not explicitly indexed to achieving the 12% goal, have been mentioned. For example, the campus could use the resources to strive towards Association of American Universities (AAU) status; it might also focus a significant fraction of them in a coordinated effort to develop a new component of the campus' instructional and research activity that would offer the prospect of significantly transforming the campus' profile. Although such an initiative might be launched in any academic disciplinary area, an example of such an initiative is provided by the development of the Baskin School of Engineering over the past decade.

Ph.D. Enrollments and Next Steps

The 2012-13 admissions cycle offered a positive glimpse of campus' early success at graduate growth. Doctoral student enrollments significantly increased, largely due to programs being able to make more attractive offers, and as a result of greater faculty engagement in the admissions process. Nevertheless, the campus needs to act quickly to develop principles and a plan for graduate growth. The Senate and Administration created a Joint Task Force on Academic Structures and Academic Planning, on which Chair Schumm served. The Task Force concluded its work in Spring 2013 by producing a report that will guide the administration through the strategic planning initiative scheduled to begin in 2013-14. The Council will continue to monitor growth in 2013-14, and is hopeful that clear principles and plans for growth will be promulgated through the initiative.

Changes to Graduate Programs

New Program Proposals

The Graduate Council reviewed one proposal for a new program in 2012-13. In October, the Graduate Council approved a revised proposal for a Master's of Science degree in Games and Playable Media.

New Department Proposals

The Graduate Council reviewed one proposal for a new department in 2012-13. In June, the Council offered its support for the creation of a Technology Management Department. A department to house the existing Technology Information Management programs, and their core faculty, has long been planned and the Council's view is that the new department is being established with that in mind. On the matter of transferring the TIM graduate programs (Ph.D. and Masters) for which the Council's role is plenary, however, the Council was unable to complete its deliberation at least until the latest proposal for the revision of its graduate degree requirements becomes available.

New Concentration Proposals

The Graduate Council reviewed one proposal for a new concentration in 2012-13. In July, the Council approved a proposal from the Literature Department to add a Creative/Critical Writing concentration to its existing Ph.D. program. The concentration will introduce doctoral-level

creative-oriented work into the Literature Department's academic profile, thereby pulling on an outstanding faculty with the unique capability to provide this type of instruction.

Designated Emphasis Proposals

The Graduate Council did not receive any new proposals for Designated Emphases. The Council approved revisions to an existing Designated Emphasis in Latin American & Latino Studies in 2012-13:

- Latin American and Latino Studies – Revisions to program requirements discontinuing the written component, the teaching requirement, and formally opening the DE to Master's students.

Graduate Program Changes & Catalog Statement Revisions

Each year the Graduate Council reviews graduate program changes and catalog statement revisions. While many of the proposals are for insignificant catalog revisions that are quickly approved, some require the Council's full consideration. The following proposals were discussed at length by the Council in 2012-13:

- Electrical Engineering – Proposal for a second Master's track with a project-based capstone (October, June);
- History – Proposal to re-open admissions for graduate students in Modern Europe for the 2013-14 academic year (November); additionally, the Council reviewed a proposal to restructure History's curriculum to emphasize transnational methods of teaching and research (June);
- Politics – Proposal for a departmental policy governing student probation periods (November);
- Visual Studies – Proposal to extend the deadline for Qualifying Exams from Fall to Winter of a student's third year (December);
- Latin American and Latino Studies – Proposal to modify requirements to the approved Designated Emphasis (January, February);
- History of Consciousness – Proposal to significantly revise program content (January);
- Technology Information Management – Proposal to revise curriculum and the capstone requirement (March, June); additionally, the Council reviewed a proposal to transfer the TIM graduate programs (Ph.D. and Masters) to the newly established Technology Management Department, but was unable to offer its approval until planned revisions to the graduate degree requirements are made available (June);
- Biomolecular Engineering – Proposal to revise curriculum and the capstone requirement (April, June);
- Literature – Proposal to modify the Ph.D. qualifying exam (April); additionally, the Council reviewed and approved a proposal to add a concentration in Creative/Critical Writing to its existing Ph.D. program (June, July);
- Education – The Council reviewed and approved a proposal from the Education Department to establish a cohort of its Master's program in Silicon Valley, and for it to be administered by University Extension (May, June);
- History of Art and Visual Culture – Proposal to adjust the time for advancement to candidacy (June);
- Economics Department – The Council reviewed and acknowledged the department's intention to reopen admissions to the Master's program in Applied Economics and Finance, which were self-suspended in 2011-12, and again in 2012-13; the department

expects the first cohort of students to begin in fall of 2014 (July).

Course Approvals

A sub-committee of Graduate Council members (Kudela, Poblete, Thomas) reviewed and approved 40 new graduate courses, and 78 course revisions.

Program External Reviews

The Graduate Council participated in the external review of two programs in 2012-13: Art, and Psychology. The Council responded to the draft charges for upcoming external reviews in Environmental Studies, History of Art & Visual Culture, Philosophy, Physics, and Science Communication. The Council also reviewed mid-cycle reports from Education, Linguistics, Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Biomolecular Engineering, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Digital Arts & New Media. In addition to the Council's regular business with academic program external reviews, they also reviewed a self study from the Office of Research.

Fellowship Review

Throughout the year, several subcommittees of Graduate Council members advised the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies on the selection of Cota Robles (Aptheker, Poblete, Rubin, Wang), and Dissertation Year (Aptheker, Kudela, L. Miller, Schumm) Fellowships.

Issues for the Senate and Graduate Education

Proposal to Adjust Composite Benefit Rates And Include Summer Salary

In Summer 2012, the UC Office of the President began briefing the systemwide Senate on a plan to reduce the number of rates charged by employee type on each campus, with the goals of simplifying the billing system and aligning it with UCPATH, the new payroll and HR system. Campuses began reviewing the policy in Fall and many faculty, including those on the Graduate Council, expressed alarm over how the policy would significantly increase the benefit rate charged to summer salary. It is the Graduate Council's sense that this increase would have a direct, and negative, impact on the faculty's ability to support graduate education. This sense was reinforced by a study done by the Council Chair, also a member of the Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics. The study shows the impact of an increase in the summer salary percentage benefit rate by 16.5 points (from 13.5% to 30%), about half of the worst-case scenario of a 30 point increase, on the Department-of-Energy supported component of SCIPP activity (the component most readily evaluated in short order). The resulting loss of approximately five quarters of graduate student research support is an underestimate, in that indirect costs would be charged to all of the increase in faculty benefits, but only a portion of those indirect costs would be recouped if graduate support were reduced, since indirect costs are not charged on tuition and fees. Thus, for a 30 point increase in the benefit rate, something between two and three graduate student or postdoctoral positions would be lost, out of a total of approximately 15-20 such positions that are currently supported. The Council urged campus administrators to work with UCOP to see that the final proposal does not contain the summer salary provision.

Proposal to Assess Ph.D. Programs at the Qualifying Exam

The Graduate Council consulted with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs on his proposal to assess program learning outcomes and offered its support for proceeding, on a trial basis, with an assessment that is geared towards programs, and not students. The Council asked that all departments and programs be clearly instructed that the assessment is for the evaluation of

program quality and efficacy, and it is not directly tied to the satisfaction of degree requirements and the evaluation of student's mastery of their field of study. The proposal also instigated a discussion of whether Ph.D. students are, in general, appropriately apprised of the criteria on which their fitness for Ph.D. candidacy will be evaluated, but there was not a clear consensus among the Council as to whether or not the proposed structure can serve the purpose of regularizing that aspect of our Ph.D. programs. The Council plans to continue that discussion next year.

Local and Systemwide Business

Graduate Council discussed and provided comment on a number of local and systemwide issues, including the following:

LOCAL

- Technology and Information Management External Review Deferral Request (October);
- Approval of the Revised Games and Playable Media M.S. Program Proposal (October);
- Draft Guidelines for Degree Program Learning Outcomes (December);
- Proposal from the Student Union Assembly to Include Course Syllabi on the Student Portal (December);
- Office of Research Self Study External Review (December);
- Dean of Graduate Studies Membership on the Academic Structures Joint Task Force (January);
- Review of the Five-Year Perspectives 2013-14 – 2017-18 (January);
- Campuswide License for Plagiarism Detecting Software (February);
- Proposal from the VPAA for the Assessment of Ph.D. Programs at the Qualifying Exam (March, June);
- Proposal from the Committee on Planning & Budget for an Ambassador Fellowship Program (April);
- Revisions to the Graduate Course Approval Supplement Sheet to better integrate Regulations 762 (April);
- Proposal from the Division of Undergraduate Education, and the Division of Graduate Studies, to Offer a Graduate Certificate in Pedagogy and Teaching (June);
- Review of five FTE Transfers, one from Latin American & Latino Studies to Environmental Studies, two from the School of Engineering to Technology Management (pending establishment), one from Literature to Latin American & Latino Studies, and one from Applied Mathematics & Statistics to Computer Engineering (various dates).

SYSTEMWIDE

- Systemwide Review of Proposed New Policy APM - 430, Visiting Scholars (October);
- Systemwide Review of the Rebenching Report (October);
- Systemwide Review of the Open Access Policy Proposal (November);
- Proposal to Change Composite Benefit Rates (December).

PRESENTATIONS AT SENATE MEETINGS

- March 8, 2013 – A Report on Aspirational Graduate Growth at UCSC;
- May 29, 2013 – An Update on Graduate Growth at UCSC.

CONSULTATIONS

- Director of Silicon Valley Initiatives Gordon Ringold on the topics of ongoing academic and professional activities at the Silicon Valley campus, and the direction it is headed in (February 21, 2013);
- Campus Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor Alison Galloway on the topics of the growth of graduate enrollments as catalyzed by the rebenching mandate, and the successful initiative to bring UCSC into the Coursera consortium (May 16, 2013).

Issues Carrying Forward to 2012-13

Graduate Council identified the following issues carrying over into the next academic year:

- Monitor campus progress at achieving graduate growth;
- Review existing Master's program capstone requirements to ensure that they are at once comprehensive and sufficiently rigorous;
- Study whether Ph.D. students are, in general, appropriately apprised of the criteria on which their fitness for Ph.D. candidacy will be evaluated by their department or program;
- Draft guidelines for informal Academic Graduate Certificate Programs;
- Continue to monitor graduate programs that are struggling.

Respectfully submitted;

GRADUATE COUNCIL

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