

## GRADUATE COUNCIL Annual Report 2013-14

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

### **Introduction**

The Graduate Council (GC) 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. An overview of the Graduate Council's work in 2013-14 is provided below.

### UCSC Graduate Growth

Sponsored by the Senate Executive Committee, Chair Schumm led a group of three Senate committee chairs (Committee on Educational Policy, Committee on Academic Personnel, Graduate Council) in the development of draft principles to guide the growth of graduate education on our campus. Unfortunately the initiative began too late in the year to bring the process of developing the Principles for Graduate Growth to fruition, which in the opinion of the group should include endorsement by the Executive committee followed by a review by the full Senate. The draft principles have been put before the Executive Committee; it is the hope of the group that the issue will be taken up first thing in Academic Year 2014-2015.

### Graduate Proposals, Programmatic Revisions, and Reviews

#### **New Program Proposals**

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved a proposal for a Master of Science (M.S.) in Scientific Computing and Applied Mathematics (SciCAM) from the Department of Statistics and Applied Mathematics (May 2014).

#### **New Department Proposals**

The Graduate Council reviewed a proposal to establish a Department of Computational Media (CM) in the Baskin School of Engineering (May 2014). The proposed department would be composed primarily, at least initially, of faculty that are currently members of the Computer Science Department. The Council advised that department establishment should be postponed until the report from the Computer Science external review committee is available next year. The Council's role in this matter is advisory, with approval of department establishment coming from the CPEVC.

#### **New Designated Emphasis Proposals**

Three Designated Emphasis proposals were brought before the Council this year:

- Proposal for a **Designated Emphasis in Social Documentation** from the Department of Film and Digital Media, approved by the Council in January 2014.
- Proposal for a **Designated Emphasis in Mechanistic, Structural and Chemical Biology** from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The Council reviewed this proposal in fall quarter, and consulted with Professor Rubin from the Department of Chemistry and

Biochemistry (and GC member). Professor Rubin concurred that the proposal might be better suited as a concentration, and committed to address issues raised by the Council with his department and revisit the proposal at a later date.

- Proposal for a **Designated Emphasis in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES)** from CRES program faculty, approved by the Council in June 2014.

### **New Graduate Certificate Proposal**

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved a proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Science and Justice from the Science & Justice Center in the Division of Social Sciences. Campus approval of the certificate program was granted in May 2014.

### **Graduate Program Changes and Catalog Statement Revisions**

Each year the Graduate Council reviews graduate program changes and catalog statement revisions. While many of the proposals are for minor catalog revisions that are quickly approved, some require the Council's full consideration. The following proposals were discussed at length by the Council in 2013-14:

- Digital Arts and New Media—Proposal to extend MFA from 2 to 3 years (October 2013)
- Electrical Engineering—Proposal for a second Master's track with a project based capstone (March 2014)
- Masters in Applied Economics and Finance: Request to give applicants to the program the option of substituting the GMAT for GRE (May 2014)
- Computer Engineering—Proposal for a second master's track with a project-based capstone and changes to catalog copy (February, May, June 2014)
- History—Changes to catalog copy reflecting course changes (February 2014)
- Philosophy—Proposal to add a new course and a "substantial paper" to program requirements and the addition of a Logic requirement for the Ph.D.(February/March 2014)
- Biomolecular Engineering—Proposal to revise curriculum requirements and shorten normative time requirements (February 2014, June 2014)
- Science Communication—Proposal to remove previously required subject-area GRE exam for applicants (February, April 2014)
- Chemistry and Biochemistry—Proposal includes changes to grad courses, exam requirements, and other minor changes to shorten time to degree (February 2014)
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology—Proposal for graduate program curriculum change, adding one core graduate course to Master of Science curriculum (February 2014)
- Economics—Proposal to streamline timelines for program benchmarks (March 2014)
- Sociology—Proposal to require an oral dissertation defense for the Ph.D. (March 2014)
- Mathematics—Proposal to eliminate the oral defense requirement (April, June 2014)
- Computer Science—Proposal clarifying required course sequence for Master of Science degree (April 2014)
- Feminist Studies—Proposal to eliminate the teaching requirement from the Designated Emphasis (June 2014)
- Technology and Information Management—Graduate Council reviewed program degree requirements, capstone requirements, and curriculum staffing plans (October, November, February, April, May). The Council approved the transfer of the TIM graduate programs

(Ph.D. and Masters) to the Technology Management (TM) Department (May 2014). The Council identified a set of criteria for the TIM programs to meet to avoid suspension in the next academic year (May 2014). See further discussion below.

- Education—The Council reviewed degree requirements and curriculum, including a proposal for a single track Ph.D. program, curricular staffing plans, changes to M.A. credential program (February, March, April, June). The Council reviewed a request from the Education Department to suspend admissions (December 2013) and identified a set of criteria for the Education Department to meet to avoid suspension beginning with the 2015-16 year (February 2014).

### **Course Approvals**

A subcommittee of three Graduate Council members reviewed 39 new graduate courses and 73 course revisions.

### **Program External Reviews**

The Graduate Council participated in the external review of four programs in 2013-14: Science Communication, Environmental Studies, History of Art and Visual Culture, and Philosophy. The Council responded to the draft charges for upcoming external reviews in Electrical Engineering, Literature, Latin American and Latino Studies, Theater Arts, History of Consciousness, Mathematics, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Technology Management, and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The Council also reviewed the mid-cycle report from the Music Department.

### **Fellowship Review**

Throughout the year, subcommittees of Graduate Council members advised the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies on the selection of Cota Robles (Gould, Poblete, Schumm, Tan) and Dissertation Year (Bowin, Garaud, Kletzer, L. Miller) Fellowships.

### **Local and Systemwide Issues**

Graduate Council discussed and responded to numerous campus and systemwide issues. A few issues are highlighted below, followed by a listing of the local and systemwide issues and proposals reviewed by the Council in 2013-14.

### **TIM Graduate Programs**

In Academic Year 2012-2013, the Council was consulted about the formation of the Technology Management (TM) Department and the transfer of the TIM graduate programs (Ph.D. and professional Masters) from the Baskin School of Engineering (BSOE) into the TM Department. The Council saw these as two distinct actions, for the first of which the Council's role is advisory, while for the second the Council (and if warranted, the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs) maintains plenary authority. In AY 2013-2014 the Council wrote a letter of support for the formation of the TM Department, but withheld its approval of the transfer of the TIM graduate programs into the TM Department until further review could take place.

During the course of the 2013-2014 academic year, the Graduate Council spent considerable time assessing the TIM program and discussing the ramifications of transferring its administrative home

from the Baskin School of Engineering (BSOE) into the TM Department. During the course of the discussion, the Council was visited by BSOE Dean Ramirez as well as TIM core faculty member Akella. Council Chair Schumm also had numerous one-on-one consultations with VPAA Lee, TIM Director Haddad, and the two other remaining TIM core faculty (Musacchio and Zhang). The Senate analyst and Chair Schumm also extensively researched the records of the Graduate Council over the years since the TIM proposal was first approved in order to reconstruct a history of Graduate Council actions relating to the TIM program from then until the current time. After this lengthy process, the Council concluded that the best home for the TIM program – the administrative locus within which it is likely to get the greatest support and enjoy the greatest likelihood for success – is within the newly-formed TM department, and granted its approval. The systemwide CCGA concurred with the Council's decision in June 2014.

In approving the transfer, however, the Council noted that it had not developed comfort with the state of the TIM graduate programs. The Council was deeply concerned about the ability of the program to staff a UC-quality curriculum for its M.S. and Ph.D. programs, and to attract qualified students to them. The TIM graduate programs have struggled along a lengthy obstacle-ridden path since activity first began on their development over 10 years ago. In the view of the Council, campus investments in the area of TM/TIM have not to date produced a faculty with the capacity to support the two TIM graduate degrees at a level commensurate with UC quality. This assessment was supported by the Technology Management External Review Committee Report (May 2014). Thus, the Council set forth a series of issues of concern and watch-points that it intends to monitor closely over the next few years, and has conditioned its approval of continued admissions to the TIM graduate programs to be contingent upon an appropriate degree of progress in satisfying these concerns.

### **Education Ph.D. Program**

The Graduate Council received a request from the acting chair of the Education Department to consider suspending admissions to its Ph.D. program for at least two years (December 2013). Since that time and over the course of the academic year, the Council has extensively monitored and reviewed the Education Department's graduate degree program, requirements, and curriculum staffing plans, as well as consulted with the receiver Chair and faculty from the program regarding the suspension request.

The consideration of suspension of admissions to the Education Ph.D. program was initiated due to concerns that the department faculty could not mount the appropriate courses to move students toward the degree, the potential competition for resources with the MA/C and Ed.D. programs, and overall ability of the department to govern itself effectively. After appropriate deliberation and consultation, the Council decided not to suspend admissions, and in correspondence to the Education Department, outlined a set of criteria for the department to meet in order to avoid suspension (February 20, 2014). The Council further requested that the Education Department provide an annual report appraising the Council of the status of the Education Ph.D. program (April 18, 2014). This report will be submitted to the Council by September 20<sup>th</sup> each year, from September 2014 to September 2017, with the possibility of extending the annual report requirement as determined by the Council. The Graduate Council approved the Education

Department's degree requirements, catalog copy, and curriculum staffing plan (June 18, 2014). The Council also acknowledged the department faculty's responsiveness and work on the issues reviewed by the Council during the 2013-14 academic year. The Council will continue to monitor the Education Ph.D. program in the coming year.

### **Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP) Policy**

Graduate Council reviewed two versions of the proposed revised Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs Policy (December 2013, June 2014), which provides guidelines for programs that generate revenues from student charges to support all costs of the programs and costs incurred by departments/schools and campuses on behalf of the programs. The Council expressed concern that the expansion of non-state supported programs, if not done in a responsible fashion, may erode the principle of universal access to higher education across California's diverse citizenry that lies at the very core of the state's commitment to public higher education. The Council noted that while the SSGPDP draft did include language about financial accessibility, and while consideration of the issue is required of any group proposing the creation of or conversion to a self-supporting program, the draft policy was not able to be specific as to what will be expected of SSGPDP programs. The Council was deeply concerned that attention to access at the program-by-program level may, in aggregate, lead to an unrecognized degradation of access to the totality of graduate professional programs. To this end, the Council referred to a study of access to professional degrees conducted several years ago by the UC Office of the President, at the request of the Academic Senate. A follow-up memo from CCGA, endorsed by the Academic Council and forwarded to the President, recommended a specific set of demographic data that should be required of all professional degree programs, and that this data be collected and used to inform a study of access on a periodic basis. This recommendation was not followed through upon; in its response to both versions of the policy, the Council recommended that this memo be revisited. The Council felt strongly that the University, in its refusal to monitor the "big picture" of access to professional degree programs, is flirting with a negligence that if left unchecked could undermine the very nature of public graduate education in California. The Council also notes that the recommendations of the CCGA memo were developed in collaboration with UCOP analysts and designed to be of minimal burden to the institution and its programs.

### **Local and Systemwide Business, Consultations**

#### **LOCAL**

- Draft Proposal for a Masters Incentive Program (October 2013)
- UCSC International Recruitment Assessment Draft Report (October 2013)
- Revised Strategic Academic Plan for Silicon Valley (November 2013)
- Economics Department: Request for External Review Deferment (November 2013)
- Proposal from Earth and Planetary Sciences for a Departmental Spousal/Relationship Policy on Graduate Committees (November 2013)
- Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB): Cluster Hire Principles (November 2013)
- Request from Education Department to Suspend Admissions to its Ph.D. Program (December 2013)
- Committee on Research (COR): Proposal for UCSC Outstanding Dissertation Awards (December 2013)

- VPDUE Proposal for Support of International Student Growth and Campus Globalization (January 2014)
- VPAA Request: Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) (February 2014)
- VPAA Request: Overseeing Deans of Academic Programs (February 2014)
- Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology Request to allow use of an old program title on a Ph.D. degree (February 2014)
- Review of the Five-Year Perspectives 2014-15 to 2018-19 (February 2014)
- Proposal to change Language Program to Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics (February 2014)
- Film and Digital Media: Request for External Review Deferment (February 2014)
- Review of Faculty Recruitment Requests 2014-15 (March 2014)
- GPA Calculation for Graduate Students Repeating a Course: Request for clarification of policy from the Registrar and VPDGS Miller (April/May 2014)
- Draft WASC Accreditation Institutional Report (May 2014)
- American Studies Disestablishment and Associated Program Discontinuance (May 2014)
- Review of Music Department Mid-Cycle Review Report, Request for response on length of review cycle from VPAA (May 2014)
- Campus Requests for Online Course Proposals: Cross-Campus Enrollments, Coursera (June 2014)

#### SYSTEMWIDE

- Proposal for Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP) Policy (December 2013)
- Revised Proposal for Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP) Policy (June 2014)
- Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) Proposed Guidance on Degree Titles (January 2014)
- Proposed Revisions to Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policy (January 2014)
- Review of the Academic Planning Council's (APC) approved changes to the Compendium (April 2014)

#### CONSULTATIONS

- Dean of Graduate Studies Tyrus Miller: on draft guidelines and policy regarding graduate student transfers to other UCSC programs (October 2013)
- Dean of Graduate Studies Tyrus Miller: on Masters Incentive Program proposal (November 2013)
- Professor Seth Rubin: on the proposal for a Designated Emphasis in Mechanistic, Structural, and Chemical Biology (December 2013)
- Education Department Chair Dana Takagi: on the request that GC consider suspending admissions to the Education Ph.D. program (January 2014)
- Education Department Professors Ron Glass, George Bunch, and Rod Ogawa: on the request that GC consider suspending admission to the Education Department Ph.D. program (January 2014)

- BSOE Dean Art Ramirez: on transfer of TIM program to TM Department (March 2014)
- TIM Program Faculty Ram Akella: on transfer of TIM program to TM Department (April 2014)

**Continuing Issues in 2014-15**

- **Graduate growth**—continue working collaboratively within the Senate to develop graduate growth principles; continue to assess how to best monitor and support campus progress at achieving graduate growth
- **Education Ph.D. program**—continue to monitor program
- **Technology and Information Management Graduate Programs**—continue to monitor programs

Respectfully submitted;  
GRADUATE COUNCIL

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