

GRADUATE COUNCIL 2018-19 Annual Report

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

Graduate Council (GC) worked on several issues this year. The Council's pro-active work included continued participation in the Senate's review of the draft campus Strategic Academic Plan; a focus on graduate growth and graduate student research, including consultation with the Campus Provost/ Executive Vice Chancellor (CP/EVC); participation with the Committees on Planning and Budget (CPB) and Educational Policy (CEP) on a historical study of Teaching Assistant (TA) allocations; and collaboration with the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) on changes to fellowship review and the establishment of the Graduate Division as a course sponsoring agency. Other business included review of graduate program curricular changes and adoption of the new campus SmartCatalog system; review of new degree program and 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 welcomed new Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Lori Kletzer this year, and formally consulted with her 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 2018-19 is provided below.

Strategic Academic Plan (SAP)

Graduate Council reviewed drafts of the Strategic Academic Plan (SAP) on two occasions during the 2018-19 year (winter and spring 2019). Council had limited time on its agendas to devote to SAP review, however, GC recognized the importance of weighing in given the limited space and specific attention devoted to graduate education in previous SAP documents. The first draft reviewed during winter 2019 was a "rewrite" of the SAP and Implementation Playbook, a revision of the draft presented to the Senate over summer 2018. The Council noted that this draft addressed the earlier lack of attention to graduate education, although there were many areas where graduate education was still missing or was not substantially integrated. In its response to this draft, Council emphasized how doctoral growth has proven an intractable campus problem, because it is both expensive and the most tied to excellence in research—with the capacity to contribute to interdisciplinarity and to further innovation in the Academic Priority Areas (APAs). The Council's feedback focused, as requested, on the design principles, ensuing initiatives, and plans for implementation. However, the Council also noted that a set of assumptions embedded within the SAP draft remained a concern to be addressed, including: the definition of student as a reference to all students, even when the intended referent is undergraduates; the relationship between different kinds of researchers—i.e. faculty and graduate student research not always aligned; and the need to recognize and plan for the resource commitments to support doctoral growth. Overall, the Council appreciated the ways in which the "rewrite" of the SAP draft included and integrated attention to graduate education, and the Council provided a set of targeted feedback where graduate education and graduate students might be even more meaningfully included, as well as specific goals and initiatives the Council endorsed, including ways in which inclusion of Graduate Council and the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies could play a critical role and be included in specific initiatives. Council also raised issues to bring more specificity to the broader goals of diversity, including expanding the ways in which we think about diversity to include what diverse students bring to the table (vs. operating within a model of deficiency) and calls for a broader decolonization of the curriculum. Graduate Council also raised questions about interdisciplinarity in context of graduate education, and suggested it may be time to re-engage with the discussion of graduate groups and fully

engage with the barriers that are organizational and logistical in supporting generative interdisciplinary connections in research and teaching. The Council noted that the spring revision (“Final Draft” of the SAP) did include further integration of initiatives focused on graduate education, and while, in Council’s view, there remains much work to be done to meaningfully engage graduate education issues, there was consensus among the Council that this draft had begun that process. As the campus’s new administrative leadership identifies plans to move forward with SAP implementation in the next year, Graduate Council looks forward to the centering of graduate education goals as a key component of implementation plans.

Graduate Growth: Growing and Sustaining Graduate Student Research

During the 2018-19 academic year, the Council decided that a re-focus on graduate growth was needed, and this year’s graduate growth subcommittee worked on the goal of furthering the committee’s previous work.¹ The Council began the year by inviting then-CP/EVC Marlene Tromp to consult with the Council, with the intent to focus on GC’s 2017 “Statement and Report on Strengthening Graduate Programs at UCSC,” and specifically to elicit the administration’s vision and thinking about graduate education as a central campus priority; funding for graduate education, including steps the campus could take to align funding with its stated focus on graduate education; and on how graduate education would figure as a priority in the 2019-20 faculty FTE process. CP/EVC Tromp noted her willingness to continue to consult with the Council and suggested a future consultation that would include the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget. The subcommittee’s work and focus this year ultimately culminated in a report to the Academic Senate, “Growing and Sustaining Graduate Student Research at UCSC” (May 2019). The report begins from the premise that research and Ph.D. graduate education are important parts of the UC/UCSC ecosystem, valuable and of high priority for the campus. However, the question of how UCSC will finance graduate student growth needs to be grappled with, and the report presented an analysis that clarifies the true cost of research, in essence highlighting that Ph.D. level research does not pay for itself and that therefore other funding sources must be created and redirected to make up the gap. The deficit, the report argued, is caused by both indirect cost recovery (ICR) that is not “on average” sufficient to cover the costs of Ph.D. research and the additional funds needed to support graduate students. Findings are in line with and support Council’s previous report that calls for central campus leadership and a central-administration driven comprehensive strategic plan for establishing and reaching graduate growth targets, and this report hopes to further efforts to plan strategically for graduate growth by modeling a clear picture of the financial costs. The Council expects that it will continue to engage with the issues presented in this year’s report in 2019-20 as part of the Council’s broader interest in strengthening graduate education on the campus. The subcommittee received much feedback that revealed interest from many parts of the campus in this year’s report, and Council is particularly interested, given recent transitions in campus leadership, in continued conversations with the administration about how graduate education figures as a priority for the campus.

Curriculum Management: Implementation of SmartCatalog

In 2018-19, the campus implemented SmartCatalog, a new curriculum management system. The Graduate Council Chair and Graduate Council staff analyst worked actively with the Curriculum Management Project (CMP) team and in collaboration with the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) Chair and analyst this year, coordinating logistical issues related to program statement review in the new system. From Graduate Council’s perspective, the implementation of SmartCatalog did not go as smoothly as expected, however, CMP Manager Don Moonshine generously offered his time and support throughout this year’s process. Delays in implementation of the new system translated into program statements that were submitted on a later timeline than during normal years, which did not allow the usual pre-review of statements and reduced Graduate Council’s overall time to review proposed changes. In addition, a number of problems and system bugs were discovered during the review; systemic issues are expected during implementation of any new system, and the Council is hopeful that the issues that most negatively impact Senate review will be

¹ This work includes, most recently, Graduate Council’s Statement and Report on Strengthening and Growing Graduate Programs at UCSC (May 2017).

remedied in future cycles. Overall, the Council perceived that the system was built with less focus on the specific needs and relative knowledge of end-users/Senate faculty reviewers in mind. With the first cycle of SmartCatalog complete, the Graduate Council Chair and CEP Chair identified a number of issues that they would like to see remedied during next year's process (GC and CEP to CMP 7/19/19). The Council will continue to work with CMP Manager Don Moonshine and his team during the summer, as well as into 2019-20, as the second year of implementation gets underway. GC expects that next year will see improvements in both the system and review process timeline that will have a positive impact on Senate review.

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 during winter 2019, and amended the document to include 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). This delegation was additionally extended for the 2019-20 year, and will be reviewed at the end of the next academic year.

VPDGS 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 newly appointed Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) Lori Kletzer. This orientation overview for the Council focused on a general overview of the Graduate Division, VPDGS Kletzer's mission and vision for the Graduate Division, as well as her key goals for graduate education. VPDGS Kletzer also presented data related to graduate enrollment growth (number of applicants and yield for the campus and by department/program and division) and funding trends over the last five years.

Dissertation Year, Dissertation Quarter, and Cota-Robles Fellowship Report: GC requested a consultation with VPDGS Kletzer on process and outcomes for the Dissertation Year Fellowships (DYF) and Cota-Robles Fellowships. The consultation focused on review of the Cota Robles review process, including review of data on outcomes from the previous year. Members later received information about divisional review of the DYF. However, during the consultation, VPDGS Kletzer raised the matter of best practices for divisional committees and the need for further Council discussion of that issue. This will be taken up in fall 2019, when the Council will also review DYF divisional review data.

Review of Block Allocation Formula: This consultation focused on the general annual overview of the block allocation formula, including the factors considered, how it is determined, and how allocations are made across programs, as well as a general overview of the Master's Incentive Funds (MIP) program. VPDGS Kletzer shared with the Council that the full block allocation spreadsheet, for the first time, was shared with all departments/programs, and noted that most appreciated the transparency.

GC requested, in its pre-consultation memo, that VPDGS Kletzer provide her annual report on graduate academic integrity cases for the previous year and a report on delegations and re-delegations of authority

as an information item. Due to time constraints, these items were not discussed and will be followed up on next year.

Graduate Admissions Report: VPDGS Kletzer presented a graduate admissions report, including applications, admissions, and acceptances for the coming year. Graduate Council also requested, and received, an update on racial/ethnic diversity and gender statistics in application, acceptance, and admission data in the context of the Graduate Division's goals for increasing diversity. These data were presented by division over the last three years and included reasons for declined offers over this same period. At last year's consultation on this topic, then-VPDGS Miller expressed concerns about racial/ethnic diversity, noting low numbers from applicants through accepted offers, particularly for African American and Latinx students. VPDGS Kletzer noted that underrepresented minority (URM) trends are up for applications, but down for acceptances. The Council discussed barrier issues, including housing and lack of competitive offers for the campus. Members noted the need to have stronger discussion based on data about diversity *within* the "URM" category.

The consultation calendar, now in its third year, has strengthened communication and sharing of information on several key issues between Graduate Council and the VPDGS, who serves as *ex-officio* member of the Council. The Council looks forward to continued collaboration with the new Acting Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Quentin Williams in the coming year.

Additional Collaborations:

Graduate Council and VPDGS Kletzer collaborated on two additional matters this year. First, Graduate Council and VPDGS Kletzer, over a number of Graduate Council meetings and initiated by VPDGS Kletzer, discussed the role of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) in both the Cota-Robles and the Chancellor's fellowship review process. This discussion was precipitated by the knowledge that departments/programs on campus are increasingly not requiring GRE scores for consideration of admission (consistent with national trends), in the context of research that has called into question the predictive ability of the GRE for graduate student "success" and especially its limitations in predicting success for underrepresented minority students. The Council decided that beginning with the 2019-20 cycle, the Cota-Robles will no longer consider GRE scores as part of the fellowship selection process. In addition, beginning the 2019-20 cycle, divisions are encouraged to consider blocking the GRE information in reviews for the Chancellor's fellowship for entering doctoral students. This decision was communicated to Deans, department chairs, faculty graduate directors, and staff graduate advisors in joint correspondence from the GC Chair and VPDGS (12/13/18).

Second, the Council supported VPDGS Kletzer and collaborated with her to bring about a change to establish the Graduate Division as a course sponsoring agency. This status initially allows the Graduate Division to sponsor and administer coursework for the Graduate Preparation Program for incoming first year international students (non-credit bearing courses). Approval as a course sponsoring agency will also allow the Graduate Division, in the future, to offer additional courses that span the disciplines and are more logically situated within the Graduate Division, such as courses on professional development. The Council noted that several of our UC sister campuses already have Graduate Divisions approved to offer such professional development courses.

Review of 2019-20 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 reviewed CPB pre-consultation memos and dean responses, where available, to inform its review.

Council's recommendations this year did not opine or rank all requests. The difficulty in arriving at recommendations stemmed from the fact that responses to the call did not always address how graduate education, in particular, would be affected by the new hires, even though the call specified doctoral growth as one of the four drivers. Graduate Council's recommendations, therefore, highlighted its understanding of how it viewed the FTE process with respect to graduate education, commenting on divisional plans where the impact on graduate programs was clear, and not commenting where there was insufficient evidence to form a conclusion. Graduate Council underscored its sense that the Strategic Academic Planning process could help correct for one of the persistent problems in addressing graduate education on this campus—the problem of driving faculty hiring through undergraduate educational demands or siloed research agendas, although the Council also recognized that graduate education has not yet been fully integrated into the SAP and into campus planning. The Council outlined several issues related to graduate criteria that might be highlighted in future calls and might be more clearly articulated in divisional responses, including in the following areas: masters vs. terminal degree programs, graduate metrics and analysis, graduate training (i.e. how we capture labor and diversity implications), faculty involvement in graduate education, translation into APAs, and interdisciplinarity.

Council appreciates the opportunity extended by the CP/EVC to participate in the FTE review process. Next year's Council will consider how it can best participate in the review process, keeping in mind the need to balance meaningful review and its already heavy agenda, in the context of an assessment of impact.

Historical Study of TA Allocations and Proposal for Regularization: GC, CEP, CPB

During 2018-19, the Chairs of Graduate Council (GC), the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), and the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB), in collaboration with the Office of Planning and Budget, examined the recent history of TA allocations dating back to 2008, motivated by a concern that campus allocation of TA resources might not be equitable. The committees produced a brief report, and based on this work, the three Senate committees supported a proposal for additional funding to be allocated for TA positions in the Social Sciences and Physical and Biological Sciences divisions. This report was forwarded to the CP/EVC (GC, CEP, CPB to CP/EVC 2/22/19). CP/EVC Tromp responded that temporary augmentation had been or would be provided to Social Sciences and PBSci for 2019-20. CP/EVC Tromp also noted that the Office of Planning and Budget would be working on refining academic resource funding models, which would include starting a workgroup that would include the participation of Academic Deans and Senate committees. The Council looks forward to participating in that effort once it is launched.

Program Monitoring

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

Graduate Council, over several meetings during winter and spring 2019, 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. Graduate Council decided to continue monitoring DANM in the next year, and expects to work with the program in early fall as it continues to work on curricular changes (GC to DANM 6/21/19).

Education Ph.D. Program

Graduate Council has consistently praised the Education department for its thorough recent reports about the status of its Ph.D. program over the last few years, as well as the progress the department has made toward addressing the issues raised by the Council. This year, the Council provided a set of less data-intensive questions for the department's report to address (GC to Education 2/11/19), which the Council received and reviewed during spring quarter. The department's report was thorough, highlighting the strategic planning and visioning work of the department in context of its strengths and needs. The Council appreciates that this is an important time for department planning, with the recent transition in leadership and governance structure, and made the decision that no additional reporting is required at this time.

Feminist Studies Ph.D. Program

The Council reviewed and discussed a report submitted by the Feminist Studies Department during spring 2019, responding to a set of questions posed by the Council (GC to FMST 6/26/18) related to department climate and impacts on the Ph.D. program. Graduate Council monitoring of Feminist Studies began in 2016-17 during review of the 2015-16 External Review Committee report findings. Chair Gina Dent was recused from Council review of the program, which was led by Chair *Pro Tem* Lissa Caldwell.

While the Council commended the department on its efforts and progress to date, the report raised further questions for the Council. During spring 2019, the Council consulted with the Feminist Studies Chair and Acting Humanities Dean Bassi in order to better engage in dialogue about the issues faced by the department and impacts on the Ph.D. program. The Council commended the department upon learning of various successes in the department. It also noted lingering concerns and requested a follow-up report, to be submitted in winter 2020.

Regular Committee Business

New Degree Program Proposals

Graduate Council reviewed and approved a proposal for a new M.S. in Human Computer Interaction with PDST (December 2018).

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 proposals for Five-Year Contiguous Bachelor's/Master's proposed by the following: Statistical Science (April 2019), linking the M.S. with various related existing undergraduate degrees, with a fall 2019 launch; Science Education and Education MA/C (April 2019), planned launch in fall 2020; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (May 2019) linking the EEB M.A. with related existing undergraduate degrees, with a planned launch of fall 2020. The Council also reviewed and approved two proposals for Designated Emphases: Coastal Science and Policy (April 2019), Computational Media (May 2019). Both are effective fall 2019.

Graduate Council also reviewed a proposal from the Astronomy and Astrophysics department to establish a Ph.D. dual degree pathway with Swinburne University of Technology Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing. After significant research and multiple consultations with CCGA and systemwide staff on the feasibility of dual-degree proposals, as well as any best practices to ensure success of programs, the proposal was not approved.

Discontinuances

GC reviewed and approved the proposal to discontinue the following: the Theater Arts certificate (October 2019); the Science Communication Graduate Academic Certificate (January 2019); and the Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology M.A. (April 2019).

External Reviews

The Council submitted questions for upcoming external reviews for Art, Computational Media, Philosophy, and Psychology. In addition, the Council prepared external review report responses for closure meeting discussion for Linguistics and Chemistry. The Council also reviewed mid-cycle reports and made recommendations on length of review cycle for Digital Arts and New Media, Education, Ocean Sciences, Politics, Biomolecular Engineering, Film and Digital Media, Sociology, and Feminist Studies. The Council also reviewed external review deferral requests for History of Consciousness and Art.

Program Statement Changes

GC reviewed graduate program statement changes for the 2019-20 catalog copy. In addition to the issues noted in the section above related to SmartCatalog implementation, Council also navigated many late

program statement change requests, and further, attempts by programs to make changes to program statements after Graduate Council approval and during the editing phase by the Catalog Editors. Graduate Council will be working with the Registrar's Office to communicate to departments and programs the expectation to adhere to deadlines in 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 and approved eleven GSI requests from the Computer Science and Engineering, Economics, Education, Feminist Studies (reviewed by Chair *Pro Tem*), History of Consciousness, Literature, Music, Physics, and Statistics departments.

Fellowship Review

A Graduate Council subcommittee advised the 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:

- Review of BSOE Course Codes and Course Code Renumbering (with CEP and CCI) (September, October 2018)
- Computer Science and Engineering Qualifying Examination Committees Request (November 2018)
- Systemwide Review of Revised Proposed Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (November 2018)
- Proposal to Reorganize Statistics and Applied Mathematics M.S., Ph.D. (December 2018)
- Review of VPAA's Draft UCSC Financial Planning Guidelines for Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs) (December 2018)
- Four Faculty FTE Transfer Requests (December 2018, April 2019, June 2019)
- Second Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations (February 2019)
- Proposal to Establish UCSC Genomics Institute (GI) Organized Research Unit (March 2019)
- Proposal to Consolidate Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Electrical Engineering Graduate Programs (March, April 2019)
- Second Review of Proposed Campus Policy on Conflict of Interest Related to Consensual Relationships (June 2019)

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 2018-19. The Council guest policy is agreed to by Council members at the start of each academic year.

Continuing Issues for GC in 2018-19:

- Graduate program monitoring— Feminist Studies Ph.D. program, Digital Arts and New Media M.F.A. program

- Graduate Growth—the Council will continue to actively participate in and monitor campus planning for graduate growth
- Collaborate with VPDGS on issues related to graduate education, both pro-active and routine, including best practices for divisional fellowship review processes
- Collaborate with Curriculum Management Project team, jointly with CEP, during second-year of implementation of SmartCatalog
- Consider emerging CCGA and systemwide consensus with respect to self-supporting graduate programs and any unusual degrees (e.g., dual degrees).

Respectfully submitted,

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Pranav Anand

Katharin Peter, LAUC Representative

John Bowin

Roy Sfadia, Graduate Student Rep (W, S)

Lissa Caldwell

Peng Zhou, Graduate Student Rep (W)

Sharon Daniel

Andrew Fisher

Robert Johnson

Lori Kletzer, *ex officio*

Tracy Larrabee

Dejan Milutinovic

Alex Pang

Marianne Weems (W, S)

Quentin Williams, *ex officio*

Gina Dent, Chair

August 31, 2019