To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Graduate Council met for fourteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions and one additional session during the 2019-20 term.

Executive Summary
The Graduate Council’s purpose is to set standards for and policy on graduate education; to ensure the viability and quality of graduate programs; and to provide advice and consent on all matters of policy, planning, programs and practice that impact the quality and diversity of UCSB’s graduate students and their educational experience.

The Graduate Council discussed and took action on a variety of key issues during the 2019-20 term, among them:
- Responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on graduate students by approving exceptions to current policies and practices, including extending time-to-degree by one year for all graduate students and allowing more flexible S/U grading for spring quarter.
- Approving the establishment of: a terminal Master of Education in School Psychology; a graduate degree program in Biological Engineering; and an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Climate Sciences and Climate Change.
- Commenting on various divisional draft policy documents including: proposed addition of language stipulating that students must be in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct to have their degree conferred; reports of ad hoc committees on ESCIs and Online Course Evaluations; part-time study and part-time tuition for graduate students; and a proposed graduate program name change for the Department of Theater and Dance.

I. Graduate Course Requests
Graduate Council authorizes, supervises, and regulates all graduate courses except such courses exempted by action of the Regents. During the period between 7/1/2019 and 6/30/2020, Council processed a total of 262 course requests, including new courses, modifications, and discontinuations.

II. Review of Academic Programs and Research Units
In cooperation with the Program Review Panel, Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Review of the following departments and programs during the 2019-20 term: Communication; Comparative Literature Program/French and Italian/Germanic and Slavic Studies; Mathematics; and Statistics and Applied Probability.

Graduate Council recommended four departments and one program for Academic Program Review in 2021-22.

III. Proposals to Establish Programs, Emphases, Academic Units and Research Units
- Issued its support for a proposal from the Bren School to charge Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) to its Master of Environmental Science and Management graduate program.
- Reviewed, sent back two rounds of questions to the initiators, and ultimately approved a proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Climate Sciences and Climate Change.
Considered, sent questions back to the initiators, and ultimately approved a proposal to establish a terminal Master of Education in School Psychology in the Department of Counseling, Clinical and School Psychology.

Reviewed and sent feedback to the initiators of a proposal to establish a 4 Plus 1 Master of Science in Geographic Information Science (GIS).

Reviewed and approved a proposal to establish a graduate degree program in Biological Engineering, and supported the establishment of an academic unit in Biological Engineering.

IV. **Name Changes**

Approved the name change of the graduate programs in the Department of Theater and Dance from “Theater Studies” to “Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies”.

V. **Changes to Existing Programs**

- Approved request from the Department of Feminist Studies to suspend graduate admissions for one year.
- Approved removing the oral dissertation defense requirement for the Ph.D. tracks in Hispanic Languages and Literatures in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
- Approved the creation of a course subject code for the Master of Environmental Data Science.
- Approved the addition of the Department of Philosophy to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Cognitive Science.
- Approved the proposed changes to the degree requirements for the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology graduate programs.
- Approved the proposed curricular changes to the Master of Technology Management.
- Approved removing the shorter time-to-degree for the Ph.D. in Physics.
- Approved curricular changes to the Ph.D. in Theater, Dance and Performance Studies.
- Approved revisions to the Ph.D. qualifying exam in Portuguese and Brazilian Literatures in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
- Approved changes to required courses in the Teacher Education program.
- Approved proposed changes to the D.M.A. curriculum.
- Approved the addition of a field to the graduate program in the Department of History.
- Approved curricular changes and an increased Ph.D. time-to-advancement and time-to-degree for the Department of Chicana/o Studies.
- Approved curricular changes to the graduate programs in East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- Approved conforming curricular changes in Biomolecular Science and Engineering.
- Approved the proposed changes to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Cognitive Science.
- Approved the proposed curricular changes to the M.A. in Global Studies.
- Approved changes to the Composition emphasis in the Department of Music.
- Approved changes to the qualifying exams for the Comparative Literature Program.
- Approved request from the Department of Sociology to suspend graduate admissions for one year.

VI. **Student Petitions**

Graduate Council did not receive any student petitions for 2019-20.

VII. **Local Business**

**Faculty Graduate Student Mentoring Guidelines**

Graduate Council continued work on the graduate mentoring guidelines started last year. Dean Genetti explained that graduate mentoring has been “under the radar” and something that faculty have not
been thinking about explicitly. Some members voiced the ongoing concern that mentoring looks very different among disciplines, while other members thought GC’s document was broad enough to apply to all faculty. Some ideas discussed included having the document as a way to spark discussions within departments; requiring departments to address mentoring within the Academic Program Review process; and presenting the guidelines as being part of a more holistic approach to mentoring on campus.

A draft was sent to a selection of graduate advisors (one from each college/school/division) for feedback. Comments received were generally very positive. Overall, members felt that the document encourages mentoring efforts from many different angles, is not prescriptive, and helps the campus be more proactive in regards to mentoring. There is a sense that student mental health issues are increasing, which faculty feel ill-equipped to handle. There is also evidence, through Academic Program Review surveys and national reports, that students are finding it increasingly difficult to find effective mentoring. Consultation with the Senate Chair is ongoing and the hope is to distribute this document in this next academic year.

Student Conduct-Degree Clearance Proposal
Graduate Council was joined by Leesa Beck, University Registrar, to discuss the proposal to require that students be in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct in order to have their degree conferred. GC reviewed the proposal last year, and had some serious concerns about students being “guilty until proven innocent”. Registrar Beck explained to GC that revisions to the UC Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students (PACAOS) now require that campuses withhold awarding degrees to students who are in the middle of an investigation. This proposal would allow withholding degrees for students who commit a serious conduct violation near the end of their academic career, and complete their coursework before a sanction takes effect.

Ultimately, members agreed that this policy would address the current inequities in the sanctioning process, and GC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal.

Part-Time Study and Part-Time Tuition for Graduate Students
Dean Genetti presented a proposal to implement part-time study and part-time tuition for graduate students. A 1981 Presidential Policy allowing part-time study for graduate students was recently discovered; UCSB was one of two campuses that had not implemented this. The implementation policy would allow terminal master’s degree students, teaching credential students, and doctoral students who have not yet advanced to candidacy be eligible for part-time status. Part-time status would reduce half of tuition and non-resident supplemental tuition fees. Allowable reasons for part-time status would be limited to health, specific occupation and family responsibilities. Overall, GC was supportive of Graduate Division implementing a policy to adhere to the 1981 Presidential Policy.

Report of ESCI Ad Hoc Committee
GC discussed the Report of the ESCI Ad Hoc Committee. Members had a great degree of recognition of the problem, and thought the report disturbing, but well-founded. GC agreed that the ESCI system has had detrimental effects on instruction. There was concern about how the Committee on Academic Personnel uses ESCI scores and written comments for merit and promotion cases, and how one or two student comments can be used to represent a whole class. Members discussed how other institutions use faculty visits and peer review.

In terms of the effect on graduate education, members discussed how ESCIs are effectively the record of
teaching for graduate students and postdoctoral students. ESCI scores are used for TA and associate appointments, as well as when a student enters the job market. Many graduate courses are small, and some departments effectively erase graduate student feedback because of this. Graduate students may also be fearful to provide comments, as they worry faculty will be able to identify them and they could face repercussions. Council agreed that it would like to see the report address graduate students as a constituency of concern, as they are not mentioned. GC sent forward a memo with its main concerns.

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Online Course Evaluations
Graduate Council reviewed the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Online Course Evaluations. Members overwhelmingly agreed that this ad hoc committee should speak with the ad hoc committee tasked with completely overhauling the current ESCI system. There was discussion about accessibility and students with differential access; the need for the online system to adapt to new or revised questions; having a system that would allow faculty to create their own additional questions; concern about the likely drop in response rates; and the environmental impact of continuing to use paper. The Council voted and by majority agreed that the plan to move campus course evaluations online should proceed, after areas of concern are addressed. GC sent forward a memo with a summary of members’ comments.

Fall 2020 Registration Timeline Pilot
Graduate Council reviewed the Fall 2020 Registration timeline pilot, which would adjust registration timing and unit thresholds to address numerous issues with the current registration process. Members were overall supportive of this pilot, but pointed out that there should be a contingency plan for new student registration during the summer if orientation programs must be moved online.

Winter NG Resolution
Winter quarter, graduate students at UCSB joined graduate students at UCSC in a wildcat strike for a Cost of Living Adjustment. Some striking students withheld winter quarter grades for undergraduate students. Associate Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Education Jeffrey Stopple circulated a memo that asked faculty members to get involved in obtaining those grades. Multiple members referenced a memo sent from the Office of the Registrar on March 24, which stated that missing grades would not be converted into F grades until the end of Fall Quarter 2020. It turned out that this communication was incorrect, and missing grades would be converted into F grades at the end of spring quarter. While many members objected to the tone and message of the memo, some members expressed a need to provide constructive input to help resolve the current situation. The suggestion was to instead inform the undergraduate students “that they can request the grade from their respective Teaching Assistant or the Instructor on Record”. There was also a minority suggestion that in addition to extending missing grades until Fall Quarter, all such grades should ultimately be converted into a Satisfactory (S) grade.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Graduate Student Association detached themselves from the movement. Most if not all missing winter quarter grades were eventually submitted.

Nominations for Program Review Panel
Graduate Council submitted the names of five Senate faculty members to the Committee on Committees for consideration for service on the Program Review Panel (PRP) beginning in 2020-21.

COVID-19 Graduate Student Issues
Graduate Council held its last meeting of winter quarter right before the California Stay-at-Home Order went into effect. Graduate Council held all of its spring quarter meetings via Zoom, and held an
additional meeting in early April in order to address urgent issues affecting graduate students. Action that Graduate Council took in spring quarter:

- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading. Graduate Council voted to allow departments to relax their requirements for letter-graded courses for spring quarter (Senate Regulation 30). Departments could offer any graduate course for an S/U grade and courses taken for an S/U grade could count towards departmental requirements.

- Time-to-degree extensions. Graduate Council approved an automatic one-year extension to time-to-candidacy and time-to-degree norms, available to all current master’s and doctoral students. Members recognized that students extending their time would need additional funding, but that this could not be guaranteed.

- Approving a statement to be sent from Graduate Division encouraging departments to consider not requiring the GRE for admissions for the next cycle and reiterating the importance of holistic admissions to prospective graduate students.

- Encouraging deferments be granted more liberally this year, but on a student-by-student basis.

Graduate Council also discussed many other issues due to COVID-19, including:

- The possibility of summer sessions and fall quarter moving online. Members were concerned about how to uphold academic quality and standards, how they could create adequate online courses for future terms, and what criteria was being used to evaluate proposals for new online courses. Members also talked about the impracticalities for graduate students to learn, teach and conduct research online, while at the same time trying to take care of their own family and financial responsibilities.

- The well-being of graduate students. Graduate students serving as Teaching Assistants and Teaching Associates had an immense responsibility to move instruction from in-classroom teaching to remote teaching. Many students had field travel and research cancelled, which would delay progress to their degrees. Graduate students with children were affected by the closures of schools and childcare providers. Many graduate students were already vulnerable in terms of food and housing, and this pandemic only exacerbated this vulnerability. Graduate students who augmented their income by working for hourly and temporary wages both on-campus or off-campus saw their income sources disappear.

- Extending the 18-quarter limit for serving as a Teaching Assistant. This is a UC policy, and discussions were happening systemwide. Eventually, it was decided that the COVID affected quarters would not count towards the 18-quarter limit.

- In May, meeting with Vice Chancellor of Research Joseph Incandela and Librarian Antelman to discuss research and Library reopening plans.

- The Presidential Proclamation issued by President Trump on May 29 that would implement further restrictions on foreign nationals affiliated with the People’s Republic of China and the People’s Liberation Army. There are a handful of Chinese institutions affected, but it is likely there are current and incoming students from those.

- Whether international students who enroll remotely this fall will be eligible to be employed. There are a number of issues such as taxation and payroll for students who have not actually stepped foot into the U.S. UCOP sent out in-depth guidance during the summer.

- Potential cancellation of courses that serve as graduate program requirements.

- Some departments exploring suspending admissions for the 2021-22 year. Some departments are keeping ABD students on, if they have not gone over time-to-degree, in order to provide some funding for these students who would be entering a terrible job market.
VIII. Systemwide Business
Graduate Council was not asked to formally comment on any systemwide issues this year.

IX. Committees
Over the past several years, Graduate Council has opted to handle the vast majority of its business in full Council sessions, rather than delegating issues to the subcommittees. The subcommittees are called to meet only on an ad hoc basis.

X. Carry Over Issues for 2020-21
- Dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing its impacts on graduate students.
- Widely distributing the faculty graduate student mentorship guidelines.
- Conducting a review of the policies and procedures for establishing new interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphases.
- Reviewing a revised proposal to establish a 4 Plus 1 Master of Science in Geographic Information Science (GIS).

Members 2019-20
Divyakant Agrawal, Chair, CCGA Rep
Professor, Computer Science

Tamara Afifi, Vice-Chair
Professor, Communication

Omer Blaes
Professor, Physics

Heather Burton
Associate Professor, English

Hector Ceniceros
Professor, Mathematics

Andres Consoli
Associate Professor, Counseling, Clinical & School Psychology

Karen Gibson
Associate Professor, Education

Konstadinos Goulias
Professor, Geography

Cynthia Kaplan
Professor, Political Science

Peter Kuhn
Professor, Economics

Hua Lee
Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Eric McFarland
Professor, Chemical Engineering

Karen Myers
Professor, Communication

Norbert Reich
Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry/Bimolecular Science & Engineering

Dwight Reynolds
Professor, Religious Studies

Mark Rodwell
Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Adam Sabra
Professor, History

Jennifer Sorkin
Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Ann Taves
Professor, Religious Studies

Sarah Thebaud
Associate Professor, Sociology

Sara Pankenier Weld
Associate Professor, Germanic & Slavic Studies

Carol Genetti, Graduate Dean, Ex-Officio

Alexander LeBrun, GSA Rep

Paige Digeser, Associate Dean, Consultant

Robert Hamm, Assistant Dean, Consultant

Kelly Rivera, Advisor