Graduate Council
Annual Report 2020-21

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Graduate Council met for fifteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions during the 2020-21 term. All meetings were held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 2020-21 term, among them:
- Continuing to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on graduate students by discussing problems and taking actions related to: international students not receiving their visas; UCPATH and international students not receiving paychecks in a timely fashion; teaching remotely and having adequate teaching technology and spaces; graduate students’ inability to conduct research; extending the time to degree by one year; making grading options more flexible; graduate student deferrals; uncertainty regarding admittance of new graduate cohorts; and COVID-19 testing and immunization regulations, among other topics.
- Discussing right-sizing and funding of graduate programs.
- Revising the Graduate Council bylaw to more accurately reflect current practice.
- Commenting on various divisional and systemwide draft policy documents including: the Phase One Report of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Enrollment Strategy; the Systemwide Review of Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 610, Defining Residency, which would not link physical presence to campus coursework; the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Policy; and the draft Presidential Campus Safety Plan, concerning campus policing.

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 7/1/2020 and 6/30/2021, Council processed a total of 321 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 2020-21 term: Linguistics and Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Graduate Council recommended four departments and one college for Academic Program Review in 2022-23, and suggested discussing the possibility of reviewing two additional departments due to extensive changes in those programs.

III. Proposals to Establish Programs, Emphases, Academic Units and Research Units
None were received this year.
IV. Name Changes
- Approved the name change of the graduate program in “Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology” to two distinct Ph.D. programs: one in “Counseling and Clinical Psychology” and one in “School Psychology”.
- Reviewed and offered support for the name change of the Center for the Study of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Aging.

V. Changes to Existing Programs
- Approved request from the Department of Anthropology to suspend graduate admissions for one year.
- Approved revisions to the interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphasis in Climate Sciences and Climate Change.
- Approved changes to the Education graduate program.
- Approved the addition of the Department of Global Studies to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies.
- Approved Program Learning Outcomes for the Master of Environmental Data Science (MEDS).
- Approved the creation of a new Master’s Plan I for the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Dynamical Neuroscience.
- Approved curricular changes to the M.A. degrees in Anthropology.
- Approved the addition of the Comparative Literature Program to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Environment and Society.
- Approved curricular changes to the Master of Fine Arts.
- Approved removing the language requirement for the doctoral degree in Feminist Studies.
- Approved Program Learning Outcomes for the Ph.D. in Biological Engineering.
- Approved revisions to the Program Learning Outcomes for the doctoral program in Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology.
- Approved extensive revisions to the graduate programs in the Department of Linguistics.
- Approved changes to the Department of Film and Media Studies Ph.D. foreign language requirement.
- Approved the addition of the Department of English to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies.
- Approved an increase in required units for the M.A. in Chicana and Chicano Studies.
- Approved revisions to the core curriculum of the Master of Environmental Data Science.
- Approved revisions to Ph.D. general examinations and advancement to candidacy for the Ph.D. in History.

VI. Student Petitions
Graduate Council responded to one student appeal of academic disqualification.

VII. Local Business
COVID-19 Impacts on Graduate Students
Graduate Council continued to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on graduate students over the course of the year.

Fall quarter, Graduate Student Association Representative Alex LeBrun shared the most pressing graduate student concerns. Short-term concerns included international student issues and the new testing policy for students in campus housing. Long-term concerns included funding, mental health, and what departments are doing to ensure that students complete their requirements in a shorter period of time. In Spring 2020, GC extended time-to-degree for all graduate students by one year; however,
departments and the campus do not necessarily have the money to keep funding students. GC members shared mental health concerns that they had seen in students, such as having limited access to labs, discouragement due to the lack of jobs, time differences for international students, and anxiety in not being able to move forward with research. There were also issues of students not being able to travel to do research, internet connectivity issues affecting students’ ability to do their work, and the large number of student deferrals.

In November, Graduate Council was joined by Divisional Senate Chair Susannah Scott. The campus has made facilities available for graduate students to use for teaching and the research ramp-up, mostly for STEM fields, has allowed considerable access for graduate students. Budget constraints may lead to fewer TA lines, which would create a higher workload that faculty would need to take on. Too much TAing also hinders graduate students’ progress. GC members brought up that some graduate students have expressed concern about some faculty not following COVID-19 protocols and not wearing masks. Members asked if the campus budget shortfall has taken into account the increased costs due to testing and other COVID-19 related expenses. Members also asked how international students residing in their respective countries will be affected. It was unclear if they could continue to work as TAs in winter. Members also discussed their concern about students delaying graduation because of a lack of jobs, or because they cannot do research. These students will likely not have funding for their extra time. Many departments are likely to reduce graduate admissions to counteract students staying on.

Also in November, GC discussed the one-year time-to-degree extension that it approved for all graduate students enrolled as of spring quarter 2020. There had been questions about whether students entering graduate programs in fall 2020 should be allowed this extension as well. The blanket time-to-degree extension cost Graduate Division a large amount of money in reduced non-resident tuition paid for doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy. The justification during spring quarter for the time-to-degree extension was that students were unable to travel, do fieldwork, access labs, and make timely progress. Members agreed that most incoming students should have sufficient time and opportunity to complete fieldwork during their time at UCSB. There are likely to be distinctions among graduate programs, and time-to-degree extensions should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Council agreed to not extend the one-year time-to-degree extension to students who matriculated fall 2020.

Winter quarter, the Council discussed a concerning issue that was brought to Chair Afifi’s attention. Some international graduate students, living abroad and working as teaching assistants, had yet to receive any paycheck for work performed this academic year. Some students unable to open U.S. bank accounts and who had been sent paper checks were either not receiving the checks or did not have a way to cash them. There were some students in immediate financial distress after three months of non-payment. Graduate Division sent a survey to departments to find out how many students were affected. UCPath, which has authority over paychecks, was apparently aware of the situation but was not trying to implement any kind of fix as the number of students affected was so low. Graduate Division was able to wire fellowship funds, but Graduate Division does not control paychecks. Members expressed that it is unethical and in violation of the TA contract to withhold payment, and the union could submit grievances.

The Council decided upon two courses of action. The first was to write a memo authorizing Graduate Division to determine 1) what funds are available at UCSB to temporarily pay these students, 2) whether UCSB has the authority to send these payments, and 3) how UCSB would eventually be reimbursed by these students. The Council was also extremely disturbed by the lack of accountability of UCPath. While UCPath answers to the UC President, there have been such a large number of problems since its
adoption, some members called for the need for a complete reform. Members determined that Graduate Council needed to write to campus administration (Chancellor, EVC, Senate Chair and Deans) explaining the circumstances, protesting the inaction of UCPath, and asking the system to address these problems immediately. The Council voted unanimously to send forward a memo to Graduate Division authorizing them to look into sending funds to the affected students, and to send forward a memo to campus administration detailing the situation and calling for action. By February, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) had discussed the issues and been in coordination with UCOP, UCSB and UCPath. UCSB was to be used as a pilot program for wire transfers. If successful, other UCs could engage in wire transfers for other transactions. It appeared that all affected students were eventually able to access their paychecks.

Also in February, Vice Chancellor of Research Joe Incandela joined Graduate Council to discuss the progress of the campus research ramp-up. Research funding was significantly up, which has caused an interesting situation in that there are limited opportunities to do research but there is a lot of money to conduct it. Buildings were being reviewed and credentialed by the Office of Research and the Executive Vice Chancellor’s office. Some offices do not have adequate ventilation, and it is not fully understood how air circulates from office to office or from hallways to offices. There was an assumption the campus would restart once vaccinations are widespread. VC Incandela explained that there are different committees approving different types of research, such as the Off-Site Research Committee reviewing field research and the Participant Safety Committee which is coordinating with IRB on human subject research. Proposals for research need to be submitted to building committees.

The Council also decided winter quarter not to create another blanket policy change for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading, as faculty can work with students who need more flexibility, as well as the necessity for international students to have an in-person component of a course.

At the end of winter quarter and during spring quarter, GC discussed what was currently being planned for fall instruction. President Drake announced that all UC campuses would be in-person fall term. The COVID-19 contingency group was planning for some in person and some remote courses. The rate of vaccination by fall was unknown, and campus did not want departments to have to redo the fall course planning they had put so much work into. The EVC was awaiting more information and guidance from the county. Members discussed the possibility of hybrid instruction, where half of students in a course are in-person one day, the other half the next, and the course is automatically recorded. Members raised concerns about graduate students potentially having to do more work to adapt courses, and the lack of space to split up large classes. Many graduate students would be uncomfortable coming back to campus and finding housing will be difficult.

In April, Graduate Council was joined by Turi Honegger, Clinical Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, who has a focus on graduate students and very distressed students. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges that students were already facing. There is a delicate balance between academic rigor and student wellness. The pandemic is delaying their progress. It has been harder to tell when students are struggling during this time of remote work. Dr. Honegger’s advice is to leave academic standards where they are, but listen to students and be empathetic.

In June, the Council discussed the lack of communication regarding campus research ramp-up. Members felt that the campus had been overly cautious in its safety protocols and restrictions for building use, which was negatively impacting research. There has also been mixed messaging regarding safety measures, and UCSB’s protocols seem to be more restrictive than those that the county has in place.
The Council voted to send a memo to senior leadership stating that UCSB’s protocols should be in line with the county and state, there needs to be clear lines of communication, and that it is imperative that faculty and graduate students be able to conduct research to the fullest extent possible this fall.

Graduate Admissions and Enrollment
Over the year, Graduate Council discussed issues around graduate admissions, enrollment, and right-sizing of graduate programs. In October, Interim Graduate Dean Rupp shared information about graduate student admissions and enrollment; enrollment was down. There were many deferrals, and it is impossible to know how many of those students will ever actually enroll.

In January, Dean Rupp introduced the topic of right-sizing graduate programs. There is a long-term question about how to deal with the graduate student population. The idea has been to go by the Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP), however, the undergraduate student population has grown much faster than planned. Dean Rupp wants departments to begin an exercise of thinking about the appropriate size of their graduate population. UCSB is currently one of only a few UC campuses that does not guarantee funding for five years for incoming doctoral students. Some campuses actually have cohort sizes assigned to departments. Graduate Division also needs to think about the block grant formula.

GC members were concerned that the population of graduate students has gone down, while there has been no control over undergraduate enrollment. Graduate students are not just here to serve as TAs; they need to be able to conduct research. Current enrollment management is not done in a strategic way, and it is managed differently across disciplines. There are unintended consequences for faculty as they are not able to properly mentor or teach graduate students, which leads to retention problems. Members also questioned the minimum course enrollment requirement of four students for graduate courses. This makes it difficult to offer courses when there are small cohorts and small departmental programs. There may be cuts to TA lines next year due to the budget crisis. Departments will need to think strategically about how to offer the needed undergraduate courses with possibly fewer TAs. Some of these issues are bigger than individual campuses, and members would like to see a systemwide discussion. The Regents do not seem to recognize the value of graduate education. The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs is sending a representative to speak to the Regents about the value of graduate education.

In February, GC discussed the minimum course size policy. There is a 1973 presidential memo stipulating minimum course sizes; graduate courses are required to have four students enrolled. This could become more problematic as departments admit fewer graduate students. The Office of the Registrar does not strictly enforce this policy. The Council thought that there should be clarification of this policy sent to departments; perhaps more flexibility could be allowed for smaller class sizes. Members also discussed making it easier for top undergraduate students to enroll in graduate courses, which could help with enrollments.

Also in February, Dean Rupp led a discussion about graduate student support. While most departments plan out how many students they can support, there are some departments that admit too many students and do not have enough TAships or other forms of support to fund them. Some financial support comes from Graduate Division, such as grants, and forms such as TAships come from the Deans. Departments receive block grant allocations every three years; fellowships vary year to year. One option would be to ask departments to provide a memo each year with their plan for funding students: how many students are expected, how much funding is needed, how many TA and GSR allocations they have,
etc. Some departments already do this. Graduate student admission and funding varies greatly by discipline. Many STEM departments have no limits if there is funding and the faculty members are willing to take on students. Graduate student enrollment needs to be viewed in the context of undergraduate enrollment, and the campus does not have a strategic enrollment management plan. It seems unwise to tell graduate programs how many students they can enroll while simultaneously saying they have no control over their undergraduate student enrollments.

**Doctoral Student Travel Grant Program**

Over the year, Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the Academic Senate Doctoral Student Travel Grant program. This past summer, the previous Graduate Council approved allowing up to $400 for virtual conference registration, and allowing students who receive a grant for a virtual conference to still be able to receive another grant for an in-person conference. Members agreed that there are likely no in-person conferences occurring in the 2020-21 academic year, and the application for the 2020-21 grant should indicate that only virtual conferences would be funded.

During spring quarter, the Council approved adding in-person locations back to the policy for 2021-22, and keeping the virtual conference category. There were changes to the funding amounts for the Faculty Travel Grants, and the Council approved bringing the doctoral travel grant amounts in line. The Council was adamant that that funding should not be lowered for doctoral grants, and suggested ways that some of the large carryover funds could be better utilized, such as re-appropriating to fellowships or graduate support.

**Leave of Absence Policy**

In October, Graduate Division Interim Dean Rupp went over a proposal to make revisions to the graduate student Leave of Absence Policy. Graduate Division proposed allowing for more flexibility for leaves outside of medical/emergency/military/parenting reasons. These changes would be in line with many other UC graduate leave policies. Members agreed that language should be added to clarify that a student needs to consult with their faculty advisor/PI before requesting a leave so that both parties can discuss the implications of the decision.

**Review of Academic Program Review Process**

In November, the Council held a discussion about the Academic Program Review Process, prompted by an informal request from Program Review Panel Chair Francesco Bullo. Members agreed that Data Notebooks in their current form are massive documents, and a burden on everyone involved. GC wondered if there are ways to streamline the data within; much that is asked of the departments is repetitive. While the student surveys are an extremely important component, they should be conducted at a more frequent rate. Members discussed creating a committee, possibly composed of representatives from all reviewing agencies, that would be responsible for reviewing and commenting on the Data Notebooks and ERC reports. This could allow for one response on graduate issues, one on undergraduate issues, etc. Reviewing agencies could also be asked to only focus on three important questions in order to pare down the length of comments.

Graduate Council also discussed what the actual goals of the Academic Program Review process should be. Departments should be evaluated on where they currently stand and where they are going in the future. Comparisons to other universities should be made, and there needs to be an upward trajectory of performance indicators. PRP should act as a strategic planning tool, not as an arm of accreditation.
The Academic Senate and the administration need to work together on strategic planning. A Council on Strategic Planning could be created that spans all councils and committees. This could be a separate, advisory group that looks at the overall vision of the university and how departments fit into that.

Discussions with Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall
Twice this year, Graduate Council was joined by Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall. In November, EVC Marshall talked about ongoing discussions about strategies for graduate funding, especially in light of COVID-19. There will be significant budgetary challenges. International graduate students are being affected by national restrictions to immigration. Graduate students are also facing the challenges of remote learning as well as remote teaching. The time-to-degree extension was helpful, but unfortunately there is not money to fund students for longer times. Some departments are going to be conservative with admissions next year. There needs to be better information from departments about non-academic job options, TA training and workload, and mentorship.

The Chancellor’s Task Force on Enrollment Strategy began meeting in 2019-20. UCSB has a smaller percentage of graduate students than most research universities. The number of doctoral students is more on par, but other universities have many more master’s programs and professional schools. There has been a long-standing goal to increase the percentage of graduate students, as laid out in the Long-Range Development Plan. If the campus is capped at 25,000 enrollment, some redistribution will need to happen in order to grow graduate enrollment. EVC Marshall wants departments to get creative about how to deliver instruction, review curriculum and assignments, and see if there are models where lecturers can teach courses and some sections. Departments need to think carefully about their expectations for graduate students. Five-year packages should be the campus norm, and graduate students should not be used as the solution for enrollment management.

In May, EVC Marshall returned to discuss the campus budget, specifically its effects on graduate students. The tremendous reduction made to the UC budget in 2020 was devastating. Before that reduction, UCSB had a funding shortfall, due partially to reaching maximum non-resident enrollment numbers and hitting a ceiling on revenues. As more information became known about the various rounds of federal stimulus funding, it became clear that UCSB could apply some of those funds to lost revenues. The campus will try to put some of the newest round of federal stimulus funding to graduate students who have had to take additional time to finish their degrees. Funding TA lines is a priority, and there will be pressure for more TAs from the increase in undergraduate enrollment. Members discussed the negative effects seen in PRP reviews due to graduate students needing to TA too much, and the need to coordinate undergraduate enrollment and do strategic planning. EVC Marshall does not want to see graduate students sacrifice research because we need them to TA.

Phase One Report of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Enrollment Strategy
In November, Graduate Council discussed the Phase One Report of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Enrollment Strategy. A big omission in the report is that it assumes no cuts in resources, which is not realistic. The effects on non-impacted departments when impacted departments do not manage enrollments needs to be discussed and dealt with more. Some members agreed that the Chancellor should be the leader on the campus enrollment management strategy. Other Council ideas included separating the Divisions into Colleges, allowing departments to have control over some enrollment, being transparent with the campus budget, looking at the models of other UC campuses, re-thinking course sections, and the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts creating funded, terminal MA programs. GC wanted its response to be forceful, stating that there needs to be a stronger stance taken, especially concerning graduate students. Graduate student growth is an important component of enrollment
management, and this report says nothing about it. The graduate student population should increase along with the undergraduate student population, but graduate students cannot be used just for labor.

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphases
In February, the Council began a discussion about interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphases. Over the last few years, GC has been concerned about the lack of requirements and guidelines for creating new interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphases. Members agreed that there should be minimum standards for these emphases, and an ability to review current ones. A proposal was made to ask emphasis directors for a report every five years, which would comment on student numbers, courses offered, faculty involved, and provide a self-reflection. This report would be presented to Graduate Council and there would be an opportunity for feedback.

Proposal to Eliminate Committee Extension Requests
In February, Graduate Council reviewed a proposal from Graduate Division to eliminate committee extension requests for faculty members who leave or retire from the university. GC supported the proposal to streamline this process and eliminate the extra labor. Approvals would now be left up to the discretion of departments.

Graduate Council Bylaw Proposed Revisions
In March, Graduate Council unanimously approved some proposed changes to the Graduate Council bylaw, including increasing the membership to “at least 18”, updating some of the duties to more accurately reflect current practice, and removing subcommittees that have not been active for many years.

Proposal for new online course from Geography - GEOG W 115B
In April, the Council reviewed a proposal for a new online course from the Department of Geography. These requests do not normally come to Graduate Council, but the College of Letters and Science Faculty Executive Committee had concerns, and asked GC, Undergraduate Council and the Committee on Courses and General Education to weigh in. Overall, GC does not want the allowance of remote instruction during the pandemic and policies around offering online courses to be conflated. Some courses may have to continue to be offered remotely in fall quarter due to public health guidelines. It is also wrong to ask graduate students, acting as TAs, to be the face of the course. If some larger lectures are required to be taught remotely, however, some graduate students may be coerced to teach in person. Overall, this situation should be handled as an accommodations request between the faculty member and the campus, not by creating a permanent online course.

Request for an Extension of the Fall Registration Pilot to Fall 2021
In April, the Council reviewed the request for an extension of the fall registration pilot to 2021. GC appreciated the need to gather more data, and offered their support.

Proposal to Eliminate Exception Request for Emeriti Faculty to Serve on Committees
In May, Graduate Council discussed a proposal from Graduate Division to eliminate committee exception requests for emeriti to serve on graduate student committees. Members were in full support of eliminating bureaucratic time and paperwork, and leaving these decisions up to department chairs.

Compliance with the Commencement of Academic Activity Regulation for Title IV Financial Aid
In June, the Council discussed the Compliance with the Commencement of Academic Activity Regulation for Title IV Financial Aid. Members indicated that the UC Davis model seemed more practical, but there
were some concerns. Graduate students are generally easier to track than undergraduate students, and faculty members will know if a graduate student is missing from their course. However, some members were against faculty having to police student attendance, and indicated that there could be issues with the power differential between students and faculty members. There was a suggestion that students receiving Title IV Financial Aid sign an affidavit that they will follow all rules of receiving financial aid, in lieu of making all students and faculty members comply with a new regulation.

VIII. Systemwide Business

Systemwide Review of Proposed Curtailment Program

In October, the Council discussed the proposed Curtailment Program. Overall, GC felt that the lack of specificity in the proposal was unacceptable. Members wanted to see actual budget numbers, information about the targeted savings, and what actions UC had already taken to address the shortfall. GC had a number of concerns they wanted addressed, including how the plan would affect graduate students, TAs and GSRs; what tiers were being proposed; if faculty could use grants to offset cuts in pay; if employees could work for other entities while on curtailment; if future layoffs or furloughs were a possibility; and how departmental staff would be able to fulfill their work obligations during winter break.

Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI) – Recommendations for Future State

In January, Graduate Council discussed the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI) – Recommendations for Future State report. UC, and especially UCSB, have traditionally pushed back against online courses. Members were concerned that the report did not mention graduate courses at all. UCSB has never offered a graduate course through ILTI, and offers few undergraduate courses. Support, coordination and budget for TAs for undergraduate courses taught online needs to be explained in more detail.

Faculty Salary Scales Task Force Report

In January, the Council discussed the Faculty Salary Scales Task Force Report. Overall, the Graduate Council thought there was insufficient detail about what the two proposed options would look like if implemented. UC does not exist in a vacuum, and is constantly fighting to retain faculty. Many faculty are not actually getting recruited to other institutions, but initiate offers as they are tired of the sluggishness of advancement. Members agreed that the state needs to start viewing UC as a research university system and fund accordingly. Younger faculty members will continue to be disappointed with their compensation and the sluggishness of advancement, and will become harder to retain.

The Council also discussed the current personnel system, which is complex, time-consuming, and quite subjective. A simplified process could be advantageous if it takes into account the full record and is equitable. Graduate student mentoring should be a part of the academic personnel process, as it is an extremely important aspect of faculty responsibilities. Overall, members were not in favor of eliminating off-scale salary, as it is an important tool to use to reward faculty going above and beyond what is expected. The Council did not see how either of the options presented would reduce the loyalty penalty, and wanted to caution instituting a change that could actually exacerbate the salary equity problem.

UC Research Data and Tangible Research Materials

In February, the Council discussed the UC Research Data and Tangible Research Materials proposal. Members pointed out that federal funding agencies already have their own criteria for storing and posting data, etc., that are extremely complex to keep track of. UC’s proposal would create even more burdensome regulations that faculty would have to track. The Council agreed that UC should be trying to
reduce the number of regulations. GC’s response strongly urged UC to not move forward with this policy, and to consider the goals of the university as well as undertake a careful cost benefit analysis for all proposed policies that will add undue burdens to faculty member’s workloads.

Universitywide Police Policies and Administrative Procedures
In April, Graduate Council discussed the Universitywide Police Policies and Administrative Procedures. Members were appreciative of the spirit of transparency in distributing these proposed changes widely, but felt they did not have adequate context to review them. GC felt that there should be mention of the types of training UC police undertake. There also should be an explanation of the relationship between UC Police and county and city law enforcement agencies. An organizational chart with information about reporting authority would provide clarification. The Council was also concerned that pepper spray was the only chemical agent that does not need higher level approval for officers to use. Pepper spray has been used in the past on campus student protesters.

Systemwide Review of Proposed Revision of Senate Regulation 610, Defining Residency
In April, the Council discussed the Systemwide Review of Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 610, Defining Residency. There has been confusion as to whether residency has meant being physically present on a campus, which has been exacerbated by the shift to remote learning over the past year. In 2011, UCRJ concurred with a more liberal interpretation of Regulation 610, not linking physical presence to campus coursework. The revisions to Regulation 610 would codify this interpretation.

Members were very concerned about removing a physical requirement for residency. Although technology has changed so much and online learning is becoming more prevalent, members see graduate education as being influenced greatly by in person interactions. Collaborative research is necessary, and graduate students contribute to the overall intellectual life of the campus. Overall, the Council decided that having physical presence linked to residency is a necessary component of a UC education. GC disagreed with the 2011 UCRJ ruling, and would like the current masters and doctoral residency requirements to still be linked to physical presence on a UC campus.

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Policy
In May, Graduate Council discussed the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Policy. Concerns members brought up included the inability to ask others if they have received the vaccination; how faculty would know if students in their classes have received the vaccine; how the university will balance HIPAA and the needs of immunocompromised individuals who cannot receive the vaccine; what system will be put in place for faculty, students and staff to indicate they have been vaccinated; and who will enforce campus guidelines. Graduate student concerns were also raised, including trepidation about returning to campus, dealing with undergraduate students who will not follow campus guidelines, and international students’ ability to get back by fall.

Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration
In May, Graduate Council reviewed the Proposed Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. This has already been in place on campuses as the UC Council of Deans proposed this last year, but it was not sent out for formal Senate review. For UCSB, the local campus region is Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties. Anywhere else students are eligible for in absentia. Graduate Council was in unanimous support of the proposed policy.
Draft Presidential Campus Safety Plan
In June, the Council reviewed the draft Presidential Campus Safety Plan. While the Council was very pleased to see proposed changes that would deal with the current climate around policing, many aspects seemed vague. A report with data about campus incidents and questionable police actions should be provided. This plan is also very different from the Gold Book revisions that the Council reviewed a few months ago. Members appreciated the inclusion of mental health. The consequences for reprimands should be made more transparent, with details about what happens to an officer and exactly what transpired in a given situation. This plan pushes the decision to potentially defund or abolish police forces down to the campus level, and will require large amounts of resources that many campuses likely do not have. Addressing structural and institutional problems is necessary.

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. This year, GC reviewed and approved changes to the Graduate Council Bylaw, to remove the four standing subcommittees that have not met for at least the past decade. The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections approved of this change, and the Faculty Legislature approved the revision at its meeting of June 3, 2021.

X. Carry Over Issues for 2021-22
● Continuing to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing its impacts on graduate students, as well as faculty and staff.
● Developing an online course approval process for graduate courses.
● Conducting a review of the policies and procedures for establishing new interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphases.
● Discussing challenges related to COLA (cost of living adjustment). The COLA strike of 2020 was interrupted by COVID-19, but the issues still remain.

Members 2020-21
Tamara Affifi, Chair, CCGA Rep Professor, Communication
Adam Sabra, Vice-Chair Professor, History
Bernadette Andrea Professor, English
Omer Blaes Professor, Physics
Phil Christopher Professor, Chemical Engineering
Matthew Gordon Professor, Linguistics
Kostas Goulias Professor, Geography
Barbara Holdrege Professor, Religious Studies
Matthew G. Jackson Professor, Earth Science
Cynthia Kaplan Professor, Political Science
Jin Sook Lee Professor, Education
Carlos Levi Professor, Materials/Mechanical Engineering
Eric McFarland Professor, Chemical Engineering
Karen Myers Professor, Communication
Michelle O’Malley Professor, Chemical Engineering
Giuliana Perrone Assistant Professor, History
Norbert Reich Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry/Bimolecular Science & Engineering
Mark Rodwell Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Jonathan Schooler Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Herbert Waite
Leila Rupp, Interim Graduate Dean, Ex Officio
Alexander LeBrun, GSA Rep
Paige Digeser, Associate Dean, Consultant
Robert Hamm, Assistant Dean, Consultant
Kelly Rivera, Advisor

Professor, MCDB/Chemistry & Biochemistry/BMSE