To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Graduate Council met for fourteen regularly scheduled sessions during the 2006-07 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 2006-07 term, among them:

- On May 7, 2007, the Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal to establish M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Feminist Studies at UCSB. Later in the spring, the proposal was approved by the Faculty Legislature and is now under consideration by the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) at the systemwide Academic Senate.
- Graduate Council conducted external reviews of two interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphases, Language Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO), and Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS).
- Graduate Council considered a draft CCGA/UCEP document which discusses the appropriate degree of the use of graduate students in university instruction, defines titles and conditions of employment for such students, and discusses the applicability of academic freedom and the faculty code of conduct.

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I. Agenda

Graduate Course Proposal Requests

Graduate Council authorizes, supervises, and regulates all graduate courses except such courses exempted by action of the Regents. During the period between 9/1/2006 and 6/30/2007 Council processed 414 course requests, 36% were requests for new courses, 54% were course modifications, and 10% were course discontinuations.

Review of Existing Programs

Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Review of the following departments and programs in the 2006-07 term: Physics, Political Science, English, Geography, and Chicana/o Studies. Council also participated in the external review of the Marine Science Institute. Graduate Council recommended six departments and programs for the 2008-09 Academic Program Review.

Approvals for New Programs or Emphases

Graduate Council discussed and took action on several proposals for new programs and emphases during the 2006-07 term. Council discussed the Proposal for M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees in Feminist Studies at UCSB several times during meetings in the fall and winter quarters, noting strengths such as distinguished faculty, a solid academic plan, sufficient demand, and numerous letters of endorsement. In January, Council requested an additional statement of resources (staff support, library, student support, space, operational costs), more information regarding the particulars of how the curriculum would be implemented in the program’s first few
years, and information on opportunities for student placement. Council received a revised proposal in late February, followed by a memorandum from Executive Vice Chancellor Lucas regarding available resources for the program. Council also received input from the following agencies: the Office of Budget and Planning, Council on Planning and Budget, Council on Research and Instructional Resources, Undergraduate Council, and the Letters and Science Executive Committee. Graduate Council approved the proposal on May 7, 2007. Chancellor Yang endorsed the proposal on May 23, 2007. The Faculty Legislature approved the Proposal for M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees in Feminist Studies at UCSB on June 7, 2007 and it is now under consideration by the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs at the systemwide Academic Senate.

An Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Computational Science and Engineering was added to the Ph.D. program in Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology. Council also reviewed a proposal for an Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Translation Studies. A final review of this proposal will take place during the 2007-08 term.

Council reviewed and endorsed the proposal to establish a Center for New Racial Studies.

**Name Changes**

Graduate Council endorsed the proposed name change from the Department of Dramatic Art and Dance to the Department of Theater and Dance. Council approved the name change of the M.A. and Ph.D. programs to reflect the new name of the department.

**Changes to Existing Programs**

Graduate Council took the following action with respect to proposals for changes to existing programs:

- Approved the reorganization of the Sociocultural Anthropology specialization in the Anthropology M.A. program
- Approved the establishment of a new Ph.D. field, the Comparative History of Race and Ethnicity, in the Department of History
- Approved the renewal of the University of Iceland and UCSB Collaborative Agreement
- Approved renewal of the agreement between UCSB Cold War Studies and the London School of Economics
- Approved changes in degree requirements for the graduate program in Comparative Literature
- Approved changes in degree requirements for the M.A. program in Latin American and Iberian Studies
- Approved changes in degree requirements for the Bren Ph.D. program
- Approved changes to the catalog language for the graduate degrees in Music, emphasis in Voice
- Approved a change of name and requirements for the Ph.D. emphasis in Mathematical and Empirical Finance
- Approved the change in Ph.D. qualifying rules in Political Science
- Approved the addition of two courses to core modules in the Biophysics and Engineering emphasis of the Biomolecular Science and Engineering M.A. program
- Approved the changes in degree requirements for the doctoral program in Film and Media Studies

**Individual Interdisciplinary Degrees**

Graduate Council approves and reviews the progress of all Individual Interdisciplinary Degrees. We received updated information on several degrees in progress during the 2006-07 term.
Student Petitions

Council recommended to the Dean of Graduate Division that one disqualification appeal be denied.

II. Issues and Outcomes

Graduate Council discussed the following campus issues during the 2006-07 term:

Housing Rates and Principles

In August 2006, Council received a request for review and comment from the Chancellor on the proposed housing rates for the 2006-07 academic year. Also included was a memo from the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Student Housing (CACSH), regarding the Committee’s review of the 2006-07 rates. A rate increase of 5.95% was originally proposed for all on-campus housing in order to cover increased costs for staff salaries and fulfill debt obligations. CASCH asked that the rate increases be brought in line with the proposed graduate student salary increase for 2006-07, which was 3%. The Committee also recommended that averaged over time, campus housing rates for all students should be kept as equal as possible. Graduate Council endorsed both of the committee’s recommendations.

Recommendations of the Committee on TA Training

The TA Training Committee, an ad hoc committee comprised of members of the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils, was charged with investigating the adequacy of TA Training at UCSB. The Committee reviewed campus-wide TA training opportunities as well as TA training at the departmental level, and subsequently drafted a set of recommendations. Their recommendations include a three-pronged approach to improved TA training at UCSB:

1) Continued mandatory participation by first time teaching assistants in the campus-wide TA orientation.

2) Mandatory completion by first-time TAs of on-line training modules dealing with skills needed in the modern university classroom. The committee recommended that UCSB adopt on-line training modules similar to those used at UC Berkeley. The Berkeley training modules focus on topics such as: diversity, sexual harassment, academic integrity, and ethics.

3) Department based training. The committee drafted a document for the departments which describes mandatory elements for departmental TA training and recommended best practices. Also included was a checklist to assist departments in maintaining the best possible training of their TAs.

The committee also recommended that PRP include TA training as a point of assessment in the academic program review process. The Graduate Council considered the TA Training Committee’s recommendations, and will continue discussion of this important topic in the 2007-08 term.

Graduate Council discussed the following systemwide issues during the 2006-07 term:

The Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction

The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) and the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) submitted a revised proposal to the Academic Council which discusses the appropriate degree of the use of graduate students in university instruction.
At present, the policies and procedures with regard to the use of graduate students in instruction vary from campus to campus. While the use of graduate students as instructors has contributed significantly to UC's instructional mission, the currently policies are open to misuse. Also, the Councils are concerned that the current policies do not adequately address the applicability of the Faculty Code of Conduct (APM-015) and Academic Freedom (APM-010) to graduate student instruction. CCGA and UCEP recommend that graduate students participate in University instruction under two supervised instructional titles, the "Graduate Teaching Assistant" (GTA), and the "Graduate Teaching Fellow" (GTF). The GTA would be similar to the current Teaching Assistant title, whereas the GTF would resemble the current Teaching Associate title, but would include the supervision and mentorship of a faculty sponsor. The Councils believe that these recommendations should apply to all instruction, regardless of the quarter (regular academic year versus summer session). For both titles, the rights of Academic Freedom and the responsibilities of the Faculty Code of Conduct would apply to the supervising faculty member. The CCGA/UCEP proposal was approved by the Academic Council for distribution to the Divisions, and thus Graduate Council was asked to review the document and provide feedback.

In its response, Council noted that "supervision" was not defined with sufficient precision within the proposal, and it lacked adequate discussion of the ways in which campuses can ensure proper faculty supervision of GTAs and GTFs. Members also raised concern that it will be difficult to find instructors to serve as the instructor of record during the summer session, because faculty are not paid over the summer and therefore either do not teach summer session courses or are away from the campus. Other concerns included instruction for small enrollment courses such as writing and language, and responsibility for the assignment of grades. Council's concerns were included in the divisional response to the Academic Council. Graduate Council expects that the proposal will be revised and resubmitted during the 2007-08 term.

**Recycling MRU Funds**

In 2005-06 the Joint Academic Senate/UCOP Workgroup on Recycling Multi-campus Research Units Funds developed a set of recommendations with the aim to increase the flexibility of MRU funds and allow the University to create and fund new MRUs. Council discussed issues such as the importance of faculty FTE supported by MRU funds and the implications of the proposed MRU taxonomy. Council also raised concerns whether the workgroup's recommendations, if implemented, would affect UCSB graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. No data or discussion was provided on the subject. Council hesitated to endorse the proposal as written, due to the lack of discussion regarding the possible implications of the workgroup's recommendations. Council's concerns were included in the divisional response to the Academic Council.

**Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulations 694 and 695**

The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) proposed several amendments to Senate Regulations with a focus on preserving the quality of instruction when courses are delivered either remotely or online. CCGA also aimed to address how electronic instruction relates to the satisfaction of graduate residency requirements. Council's main area of discussion was primarily regarding SR 695, by which courses would be classified as in residence (on-campus) provided that either the instructor or the student is present on the main campus or at a remote center or satellite campus for the majority of the contact time. In their comments, Council questioned why a student's residency should be affected by the location of the instructor, especially if the instructor is a member of the Academic Senate who is not on a leave of absence. Council also discussed SR 695's relevance to the classification of field courses, when both the student and instructor are away from campus. Council's concerns were included in the divisional response to the Academic Council.

**Revised Student Freedom of Inquiry Principles**
The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) was notified that the University lacked clear principles with regard to student freedom of scholarly inquiry. UCAF agreed to investigate the issue, and so a joint Senate – Administrative systemwide workgroup was formed. The Academic Council circulated UCAF’s Proposed Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry Principles for review and comment in May 2006. Taking into account the divisions’ comments, UCAF revised the proposal, which was re-circulated for review and comment in March 2007.

It is stated that academic freedom is given to University of California faculty by virtue of their membership in the professoriate. Therefore, student freedom of inquiry is derived from and protected by the academic freedom of the faculty. The document states that students should be granted academic freedom as appropriate for their level in the educational process; however, they are responsible for learning the content of any course in which they are enrolled.

Council unanimously endorsed the Revised Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry Principles, and asked that upon approval, the principles be distributed to all students and faculty. In addition, Council noted that as graduate students should be informed of their academic freedoms, the document should be easily accessible, perhaps added to the campus’ graduate handbooks and TA training manuals. Council’s concerns were included in the divisional response to the Academic Council.

III. Committees

Committee on Graduate Student Affairs

The Committee on Graduate Student Affairs (CGSA) met once as a committee, and a number of times in conjunction with the TA Training Committee, a joint ad hoc with members from the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils. Members of CGSA participated in all meetings of the Teaching Assistant Training Committee, whose recommendations were discussed above in Section II.

The Committee on Graduate Student Affairs reviewed one graduate student petition and made recommendations to the chair of the Graduate Council.

Committee on Program Review

The Committee on Program Review (CPR) met five times during the 2006-07 academic year. A portion of the Committee’s work was conducted via e-mail.

In 2006-07, CPR focused on the review of two optional interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphases, Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO), and Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS). Academic Senate legislation requires that all formal academic programs be reviewed periodically for quality and appropriateness. While the conduct of reviews for degree programs has been delegated to the Program Review Panel, the reviews of optional interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphases are conducted by the Graduate Council. Optional interdisciplinary emphases were not reviewed in the past and the Graduate Council decided two years ago to rectify this matter. In 2005-06, the Committee on Program Review (CPR) performed a very basic review of two of the emphases with the earliest establishment dates, and reported their findings to the Graduate Council. CPR has been working for two years on review procedures and materials; these are now being refined based upon our observations from this year’s reviews.

Council sent a memorandum to each emphasis at the end of the previous academic year, notifying them of the CPR’s forthcoming review and asking for the names of distinguished scholars in the discipline to act as external reviewers. Council also provided the emphases with guidelines for drafting a self-review, and questionnaires to be distributed to all participating faculty.
and students. At the beginning of the winter quarter, a charge letter, along with the completed self-review and questionnaires were distributed to the external reviewers, who were asked to provide an expert assessment of the health and quality of the program. Due to cost constraints, the external reviewers were not asked to perform a site visit.

In early spring, CPR met to review and discuss the results of the external reviews and draft their final reports. CPR’s draft review reports and recommendations were presented to Council on June 4, 2007, where they were approved with amendments. CPR’s reports were distributed to the emphases, with a response due by the end of the fall quarter.

The Committee on Program Review recommended to Council that the optional interdisciplinary emphases in Women’s Studies (est. 1991) and Computational Science and Engineering (est. 2001) be reviewed in 2007-08.

**Committee on Funding and Fellowships**

The Committee on Funding and Fellowships did not meet as a whole in 2006-07, however, members of the committee served on selection committees for the student speaker at commencement, central fellowship competitions, dissertation awards, and teaching and mentorship awards.

**IV. Council Representation**

Representatives from the Graduate Council served on the following campus committees:

- Central Fellowship Committees for recruitment and continuing students
- Selection committee for the Student Commencement Speaker
- Selection committee for the Lancaster Dissertation awards
- Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Student Housing

**V. Coordination with Administration**

Graduate Council met with numerous members of the Administration during the 2006-07 term, including the Executive Vice Chancellor, Dean of the Division of Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences, Dean of the Division of Social Sciences, Associate Dean of the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, Executive Director of Housing and Residential Services, and the Director of Recruitment and Retention at the Graduate Division.

Graduate Dean Gale Morrison is an ex-officio member of Graduate Council. In addition to participating in each meeting, Dean Morrison gave several informative presentations on issues such as the National Research Council (NRC) Assessments, Proposition 209, and Doctoral Persistence Data.

**VI. Carry-Over Issues**

During the 2007-08 term, Council plans to continue work on the following issues:

- Adequate training for all graduate students in instructional roles
- Clear and consistent departmental communication of graduate degree requirements
- Doctoral persistence at UCSB

Members:

Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval
Leon Balents
Silvia Bermúdez
Bishnupriya Ghosh
Mary Hancock
Cynthia Kaplan (Chair of CPR)
Bruce Kendall
Nelson Lichtenstein
John Marshall
Brad Paden
Stephen Poole
Mihai Putinar
Curtis Roads (Chair of GF&F)
Kenneth rose
Geoffrey Rutkowski
John Sutton
Stuart Sweeney (Chair of GSAC)
Jodi Anderson (Consultant)
Mary McMahon (Consultant)
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Benjamin Shockey (GSA Representative)
Mary Brenner (Vice Chair)
**Omer Egcioglu (Chair and Representative to CCGA)**