To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Graduate Council met for sixteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions during the 2008-09 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 2008-09 term, among them:

- The proposed themes for UC Santa Barbara’s (UCSB’s) Institutional Proposal, part of the reaccreditation process by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Policy on Curricular Practical Training
- Proposed changes to the English Language Placement Exam (ELPE) Policy
- Report on the Professional Doctorate

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 9/1/2008 and 6/30/2009 Council processed 460 course requests, 46% were requests for new courses, 19% were course modifications, and 35% were course discontinuations.

II. Review of Academic Programs

Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Reviews of the following departments and programs in the 2008-09 term: French and Italian, Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies, Comparative Literature, Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Probability, and Economics. The review of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology was postponed. Graduate Council recommended six departments and programs for the 2010-11 Academic Program Reviews.

Graduate Council approved the procedures for the interim review of the M.A. in Global and International Studies. The review, which will take place during the 2009-10 term, will be managed by the Graduate Council in consultation with the Graduate Dean. The M.A. in Global and International Studies Review Committee, an ad hoc committee of the Graduate Council, will conduct the review.

Council reviewed the January 2008 Report on the Certificate in College and University Teaching (CCUT). Council agreed that the CCUT program is beneficial to students and should be more widely advertised and possibly broadened. Council suggested that CCUT take an informal
survey to gauge interest in expanding the program, and to explore what resources would be needed.

III. Proposals for New Programs, Emphases, and Research Units

Graduate Council discussed and took action on several proposals for new programs, emphases, and research units during the 2008-09 term.

Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Ancient Mediterranean Studies
Graduate Council approved the establishment of an Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Ancient Mediterranean Studies, involving the departments of Anthropology, Classics, History, and Religious Studies, effective Winter 2009.

Doctor of Musical Arts in Music – Emphasis in Horn
Graduate Council approved the addition of a new emphasis in Horn to the existing Doctor of Musical Arts in Music, effective Fall 2009.

Department of Teaching, Curriculum, and Professional Development
Graduate Council considered the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education’s (GGSE’s) proposal to establish a new academic unit, the Department of Teaching, Curriculum, and Professional Development (TCPD). The proposal included plans for TCPD to offer the existing M.A./Ph.D. in Education jointly with the Department of Education, to offer the M.Ed. in Teaching, and to administer the Teacher Education Program (TEP). In essence, Council found the proposal to be more of a reconstitution of the units and degree programs within the GGSE.

After some clarification on the relationship between the two departments, and the administration of the M.A./Ph.D., Council agreed that the GGSE had presented a rather compelling rationale for the establishment of the new academic unit. Council sent its endorsement to the Divisional Chair, with a list of the resource issues that the GGSE had yet to address.

Council also agreed with the joint offering of the existing M.A./Ph.D., but noted the lack of precedent for such an arrangement. Council consulted with its Systemwide counterpart, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs, which ruled that they would like to see the proposal in the form of a request to establish a new graduate degree program.

Council expects the discussion to continue in the 2009-10 term.

Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Translation Studies
Graduate Council approved the establishment of an Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Translation Studies, involving the departments/programs of Classics, Comparative Literature, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, French and Italian, Germanic Slavic and Semitic Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, Linguistics, and Religious Studies, effective Fall 2009.

Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Economics and Environmental Science
Graduate Council approved the establishment of an Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Economics and Environmental Science, involving the Department of Economics and the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, effective Fall 2009.
Proposal to Establish a New Major in Economics and Accounting and the Proposal to Discontinue the Existing Major in Business Economics

Per the Policy on Transfer, Consolidation, or Discontinuance of an Undergraduate Program Leading to a Degree, the Undergraduate Council requested comment from the Graduate Council regarding the proposal to establish a new Major in Economics and Accounting and the proposal to discontinue the existing Major in Business Economics. The proposal also included the discontinuation of the Emphasis in Accounting within the Business Economics Major, curricular changes within the Major in Economics, and an increase in the pre-major GPA requirement from 2.85 to 3.00 for the Major in Economics and the Major in Economics and Accounting. Council considered the full package and unanimously endorsed the proposed actions.

Proposal for a New Major in Language, Culture, and Society Leading to the B.A. Degree

The Undergraduate Council requested comment from the Graduate Council on the Department of Linguistics' Proposal for a New Major in Language, Culture, and Society Leading to the B.A. Degree. Council unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Proposal to Establish the Technology Management Program and a Revised Instructional Program and Name Change for the Graduate Certificate in Technology Management

Graduate Council was asked to consider the College of Engineering's Proposal for a New Academic Unit Within the College of Engineering (the Technology Management Program) and a Revised Instructional program and Name Change for the Graduate Certificate in Technology Management.

Council voted not to endorse the new academic unit. First and foremost among Council's concerns were the resources required to support the new academic unit. Council agreed that now is not the time to invest significant resources in mounting a new academic unit, when the budget will make it difficult even to maintain the quality of our current instructional programs.

These investments seemed even more difficult for Council to justify given that the Technology Management Program, particularly the plans for future graduate degrees, involves a considerable intellectual departure from UCSB's current programs. Even in good economic times, Council would be reluctant to endorse a shift of this magnitude without careful consideration and thorough discussion of how the new unit would affect UCSB's intellectual identity and graduate teaching mission.

After a great deal of deliberation, the Council did not feel comfortable approving the revisions to the Graduate Certificate in Management Practice. Members found it difficult to assess the academic quality of the current curriculum, and the qualifications of the non-ladder faculty instructors, given their own areas of expertise. Council recommended a review for the certificate program, involving faculty from a broader intellectual perspective, ideally from other campuses with similar programs. Following the review, Council will be able to make an informed decision about the Revised Instructional Program and name Change for the Graduate Certificate in Technology Management.

Proposed Center for Computing Education and Diversity

Graduate Council reviewed the proposal to establish a Center for Computing Education and Diversity. Members agreed that the Center could serve an important need both on campus and
in the local community. However, Council was concerned that the participating faculty were drawn from a very small number of departments, and Council suggested that the proponents collaborate with other faculty on campus, particularly those in Education with expertise in reaching underrepresented students. Members also voiced concern about the commitment of resources for the Center. Council agreed not to endorse the proposal until these issues are addressed.

Proposal to Establish the Silicon Photonics Center
Graduate Council discussed and unanimously endorsed the establishment of the Silicon Photonics Center.

Memorandum of Understanding Between UCSB and Zhejiang University
Graduate Council discussed and unanimously endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UCSB and Zhejiang University. Council noted that the current MOU is vague, and recommended that any future amendments to the agreement be routed to the appropriate Senate councils and committees for review.

Memorandum of Understanding Between UCSB and the Royal Education Council of Bhutan
Graduate Council did not endorse the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UCSB (GGSE) and the Royal Education Council of Bhutan. In general, Council felt that the terms and conditions included in the MOU significantly lacked specificity. Council requested a number of clarifications from the GGSE.

Memorandum of Understanding Between UCSB and Queensland University of Technology
Graduate Council did not endorse the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UCSB and the Queensland University of Technology. Council found the draft to be preliminary, and therefore difficult to evaluate.

In general, Council has been dismayed by the condition of the international agreements it has recently considered. Many of the proposed agreements are extremely vague, and do not clearly specify the benefits of graduate student exchange, as well as the policies concerning eligibility, support, and academic credit. In addition, the agreements do not include a vote by the relevant faculty. Council reiterated the need for a campus policy for the establishment of international agreements.

IV. Name Changes

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Women’s Studies
Council unanimously approved the name change of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Women’s Studies to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Feminist Studies, effective immediately. The change will bring the Emphasis in line the new name of the Department.

V. Changes to Existing Programs

- Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A./Ph.D. in Sociology
- Approved changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature
- Approved proposal to change the foreign language requirements for the Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures
• Approved proposed changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
• Approved proposed changes to the M.A. requirements in Political Science
• Approved proposed changes to the degree requirements for the M.A./Ph.D. in Film and Media Studies
• Approved the addition of Education and the Bren School to the participating departments in the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Technology and Society
• Approved the addition of Computer Science to the participating departments in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Cognitive Science
• Approved the proposed changes to the Emphasis in Financial Mathematics and Statistics (PSTAT)
• Approved the changes to the preliminary exam and Ph.D. course requirements for Economics
• Approved the addition of Film and Media Studies to the participating departments in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
• Approved the proposed changes to the graduate programs in Spanish and Portuguese

VI. Student Petitions

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

VII. Local Senate Issues

Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphases

Council discussed the issues surrounding the University’s Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphases, which are focused areas of study that may be offered as an addition to existing graduate degree programs. Typically, students take required courses in the emphasis, draft a dissertation relevant to the emphasis’ area of study, and include at least one member of the participating faculty on their doctoral committees. Twelve emphases have been established since 1994. Council witnessed a sharp increase in departments requesting to participate in the current emphases, which may be due to the fact that students may only participate in an emphasis if their department is approved to participate. Council discussed the need to re-evaluate the interdisciplinary emphases, in terms of definition, purpose, demand, completion rates, criteria for review and evaluation, impact of involvement on departments/programs, and the need for funding. According to Graduate Division records, the participation rates for the emphases are variable, which is likely due to students not formally petitioning to add the emphases. Council delegated this issue to the Committee on Program Review.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges Institutional Proposal

UCSB is currently undergoing reaccreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The WASC Steering Committee worked throughout the year to formulate UCSB’s Institutional Proposal, the guiding document for the reaccreditation process. The Academic Senate was asked to consider proposed themes for the Institutional Proposal twice during the 2008-09 term.

The first draft of the Institutional Proposal included the four themes of Assessment, Internationalization, Sustainability and Undergraduate Research. After campus-wide consultation, the themes were modified in favor of two broader themes, Enhancing
Undergraduate Education through Research and Planning for Growth and Excellence in Graduate Education. Council was pleased to see that graduate education had taken a prominent place in the Institutional Proposal. However, members noted that planning for growth in graduate education will be extremely complicated given the current budget climate and the uncertainty about the University’s budgetary future; there must also be discussions about planning for excellence in the absence of growth.

Policy for Sustaining Community and Preventing Violence

Graduate Council was asked to comment on the draft Policy for Sustaining Community and Preventing Violence, formerly known as the Proposed Policy on Zero Tolerance for Violence. The latest iteration includes a new title to better reflect that the policy covers both violence and incivility, clearer language about the consequences for policy violations, clarifications of who to contact, etc. Council made several minor suggestions for clarity and forwarded its comments to the Divisional Chair.

Policy on Curricular Practical Training

Graduate Council and the Graduate Division were informed by the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) of a recent problem with students who hold F-1 visas requesting to be permitted to work full-time off-campus during the academic year. The Policy on Curricular Practical Training (CPT) allows for students to pursue off-campus employment or an internship related to their degree that is a requirement for a course. CPT is limited to part-time during the year, but may be full-time during instructional breaks and the summer session. Many of the students requesting exceptions come from terminal Master’s programs in which they are unsupported financially. The students argue that it is their right to work full-time, and that other universities permit students to work full-time during the academic year.

Council consulted with Mary Jacobs, Director of OISS, and two faculty members from the College of Engineering. The discussion centered on equity between domestic and international students, immigration law, and balancing students’ life circumstances and need for practical experience with academic best interests and expected student progress.

After much deliberation, Graduate Council voted to maintain the policy as it currently stands. However, Council agreed to revisit these policies and general international student affairs issues in the future.

Graduate Courses Concurrently Offered with Undergraduate Courses

Graduate Council reviewed a list of graduate courses concurrently offered with undergraduate courses, including the newly proposed courses that are currently under review. Council discussed that several departments have a large number of concurrently offered courses, and that the total number of concurrently offered courses on campus is likely to increase due to budgetary and faculty workload concerns. Questions were raised about the pedagogical value of offering combined graduate and undergraduate courses. Several members noted that having undergraduate present in these courses places a ceiling on the level of discussion. In addition, members discussed that the reduction in workload between offering a concurrently offered course and two separate courses is not significant, and therefore, concurrently offered courses are not a good solution to faculty workload issues. Council agreed to follow up on this issue and send a memorandum to the departments, requesting more information about the use of concurrently offered courses.
Proposal to Change the English Language Placement Exam (ELPE) Policy

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program requested a change to the English Language Placement Exam (ELPE) Policy. ESL proposed that international and permanent resident applicants who have completed their undergraduate degree from an institution where English is the primary medium of instruction be considered for exemption from both the oral and written portions of the ELPE. In the past, the majority of these students have been exempted from ESL courses after taking the ELPE, so exempting them from the ELPE altogether saves both student and staff time. Students will still be welcome to enroll in ESL courses, if they wish. Graduate Council asked that the policy specify that students must have completed the entirety of their undergraduate degree where English is the primary language of instruction, and approved the updated policy, effective immediately.

Policy and Procedures for the Establishment of International Agreements

Graduate Council discussed a draft from the Committee on International Education (CIE), the Policy and Procedures for the Establishment of International Agreements. Council did not endorse the draft, due to a number of concerns about authority, general counsel review of agreements, and Academic Senate involvement in the case that agreements are renewed or changed. In addition, Council commented that the required format for proposals should be much more detailed, specifically with respect to resource commitments. Council forwarded its comments to the Divisional Chair, and plans to follow-up on this policy in 2009-10.

Instructional Technology Enhancement Initiative

The College of Letters and Science (L&S) is proposing an Instructional Technology Enhancement Initiative, funded by student course materials fees, to enhance L&S curriculum through improved instructional technologies. The initiative would begin in 2009-10 and undergo review after three years. Graduate Council was generally supportive of the initiative, but raised a number of questions about the roles of various departments, overlap of services, and TA training. In addition, Council raised a question about whether the fees will be applied to all students enrolled in L&S courses, or only those who are L&S majors, only undergraduate students, or graduate students as well. Council also recommended that the College initiate ongoing conversations about technology and teaching, specifically about technology’s implications for pedagogical practice, and the expectations students and faculty place on each other. Council forwarded its comments to the Divisional Chair.

VIII. Systemwide Business

Report on the Professional Doctorate

Council was asked to comment on the Report on the Professional Doctorate, written by a subcommittee of the UC Task Force on Planning for Doctoral and Professional Education (PDPE). PDPE noted an increasing trend in the establishment of professional doctorate degrees, in areas such as audiology, physical therapy and nursing, in many cases due to changes in accreditation and professional licensure standards. In its report, PDPE proposed principles for the purpose of determining when professional doctorates are distinct from doctorates based on research and scholarship, and whether it is appropriate for the California State University (CSU) to offer them. Council agreed with PDPE that the University of California should maintain sole authority for granting research and scholarship based doctoral degrees, and that new professional doctoral degrees should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Members voiced concern about the reported “accreditation creep”, noting that by requiring
professional doctorates, accrediting bodies may be creating issues of access and equity for students. Council also discussed the importance of research on the implications of new credential requirements, including the issue of meeting California’s needs with respect to the profession in question. Council forwarded its comments to the Divisional Chair.

UC Accountability Framework

Council was asked to comment on President Yudof’s draft UC Accountability Framework, designed to assess the University’s progress in meeting teaching, research, and public service goals. Members voiced concern that the “Graduate and Professional Student Profile” section of the report seriously lacked content, simply providing data in areas such as total enrollment, enrollment by race/ethnicity, gender, discipline, and geographic location. It was noted that the Office of the President plans to continue to develop the report and circulate it for comment later in the term. Council decided not to opine at this time.

IX. Committees

Committee on Program Review

The Committee on Program Review (CPR) was asked by the Graduate Council to re-evaluate the interdisciplinary emphases, in terms of definition, purpose, demand, completion rates, criteria for review and evaluation, impact of involvement on departments/programs, and the need for funding. CPR met twice in 2008-09. The Committee discussed the general issues and decided to draft questions for the leadership of the emphases, concerning student benefits, resources, administrative practices, requirements, etc. After distributing the questions to the emphases, the Committee plans to analyze the results, and formulate a set of common findings and best practices. CPR would like to meet with the emphases to discuss the Committee’s findings and possible changes to policy. Finally, the Committee will make recommendations for action to the full Council.

Committee on Graduate Funding and Fellowships

The Committee on Graduate Funding and Fellowships (CGFF) met once in 2008-09. Dean Morrison requested a meeting with CGFF to discuss the state of graduate funding and to consult with the Committee regarding the procedures for awarding fellowships.

Committee on Graduate Student Affairs

The Committee on Graduate Student Affairs (CGSA) met twice in 2008-09.

At the first meeting, the Committee’s discussions were primarily in the area of improving the mentorship experience for graduate students, and the grievance and dismissal process. Members discussed the many issues surrounding grievance and dismissal, such as clear communication of requirements/milestones, proactive management of students’ lack of progress, dismissal prevention, time to degree and normative time, etc.

The Committee met later in the year to continue their discussion on student dismissal and grievance policies. Members discussed that the disciplinary process needs to be clear, graduated, and focused on prevention. The Committee discussed the need for a review of best practices on campus, and training sessions for departments. CGSA also discussed the time-to-degree policies at other UC campuses, and the possibility of reviewing UCSB’s time-to-degree
structure. Dean Morrison noted that the time-to-degree issue will be brought to Council as a discussion item in the fall.

Subcommittee Structure

As the Graduate Council’s three subcommittees have met relatively rarely in the past two years, and most business has been handled by the full Council, 2009-10 may be a good time to re-examine the subcommittee structure and discuss the possibility of a more functional arrangement.

X. Council Representation

Members of the Graduate Council participated in the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs, and the selection committees for the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Awards, the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards, the Lancaster Dissertation Competition, and the centrally administered fellowships.

XI. Coordination with Administration

Graduate Council met with Dean Marshall mid-year to discuss the potential impact of the UCSB’s fiscal challenges on graduate student support, undergraduate enrollment, core instructional needs, and the doctoral emphases.

XII. Carry-Over Issues

- Policy on Curricular Practical Training and international student affairs
- Concurrently offered graduate and undergraduate courses
- Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphases
- Graduate Funding

Members:

Kaustav Banerjee
Grace Chang
Swati Chattopadhyay
Eve Darian-Smith
Gretchen Hofmann
Dawn Holmes
Cynthia Hudley (Chair of CGSA)
Robin Nabi (Chair of PRC)
Stephen Poole (Chair of GF&F)
Geoffrey Rutkowski
Katherine Saltzman-Li
Terry Smith
Christopher Still
Voula Tsouna
Gale Morrison (Ex-Officio)
Sharon Farmer (Vice-Chair)
John Sutton (Chair and Representative to CCGA)
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