

GRADUATE COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Graduate Council met for fifteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions during the 2009-10 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 2009-10 term, among them:

- The recommendations from the Working Groups of the UC Commission on the Future
- Policies on time-to-degree for graduate education
- Procedures for departmental advising and notification of academic progress

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 7/1/2009 and 6/30/2010, Council processed a total of 591 course requests, 39% were requests for new courses, 39% were course modifications, and 22% were course discontinuations.

II. Review of Academic Programs

Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Reviews of the following departments and programs in the 2009-10 term: Education, Linguistics, Philosophy, Media Arts and Technology, and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. Graduate Council recommended six departments for Academic Program Review in 2011-12.

Outside of the regular Academic Program Review process, Graduate Council conducted an interim review of the M.A. in Global and International Studies, and participated in the review of the Technology Management Program.

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

- Endorsed the proposed non-ORU Center for Science and Engineering Partnership
- Endorsed the *Exchange and Collaboration Agreement Between 'Universita' Degli Studi Di Napoli "L'Orientale" and The Department of French and Italian, University of California Santa Barbara*
- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Earth Research Institute
- Requested additional information on the proposal to establish the Center for Biological Engineering and Science

- Requested additional information on the proposal to establish the CNSI Center for Scientific Computing
- Approved the proposal to establish the specialization in French Literary Studies and the Specialization in German Literary Studies under the aegis of the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature

IV. Name Changes

Chicana and Chicano Studies

Council unanimously approved the proposal to change the name of the M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs in Chicano Studies to the M.A. and Ph.D. in Chicana and Chicano Studies. The change will bring the graduate degree programs in line with the new name of the department.

V. Changes to Existing Programs

- Approved the addition of the Department of Communication to the participating departments of the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies and the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Feminist Studies
- Approved the proposal to remove the emphases in Electronic Music and Sound Design, Visual and Spatial Arts, and Multimedia Engineering from the Ph.D. in Media Arts and Technology
- Approved a suspension of admissions to the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Approved the proposal to remove the ESC MSPROF credential from the offerings of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
- Approved the proposal to remove the M.S. degree option for admissions to the graduate program in Chemical Engineering
- Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Chicana and Chicano Studies
- Approved a suspension of admissions to the Emphasis in Business Economics within the Master's program in Economics
- Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. in Global and International Studies
- Approved a suspension of admissions to the graduate program French and the graduate program in German
- Approved a suspension of admissions to the Summer Institute for French and Francophone Studies
- Approved changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Engineering Emphasis
- Approved the addition of a colloquium requirement to the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Medieval Studies
- Approved the addition of the Department of Religious Studies to the participating departments of the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Cognitive Science
- Approved the addition of the Comparative Literature Program to the participating departments of the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
- Approved changes to the degree requirements for the Department of Communication
- Approved changes to the foreign language requirement for the Ph.D. in Feminist Studies

VI. Local Issues

Time-to-Degree Standards for Graduate Programs

Graduate Council considered a proposal from Graduate Dean Morrison to simplify time-to-degree standards for graduate programs. Graduate students are expected to meet the academic standards of the university, including making timely progress through required program milestones. At the time, there were three time standards used in various contexts in graduate education at UCSB:

1. Normative Time:
Departmental normative time standards for Ph.D. degree completion, approved by the Graduate Council. Most fellowship awards require that graduate students be within normative time standards for their departments.
2. Time-to-Degree (Santa Barbara Regulation 350):
Under local Academic Senate policy, students were given four years to complete a master's degree, four years from beginning graduate study at UCSB to advance to doctoral candidacy, and seven years total to complete a doctoral degree. Academic appointment as a teaching assistant or associate requires that a graduate student be within these time-to-degree standards.
3. Graduate Class Level (Registrar designation):
 - **P1 status:** degree objective is academic or professional doctorate, but student has not advanced to candidacy
 - **P2 status:** degree objective is academic or professional doctorate, and student has advanced to candidacy
 - **P3 status:** after three years (9 registered quarters) as P2 status a student goes into P3 status

These class level designations are of particular importance because they are used by the Graduate Division to determine eligibility for financial support and affect funding allocations from the UC Office of the President.

The core spirit of the proposed changes is to encourage graduate students, their department advisors/mentors, and Graduate Division to share expectations and consistent communications about time to degree standards in UCSB graduate programs. It is to the benefit of all parties for students to make timely progress through their degree programs.

Dean Morrison recommended that the campus simplify the current time standards by merging normative time and time-to-degree into one standard that reflects varying expectations across disciplines. Each department was asked to determine the appropriate time for advancement to candidacy and degree completion, based on the standards of the academic discipline.

After receiving proposed figures from the departments, Graduate Council voted unanimously at its meeting of January 25, 2010 to change the time limit standards for advancement to candidacy and degree completion for doctoral students. The Graduate Dean and Graduate Council formally proposed changes to Santa Barbara Regulation 350, which were approved by the Faculty Legislature on May 13, 2010.

Departmental Advising and Notification of Academic Progress

Following the changes to time-to-degree standards for graduate degree programs, Dean Morrison consulted with Graduate Council on a revised set of procedures for departmental advising and notification of academic progress.

Each department is responsible for providing graduate students with clearly written materials outlining the requirements and expectations for their degree program. Faculty mentors and/or advisors are responsible for evaluating the progress of their graduate students on a regular basis and providing timely feedback.

The proposed procedures included a graduated system of communication and notification if a student falls below the department's academic standards or exceeds time-to-degree. The Graduate Division and the department will be responsible for monitoring student progress and working collaboratively to guide students as appropriate.

The proposed procedures were approved by the Council at their meeting of March 8, 2010 and added to the Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Eligibility for Doctoral Committee Service

Per Academic Senate policy, all doctoral committees must consist of at least three UC ladder faculty members, two of whom (including the chair or co-chair) must be from the student's home department. Graduate Council discussed the need for clarification to the policy on eligibility for doctoral committee service, due to confusion on the part of departments. Council clarified the eligibility for Research Professors, Affiliated Faculty, Emeriti, Lecturers with Security of Employment (SOE) or Potential Security of Employment (PSOE), faculty from other UC campuses, and faculty who separate from the University.

The new policy language was approved by the Council on April 4, 2010 and added to the Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Policy on the Involuntary Withdrawal of a Student

Graduate Council was asked to comment on the *Policy on the Involuntary Withdrawal of a Student*, which was developed by UC's Office of General Counsel in response to the need for a policy to address students with serious mental health problems who have not violated the Code of Conduct but whose behavior raises serious safety concerns. Council discussed the draft policy, noting the difficulty in balancing the need to protect the campus community from danger with the need to protect individual students' rights and freedoms. Members agreed that such a policy was necessary, but several remained concerned about accountability and student rights.

Council endorsed the proposed policy at its meeting of April 4, 2010, but recommended that the policy's use be reviewed annually or bi-annually by the appropriate divisional or Systemwide body of the Academic Senate.

VII. Systemwide Business

UC Commission on the Future

Graduate Council met with various chairs and representatives of the working groups of the UC Commission on the Future (Size and Shape of UC, Education and Curriculum, Access and Affordability, Funding Strategies, and Research Strategies) at a number of meetings throughout the winter and spring quarters.

Council's key comments on the workgroup reports stressed the importance of graduate education in UC research (and therefore UC's standing as a tier-one research university system), in educating undergraduates, and in stimulating California's economy. In addition, the Council emphasized the need for UC to increase graduate student funding packages in order to remain competitive with our comparison institutions.

UCPB Position Paper on Differential Fees and Non-Resident Tuition

Graduate Council considered and enthusiastically endorsed the University Committee on Planning and Budget's Position Paper on Differential Fees and Non-Resident Tuition at its meeting of April 5, 2010. Council rejects the idea of differential fees both by major and by campus. Members discussed the need to halt the trend toward privatization, and noted the importance of keeping all campuses strong for the overall health of the UC system.

With respect to non-resident tuition, Council noted that there should be a clear set of Systemwide criteria for dispersing NRT funds, and that the funds should come back to the campuses proportionately to the NRT they generate. In addition, UC should introduce a mechanism for preventing the high-demand campuses from stocking up on out-of-state students, such as a Systemwide cap on out-of-state admissions that would be applied to each campus. The University of California has a responsibility to educate California residents, and a significant increase in out-of-state students would give a poor impression to the public.

Review of the Compendium

Graduate Council was asked to review and comment on the *Final Report of the Joint-Senate Administrative Task Force on the Compendium*, and the draft updates to the *Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units*. Council noted a few areas which the Compendium did not address, including detailed guidance on the establishment of self-supporting and professional programs, and guidance regarding suspension of admissions to degree programs. Council agreed to endorse the proposed changes at its meeting of May 17, 2010.

UCPB "Choices" Report

Graduate Council considered the University Committee on Planning and Budget's "Choices" Report. Council unanimously endorsed the "Choices" Report, particularly in its idea that the University of California must make informed and strategic planning and budgeting choices that will preserve the quality of our faculty and our identity as a top-tier research institution.

VIII. 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.

The Committee on Graduate Funding and Fellowships met once during the 2010-11 academic year, to discuss the policies and procedures for graduate student fellowships.

IX. Coordination with Administration

Council met with Executive Vice Chancellor Lucas regarding the campus budget and the future of graduate education.

X. Carry Over Issues

- The future of graduate education, both locally and Systemwide
- Graduate student funding

Members:

Tamara Afifi
Kaustav Banerjee
Tevfik Bultan
Grace Chang
Helen Couclelis
Eve Darian-Smith
Mattanjah De Vries
Elizabeth DePalma Digeser
Ruth Finkelstein
Michael Gerber
Stefan Gries
John Lew
Daniel Linz
Behrooz Parhami
Rita Raley
Geoffrey Rutkowski
Katherine Saltzman-Li
Gale Morrison (Ex-Officio)
Sharon Farmer (Vice-Chair)
John Sutton (Chair and Representative to CCGA)

Indy Hurt (GSA Representative)
Christian Villaseñor (Consultant)
Shasta Delp (Adviser)