To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Graduate Council met for sixteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions during the 2010-11 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 2010-11 term, among them:

- Revisions to the Parenting Accommodations Policy
- Revisions to the Reinstatement Policy
- WASC Capacity and Preparatory Review Report
- Policy on Self-Supporting Part-Time Graduate Professional Degree Programs

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 7/1/2010 and 6/30/2011, Council processed a total of 491 course requests, 37% were requests for new courses, 26% were course modifications, and 37% were course discontinuations.

II. Review of Academic Programs

Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Reviews of the following departments and programs in the 2010-11 term: Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, and Music.

The Council also endorsed a set of draft procedures for the review of the UCSB-SDSU Joint Doctoral (Ph.D.) Program in Geography, which will take place in 2011-12.


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

- Endorsed the Agreement of Cooperation between UCSB and the Australia Council for the Arts
- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Scientific Computing
- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Bioengineering
- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Marine Assessment and Planning
- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Cyber Security
- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Geometric Computation
• Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for California Languages and Culture within the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (ISBER)
• Approved the proposal to establish an Emphasis in Pharmacology and Biotechnology within the M.A. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
• Endorsed the proposal to establish the Leonard and Gretchan Broom Center for Demography
• Requested additional information on the proposal to establish the McEnroe Reading and Language Arts Center

IV. Name Changes

English as a Second Language Program

Council endorsed the proposal to change the name of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program to the English for Multilingual Studies Program (EMSP). The new name will better reflect the program’s services for students, which focus on academic English.

Department of Psychology

Council endorsed the proposal to change the name of the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. The new name will more accurately describe the department’s involvement in neuroscience-related research and teaching activities.

Master of Fine Arts in Art Studio

Council approved the proposal to change the name of the Master of Fine Arts in Art Studio to the Master of Fine Arts in Art. The department underwent its own name change in 2004, and now both names will better reflect the field and its inclusion of art beyond those practices that are strictly studio oriented.

V. Changes to Existing Programs

• Approved the addition of the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies to the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Feminist Studies
• Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Theater Studies
• Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in the History of Art and Architecture
• Approved changes to the foreign language requirement for the Ph.D. in English
• Approved changes to the Graduate Program in Management Practice certificate
• Approved the addition of a proseminar requirement to the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature
• Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Feminist Studies
• Approved the request to eliminate the terminal Master’s option for the graduate program in Political Science
• Approved the addition of the Department of Education to the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
• Approved the revised scholarship standards for the M.A. and Ph.D. Communication
• Approved the addition of the Department of Film and Media Studies to the Optional Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Feminist Studies
Approved the request to suspend admissions to the Summer Institute in Hispanic Languages and Culture
Approved changes to the degree requirements for the graduate programs in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology
Approved the addition of an “Eco-Entrepreneurship” project option for the Master of Environmental Science and Management.
Approved changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Approved changes to the qualifying examination and dissertation policies for the Department of Communication
Approved changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Chemistry and Biochemistry

VI. Student Petitions

Graduate Council recommended to the Graduate Dean that two appeals of academic disqualification be denied.

VII. Local Issues

Doctoral Student Travel Grants

The Academic Senate awards the Doctoral Student Travel Grant to eligible students who have been invited or selected to present a paper, present research, perform or exhibit at a major professional conference or meeting. The grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis each fiscal year until the designated funding is fully allocated.

In order to help ensure that the very limited Doctoral Student Travel Grant funding is distributed equally, among those students with conferences at the beginning and the end of the year, and among students in the various disciplines, the Graduate Council approved new guidelines for the distribution of the 2011-12 Doctoral Student Travel Grants.

For 2010-11, the grant funding was split into two equal pools, one for each half of the fiscal year. For 2011-12, each pool of funding will now be divided among all of the divisions and schools. The allocation of funding within each division/school will be based upon its headcount of graduate student enrollment. Graduate Council will review the new funding model at the end of the 2011-12 academic year, and determine whether it should continue.

Overall, the Council voiced dismay at the very limited budget for the Doctoral Student Travel Grants.

Proposal to Revise Reinstatement Policy

The Graduate Division proposed a set of changes to the policy for graduate student reinstatement, in order to address a number of the existing policy’s problematic elements.

Under existing policy, departments did not have the option to require that students complete the degree requirements in place at the time of reinstatement to the program. For example, a number of students have lapsed and then petitioned for reinstatement up to ten years later,
which is problematic when a department’s degree requirements have changed significantly from the time when student was last enrolled. The proposed policy would require that students submit their reinstatement to the department at least six-weeks prior to the beginning of the academic quarter. Students who have lapsed but remain within time-to-degree must provide a memo requesting reinstatement, while students who have exceeded the department’s time-to-degree standards must provide a more comprehensive set of documentation to the department for review. Departments will determine whether these students are adequately prepared to return to the program, and whether students will be required to follow updated degree requirements or re-complete critical milestone requirements. In addition, students were permitted to register in the summer to resume graduate study or complete their degrees without faculty approval. Students will no longer be permitted to do so, as reinstatements will be allowed for the fall, winter, and spring quarters only.

The reinstatement petition fee at UCSB is well below that charged by other UC campuses, and did not cover the significant work involved in processing reinstatement petitions. The reimbursement fee will be increased to be equivalent with the current fees for graduate student applications.

Council voted to approve the revised policy and fee increase, effective summer 2011.

Consideration of Bologna Process Degrees in Graduate Admission Evaluation

The Graduate Division requested approval from the Graduate Council to accept the three-year Bologna degree without requiring an admission exception. Previously, departments were required to request an exception to admissions policy in order to admit a student who possessed a three-year bachelor’s degree. The Bologna Process degrees have become standard in many European countries, and have been deemed equivalent to a U.S. Bachelor’s degree by World Education Services (WES). Graduate Council unanimously voted to approve the Graduate Division’s request, to be implemented immediately.

Proposal to Institute a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) Deadline

The Graduate Division requested approval from the Graduate Council to institute a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) deadline of June 15 for graduate admission. Currently, students who are offered financial support are required to submit an SIR by April 15, but all other students may submit their SIR at any time. The lack of a deadline for non-supported students has been very problematic for departmental planning, as a number of students do not submit their SIR until the summer quarter. Graduate Council unanimously voted to approve the Graduate Division’s request, to be implemented for the incoming Fall 2011 class.

Teaching Practicum Issue

Council discussed the recent increase in departments requesting an exception to policy to allow Teaching Associates to serve as the Instructor of Record for their teaching practicum courses. In the past, Graduate Council has been opposed to graduate students instructing other graduate students, on the principle that students should not be evaluating their peers. Council discussed the issue and agreed to recommend that the departments find another model for their teaching practicum courses, particularly one that does not require that graduate students evaluate their peers in a credited course. For example, a number of departments allow senior graduate students to train their peers in a non-credited session that is required as part of the Teaching Assistant employment contract.
Graduate Students in Instruction

Council discussed some of the alternative arrangements that are being implemented in the departments with respect to graduate student instructional appointments, due to the budget shortfalls. For example, several departments are using only Readers in large undergraduate lecture courses, which had previously included separate discussion sections led by Teaching Assistants. These appointments are assigned a maximum of one-hundred hours, which is problematic because the limited hours do not allow for faculty to require their Readers to attend lectures. Council also discussed a number of issues related to mentoring and disciplinary action for Readers, TAs, and Teaching Associates. Members agreed that an ad hoc committee must be formed to investigate the recent changes in graduate student instructional appointments.

Graduate Council’s Chair and Vice-Chair will meet with the Chair of the Undergraduate Council to discuss the possibility of forming a joint ad hoc in 2011-12.

Parenting Accommodations Policy

Graduate Division submitted for Council’s consideration a set of proposed revisions to the parenting accommodations policy for graduate students. Included in the proposed revisions was the addition of academic accommodations for students who are childbearing or experiencing extraordinary parenting demands, and opt not to take a family leave of absence for personal or professional reasons. Academic accommodations include the extension of time allowed for passing preliminary examinations, qualifying examinations, advancing to candidacy, or completing the degree.

The proposed revisions also included employment/financial accommodations for parents who hold Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) appointments, which were designed to match the accommodations that are part of the United Auto Workers (UAW) contract for Teaching Assistants and Teaching Associates. Under the proposed policy, GSRs would be granted a period of leave (depending upon their appointment percentage) without loss of financial support. If it is necessary to hire a replacement while the GSR is on parenting accommodation or if the grant disallows payment during the accommodation periods, the Graduate Division would work with the PI to ensure that the parent’s funding is maintained.

Graduate Council voted to approve the proposed revisions, effective immediately.

Operational Effectiveness Report

Graduate Council was asked to review and comment on the Operational Effectiveness Final Summary Report, containing proposals and recommendations from the UC Santa Barbara “Operational Effectiveness” initiative. The report was focused on four areas: Shop Services; Conferences, Events and Ticketing; Campus Personnel; and, IT and Communications.

Primarily, Council voiced serious concerns about the plans for storeroom and shop consolidations, due to the potential for increased safety risks. For example, if storeroom locations are consolidated and therefore moved further way from departments, the safety risks involved in transporting hazardous chemicals increase. The safety of our faculty, staff, and students should be of the utmost importance. Council also pointed out that such consolidation represented “effectiveness” only from a myopic administrative perspective: faculty and graduate
students who would have to spend more time transporting research materials to their labs would certainly see less effectiveness, and this waste of their precious research time could result in the loss of lucrative grants.

Reaccreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Over several meetings in the spring quarter, Graduate Council considered the draft thematic essay of the Committee on Excellence in Graduate Education (CEGC), part of the Capacity and Preparatory Review Report for UC Santa Barbara’s WASC reaccreditation. CEGC’s charge in this phase was to examine measures of quality in graduate education, define best practices to support graduate student learning in the context of UC Santa Barbara, and identify means of incorporating them into our graduate programs. Overall, the Council was very satisfied with the report, offering only a few comments.

Council had a general discussion about student learning outcomes, noting that they are already measured in graduate education at UCSB due to the milestones naturally in place in our graduate programs. Council concurred with CEGC that one of the most important indicators of success in student learning is career placement, and agreed that the campus should prioritize collection of alumni career placement data. Members felt strongly that placement studies should include data on placements 2-3 years post-graduation, as students’ first year placements aren’t necessarily where they end up long-term. Many students take temporary appointments immediately after graduation and move into permanent positions shortly thereafter, particularly in these times when the availability of faculty positions has sharply declined.

Online Delivery of ESCI Evaluations

Graduate Council discussed Executive Vice Chancellor Lucas’ proposed plan to implement the online delivery of course evaluations, aimed to reduce the workload of departmental and Instructional Development staff, and to provide better security for student evaluations.

Overall, the Council felt that the possible implications of this change should be examined very carefully and very strongly recommended that the faculty committee involved in the development of the new system have representation from both the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils. The Council also voiced concern that the response rate will decrease when ESCI evaluations are delivered online, making them less valuable and potentially raising issues of anonymity for very small courses.

VIII. Systemwide Business

Academic Council Resolution and UCLA Statement

Graduate Council was asked to comment on both documents, which aim to articulate guiding principles for maintaining the UC’s status as a top tier research university in these difficult financial times. Council agreed with the general principles that we must remain focused on strategies for retaining top tier research faculty, and that such a focus requires the restoration of salary and benefit packages that are competitive.

However, the Council was disturbed about the lack on mention in either document of the degree to which the maintenance and funding of top level graduate programs is absolutely essential to the retention of the world’s best research faculty and to the maintenance of our status as a tier
one university. Many faculty have remained at the UC for years – despite the fact that their salaries were not competitive with those of other universities – precisely because they have had the opportunity to work with the world’s best graduate students, because working with graduate students not only enhances and advances the research agendas of individual faculty, but also enhances the quality of their teaching and affords them the opportunity to teach at a higher intellectual level.

The Council was also disturbed that there is no mention of the need to retain forms of competitive compensation for research projects, such as Academic Senate research funds and the UC President’s Humanities Research Fellowships. Such funding enables the faculty to advance research projects that place them at the forefront of their disciplines. Without adequate funding for research, even the most qualified faculty could fail to produce the kind of advanced research that they expect of themselves and develop the next generation of scholars.

The Council also suggests that the documents need to reiterate the principle of shared governance, a principal that suggests that any decisions about down-sizing or disestablishing academic programs need to be made with due deliberation by ladder faculty – by those who are engaged on a daily basis with the teaching and research components of the university.

Renaming Fees as Tuition

Graduate Council was asked to comment on the Systemwide proposal to rename certain University of California “fees” as “tuition,” in order to accurately describe charges used for instructional purposes and make them more easily understood by the general public. Graduate Council discussed and unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Policy on Self-Supporting Part-Time Graduate Professional Degree Programs

Graduate Council was asked to consider a proposed revision of the 1996 Policy of Self-Supporting Part-Time Graduate Professional Degree Programs and its Implementation Guidelines. Since the last version of the policy was implemented, the number of self-supporting graduate programs (SSPs) has steadily increased, and SSPs have been identified as a potential revenue source for the University. The revisions were drafted in order to expand the parameters for self-supporting degree programs.

In its comments, the Council voiced serious concerns that the proposed changes seem to remove virtually all restrictions on the formation of self-supporting programs, without taking into consideration the potential effects on our overall mission as a public institution, the University’s financial health, and student access. In particular, Council felt very strongly that there should not be populations denied access to SSPs due to lack of funding.

Systemwide Review of Funding Streams Proposal

Graduate Council considered the Office of the President’s proposal to change the way funds are allocated across the campuses. While the proposal seemed beneficial in principle, it was very difficult for the Council to make an informed comment without specific information as to how the changes would affect UC Santa Barbara.

In general, members voiced concern about the possibility that the change in funding allocation may undermine the solidarity of the campuses, and that certain campuses may begin to drift away from UC’s core mission.
Library Planning Task Force

Graduate Council was asked to comment on the report of the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee’s Library Planning Task Force. The report proposes strategies for the campuses to cope with library budget cuts. Graduate Council discussed and unanimously voted to endorse the report.

IX. Committees

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

The Committee on Graduate Student Affairs met twice to consider student appeal cases.

X. Coordination with Administration

Graduate Council met with Executive Vice Chancellor Lucas in January to discuss the University budget, funding priorities, graduate student support, online education, and self-supporting programs.

XI. Carry Over Issues for 2011-12

- Graduate students in instruction
- Graduate student support
- Reaccreditation by the Western Association of Colleges and Schools (WASC)

Members:

Sharon Farmer, History (Chair and CCGA Representative)
Rita Raley, English (Vice-Chair)
Tamara Affi, Communication
Bassam Bamieh, Mechanical Engineering
Kaustav Banerjee, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Tevfik Bultan, Computer Science
Grace Chang, Feminist Studies
Maria Charles, Sociology
Helen Couclelis, Geography
Nadir Dagli, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Eve Darian-Smith, Global and International Studies
Mattanjah De Vries, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Elizabeth DePalma Digeser, History
Ruth Finkelstein, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Michael Gerber, Education
Stefan Th. Gries, Linguistics
John Lew, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Daniel Linz, Communication
Viola Miglio, Spanish and Portuguese
William Rice, Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology
Laura Romo, Education
Lily Anne Welty (Graduate Students Association Representative)