

GRADUATE COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Graduate Council met for fourteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions during the 2011-12 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 2011-12 term, among them:

- Proposed Sexual Harassment Training Policy for Graduate Students
- UCSB's Reaccreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Self-supporting and professional graduate 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 7/1/2011 and 6/30/2012, Council processed a total of 290 course requests: 38% were requests for new courses; 30% were course modifications; and 32% were course discontinuations.

II. Review of Academic Programs

Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Reviews of the following departments and programs in the 2011-12 term: Anthropology, Film and Media Studies, and Sociology.

Graduate Council recommended six departments for Academic Program Review in 2013-14.

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

- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Fluids
- Approved the proposal to establish an Emphasis in Astrophysics within the Ph.D. in Physics

- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Nanomedicine
- Approved the *Proposal for an M.S. Degree and a Combined 5-Year B.S./M.S. Degree in Actuarial Science (currently undergoing review at the UC Office of the President)*
- Approved the *Proposal to Establish a Five-Year Combined Bachelor's-Master's Degree Program to Link the B.S. Degree in Pharmacology with the M.A. Degree in Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology with an Emphasis in Pharmacology and Biotechnology (currently undergoing review at the UC Office of the President)*
- Requested revisions to the Technology Management Program's *Proposal for Graduate Degree Program and Academic Unit*
- Approved the proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies
- Approved the proposal to establish an Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Dynamical Neuroscience (currently undergoing review at the UC Office of the President)
- Endorsed the Proposal for an International Agreement Between Confucius Institute Headquarters of China and UCSB
- Endorsed the Proposal for an International Agreement Between the UCSB Center for Materials and Fudan University
- Endorsed the International Agreement Between UCSB and the University of Science and Technology of China
- Endorsed the International Agreement Between UCSB and Al Farabi Kazakhstan National University

IV. Name Changes

M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History

Council approved the proposal to change the name of the M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History to History of Art and Architecture. The Department sought to bring the name of the graduate degrees in line with the name of the Department, which changed a number of years ago to better reflect the wide range of research specialties.

V. Changes to Existing Programs

- Approved the addition of the Department of History of Art and Architecture to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Ancient Mediterranean Studies
- Approved the addition of the Department of Anthropology to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Cognitive Science
- Approved the request to eliminate the breadth requirement for Ph.D. students in Physics specializing in Experimental Physics
- Approved the proposal for changes to the graduate degree requirements in the Department of Communication
- Approved the addition of the Department of Linguistics to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Feminist Studies

- Approved the addition of the Department of Geography to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
- Approved the proposal for changes to the graduate degree requirements in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies
- Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Education
- Approved the request to eliminate the “Ph.D. Only” option for graduate admissions in the Department of Anthropology
- Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. in Global and International Studies
- Approved the proposal to revalue the units for a number of courses in the Technology Management Program
- Voted to pursue discontinuation of the Individual Interdisciplinary Graduate Program leading to the M.A. and Ph.D.
- Approved the addition of the Department of Education to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Feminist Studies
- Approved the request to change the qualifying exam requirements for the Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology
- Approved the addition of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Applied Linguistics
- Approved the addition of the Department of Geography and the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Technology and Society
- Approved the proposal for changes to admissions policy for the graduate program in the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability
- Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the graduate program in Physics
- Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the graduate program in Spanish and Portuguese

VI. Student Petitions

Graduate Council did not receive any student petitions for review in 2011-12.

VII. Local Issues

Proposal to Change the Grade Point Average Calculation for Graduate Admissions

Graduate Council discussed the Graduate Division’s proposed plan to change the grade point average (GPA) calculation for graduate admissions, which aimed to increase the accuracy and consistency of reported GPAs and reduce the workload for departments.

In order to be considered for graduate admission to UCSB, applicants must have received an upper-division grade point average of 3.0 or better from an accredited university. Departments are currently required to calculate the upper-division undergraduate GPA for *each* applicant.

The proposed policy would require that applicants report their cumulative grade point average in the online admission application as it appears on the undergraduate transcript from their degree granting institution. If the applicant-reported GPA is missing or inconsistent with the degree granting institution's official transcript, the department will correct it. Graduate Division would recognize the cumulative GPA, as confirmed by the department in the application review system, as the benchmark for the minimum 3.0 GPA standard. Should the cumulative GPA be below 3.0, departments may request that an applicant be admitted by exception.

Council voted to approve the proposed change to admissions policy, effective Fall 2012. Members voiced concern that the new calculation might possibly have some effect on first-time college attendees and underrepresented minority students. The Council requested that the new calculation system be reviewed at the end of the first year to ensure that there are no adverse effects for the student population.

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

UCSB submitted its Capacity and Preparatory Review (CPR) Report in July 2011, as part of the second stage of the University's reaccreditation process. The CPR Report is designed to be a self-assessment for the campus, namely, a discussion of our strengths and weaknesses relative to the thematic areas chosen by the campus, which for the current review are Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness in the Research University and Excellence in Graduate Education.

The campus hosted a two-day site visit by the CPR Team at the beginning of October. During their visit, the CPR team met with members of Graduate Council to discuss issues relevant to graduate education at UCSB such as graduate student support, non-resident tuition, and student career outcomes.

The CPR Team's recommendations with respect to Excellence in Graduate Education were quite consistent with the areas identified for further development and improvement in our own CPR Report. As UCSB moves into the next stage of the reaccreditation process, the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER), our goals include the collection and study of data about career outcomes, meta-professional skill development, and graduate student entry, progress, and completion. The campus will also begin working to address graduate student learning outcomes.

Proposal to Implement Electronic-Only Thesis and Dissertation Filing and Fee Changes

Graduate Council discussed the Graduate Division's proposed plan to implement electronic-only thesis and dissertation filing and change the related fees.

The existing policy gave students the opportunity to file theses and dissertations either electronically or by paper with Proquest/UMI. Proquest/UMI charged the campuses a \$65 publishing fee for each filing, until the summer of 2011, at which time the company announced that it would no longer charge for electronic filing. As

the vast majority of students already opted to file electronically, the Graduate Division proposed a move to electronic-only filing for all students.

The change in fees from Proquest/UMI prompted the Graduate Division to propose a reduction of the Advancement to Candidacy Fee from \$90 to \$50. A Master's thesis submission fee, which previously did not exist, was proposed to be \$25. Both fees would be used to provide graduate students with greatly needed meta-professional training.

Graduate Council voted to approve the proposed changes, effective Winter 2012.

Distinguished Faculty Program

Graduate Division and Graduate Council received a request for a member of the Distinguished Faculty Program (DFP) to be granted blanket approval to serve on doctoral committees. The Distinguished Faculty Program was established in order to give departments the opportunity to bring exceptionally talented faculty to UCSB for permanent, part-time appointments (33%).

The policy on eligibility for doctoral committee service does not cover faculty participating in the DFP, and DFP faculty are not members of the Academic Senate.

All of the faculty participating in the DFP are by definition exceptionally distinguished and well-respected in their disciplines, but members voiced concern about the 33% appointments and the availability of faculty for committee service. Council ultimately agreed that requests for Distinguished Faculty to serve on doctoral committees should continue to be submitted on an individual basis.

Proposed Sexual Harassment Training Policy for Graduate Students

Graduate Council considered Graduate Division's proposal to mandate sexual harassment training for graduate students. Many departments currently offer sexual harassment training for their students, or at least for those students employed in teaching and research positions, but the campus lacks a uniform and consistently administered policy.

The proposed policy would give departments an option of offering either an in-person training session from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance (OEOSH/TC), or an online training course designed for teaching assistants.

Graduate Council approved the proposed policy, and noted that each department should be required to report to the Graduate Division how it will implement and enforce the new policy, by outlining either their current practices or those that will be implemented in the near future.

During Graduate Council's discussion of the proposed policy, several members reported that their departments have experienced difficulties during sexual harassment complaint resolution because of the lack of clarity in the coordination of

University resources. Graduate Council requested that the Graduate Division work with the Office of Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance (OEOSH/TC), the Division of Student Affairs, and any other necessary offices to clarify the line of reporting for students involved in sexual harassment reports, complaints, and grievances.

VIII. Systemwide Business

APM 668 (Negotiated Salary Program)

Graduate Council was asked to comment on a proposed new personnel policy, APM 668. APM 668 would introduce a flexible compensation model for faculty, thereby allowing the University to use non-state resources to provide exceptional faculty with additional compensation.

After much discussion, the Council rejected the proposed APM due to serious concerns about the implications for graduate students. Any redirection of grant funds toward faculty salaries would reduce the availability of funding for graduate student researchers, which the Council found to be unacceptable. Given rising student fees and the already striking lack of competitiveness in UC support packages, the University must do all that it can to preserve current levels of support.

The Council voiced significant concerns that the Negotiated Salary Program would circumvent our current faculty merit and promotion system, a unique and highly regarded feature of the University of California. The proposed changes, in essence, would establish a secondary salary system that not only lacks transparency, but that also has the potential to increase inequities within and between the disciplines.

Although the Council agreed with the overall goals of APM 668, and fully understands the need for the University to maintain competitiveness in faculty compensation, members found the proposal to be ill-conceived and thus did not offer its endorsement.

University Committee on Educational Policy's Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 610

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 610 on residency with the goal of clarifying the language of the policy. The existing policy stated that residency is validated by a program of study approved by the student's college of school. UCEP's proposed language notes instead that the residency requirement may be validated irrespective of physical location or mode of delivery, presumably to cover courses offered either at alternative locations or online.

Graduate Council voiced divergent opinions about the University's exploration of distance learning and online courses, but ultimately voted to endorse the proposed changes.

Review of the UC Observatories

Graduate Council was asked to comment on the review of the UC Observatories (UCO). Council recognizes and appreciates the role of UCO in graduate education and supports UC's continued investment in UCO, which is thereby a continued investment in our graduate students in astronomy and astrophysics.

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.

Graduate Council formed a new ad hoc committee in 2011-12, the Committee on Self-Supporting and Professional Graduate Programs (CSSPGP), which was charged with developing a set of guidelines for the establishment of new self-supporting graduate programs. The Committee held two lengthy meetings to work on the draft guidelines and also held a discussion with Executive Vice Chancellor Lucas about the future of self-supporting programs at UCSB. The draft guidelines will be submitted for formal review early in the 2012-13 academic year.

X. Carry Over Issues for 2012-13

- Guidelines for self-supporting and professional graduate programs
- Reaccreditation by the Western Association of Colleges and Schools (WASC)
- Graduate students in instruction
- Graduate student support

Members:

Rita Raley, English (Chair and CCGA Representative)

Divyakant Agrawal, Computer Science (Vice-Chair)

Tamara Afifi, Communication

Bassam Bamieh, Mechanical Engineering

Tevfik Bultan, Computer Science

Nadir Dagli, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Ruth Finkelstein, Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology

Lynn Gamble, Anthropology

Michael Gerber, Education

Michael Glassow, Anthropology

Stefan Gries, Linguistics

David Hinkley, Statistics and Applied Probability

John Lew, Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology

Upamanyu Madhow, Electrical and Computer Engineering

John Melack, Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management

Viola Miglio, Spanish and Portuguese

Karen Myers, Communication
William Rice, Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology
Denise Segura, Sociology
Peter Sturman, History of Art and Architecture
Mayfair Yang, Religious Studies
Gale Morrison, Dean, Graduate Division (Ex-Officio)
Lily Welty (Graduate Students Association Representative)