GRADUATE COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Graduate Council met for thirteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions during the 2013-14 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 2013-14 term, among them:

- Systemwide Policy on Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST)
- Non-Residential Supplemental Tuition (NRST)
- Proposed Revisions to Santa Barbara Regulation 350 and 300
- Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs Policy (SSGPDP)
- Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policy

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 7/1/2013 and 6/30/2014, Council processed a total of 279 course requests, including new courses, modifications, and discontinuations.

II. Review of Academic Programs and Research Units

Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Reviews of the following departments and programs in the 2013-14 term: Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, Classics, Feminist Studies, and Materials. Graduate Council also recommended five departments for Academic Program Review in 2015-16.

Graduate Council also commented on the review of the Neuroscience Research Institute (NRI).

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

- Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Multiscale Modeling, Analysis, Simulation and Software (MASS)
- Approved the proposal to establish a Five-Year Combined BS/MS degree program in Mechanical Engineering
- Approved the proposal to establish an Interdepartmental Ph.D. Emphasis in Environment and Society
• Endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Multi-Modal Big Data Science and Healthcare
• Endorsed the proposed international agreement between UCSB and Nanjing University

IV. Name Changes
• Endorsed the name change for the Center for Research in Financial Mathematics and Statistics to the Center for Financial Mathematics and Actuarial Research

V. Changes to Existing Programs
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Mathematics
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the graduate program in History
• Approved the proposal for changes to the comprehensive examination for Earth Science
• Approved the proposal for changes to the requirements for the Ph.D. Emphasis in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS)
• Approved the proposal from the Department of Linguistics to join the Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
• Approved the proposal from the Department of Linguistics to join the Ph.D. Emphasis in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS)
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology with an Emphasis in School Psychology
• Approved the proposal for changes to the timing for the M.A. comprehensive examination in the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies
• Approved the proposal to cease admissions to the terminal M.Ed. in School Psychology
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the graduate program in Linguistics
• Approved the proposed program learning outcomes for the Master in Technology Management
• Approved the proposal for changes to the core course requirements for the Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM)
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in History
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Feminist Studies
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. in Psychology
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering
• Approved the proposal for changes to the requirements for the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Cognitive Science
• Endorsed the proposal from ISBER to disestablish and move various centers
• Approved the proposal for changes to the degree requirements for the Master in Technology Management (MTM)
• Approved the proposal for changes in time-to-advancement and time-to-degree for the Ph.D. in Theater Studies
VI. Student Petitions

Graduate Council did not receive any student petitions for review in 2013-14.

VII. Local Issues

Proposed Revisions to Santa Barbara Regulations 350 and 300

Santa Barbara Regulations 350D.2 and 300B.1 address the requirements for master’s thesis committees and doctoral committees. In the past, Lecturers with Security of Employment (LSOE) or Potential Security of Employment (PSOE) were permitted to serve as the co-chair or member of a student’s committee at the discretion of the department and only with an approved exception from the Graduate Council. Exceptions were valid for three years, and were required for each individual student.

The Graduate Council regularly received requests for exception each year, as there are approximately thirty-four full-time LSOE/PSOE appointments on campus. The vast majority, if not all, of the exception requests submitted over the past five years were sound and well-supported and thus approved. At the request of one of the academic divisions, and after wide consultation, the Council sought to regularize this practice.

Following the approval of the proposed changes in legislation by the Faculty Legislature, LSOEs and PSOEs are now permitted to serve as a member or co-chair of doctoral committees and master’s thesis committees without exception.

Proposed Changes to the UCSB Guide for Formatting and Filing Theses and Dissertations

Graduate Division presented a proposal to the Graduate Council for a number of small changes and clarifications to the UCSB Guide for Formatting and Filing Theses and Dissertations. The changes would allow for students to write their Acknowledgements, Dedication, and Table of Contents in a foreign language, allow single spacing for the Table of Contents, allow superscripts or subscripts in the title, and standardize the listing of committee members. The Council agreed that the proposed changes would provide more flexibility for students and unanimously voted to offer their approval.

Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition

Graduate Council held several discussions about Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) and its effects on the University’s ability to recruit top graduate students. Though serious discussions on graduate competitiveness are taking place at the Systemwide level, and many ideas to address the issue of NRST are being raised, these efforts are unlikely to come to fruition quickly. Members felt strongly the campus can take steps in the interim to mitigate the problem at a local level. The Council voiced these concerns to Divisional Chair Bhavnani and the Executive Council, who met with Acting Executive Vice Chancellor Michaelsen and Graduate Dean Genetti. These discussions are still ongoing, and NRST will continue to be a major area of focus for the Council in 2014-15.

Minimum Margin Requirement for Theses and Dissertations

Graduate Division presented a proposal to the Graduate Council to change the minimum margin requirement for theses and dissertations. The proposed change would allow for smaller
Embargo Period for Theses and Dissertations

Graduate Division presented a proposal to the Graduate Council to establish a two-year maximum embargo period for theses and dissertations. In the past, UCSB did not have a policy regarding thesis or dissertation embargo periods, which was unique among the UCs. Per the proposed policy, embargo periods of more than two years would require approval of the Graduate Dean or Associate Dean designee. Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed policy.

UCSB Extension Initiatives and International Agreements

The Council discussed an early stage proposal describing University Extension’s interest in expanding its international initiatives. Graduate Council, along with other Senate agencies, gave its feedback to Extension with a number of concerns and considerations, and expects to continue this issue into 2014-15.

Associate VC for UG Education Position

Graduate Council was asked to comment on a proposed new campus administrative position, an Associate Vice Chancellor for the Office of Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Education in the College of Letters and Science. The new position also included a reorganization of some administrative offices of the campus. The Council recognized the value of establishing an administrative position responsible for overseeing undergraduate education on a broader level at UCSB, but also voiced a number of serious concerns for the Executive Vice Chancellor’s consideration. The Senate issued a Divisional response and expects this issue to continue into 2014-15.

VIII. Systemwide Business

APM 035-Sexual Harassment Policy, Appendices A-1 and A-2

Graduate Council was asked to consider the proposed policy changes to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 035, Appendices A-1 and A-2. The chief alteration would involve removing the appendix to establish it as a self-standing Presidential Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, which would then be applicable to all members of the University community. Further revisions to the policy were mandated by changes in Federal law. Graduate Council discussed and unanimously endorsed the proposed revisions.

Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP) Policy

Graduate Council was asked to consider the latest draft of the Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP) Policy, which was revised in response to earlier comments. A main issue raised in previous reviews was the appropriate criteria for defining which graduate professional programs would be eligible for self-supporting status. Graduate Council was satisfied with the overall changes, but requested that the language regarding programs ineligible for self-supporting status be expanded to include all academic doctoral programs, rather than just the Ph.D.
Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition Draft Policy

Graduate Council discussed the proposed policy revisions for Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST). The Council noted in its response that UCSB has only one professional degree program, the Master of Technology Management (MTM), which is newly approved and has yet to be implemented. Overall, GC found the policy and implementation criteria for PDST to be unclear and lacking detail in a number of areas.

The Council’s chief concern was the lack of stated principles for determining whether a program should be offered as a state-supported professional program or a self-supporting graduate professional degree program (SSGPDP). The Council noted that such language will be essential for guiding the campuses in their development of proposals to establish new programs as well as encourage consistent application of the policies by reviewing agencies. GC also gave feedback on specific sections of the report and ultimately recommended that the documents be revised and routed for a second round of review.

Proposed Revised University of California Policy on the Protection of Whistleblowers from Retaliation and Procedures for Reviewing Retaliation Complaints (APM 190, Appendix A-2)

Graduate Council was asked to discuss the Proposed Revised UC Policy on the Protection of Whistleblowers from Retaliation and Procedures for Reviewing Retaliation Complaints. The UC Office of General Counsel proposed revisions to the policy in order to implement new requirements mandated by an amendment to the California Whistleblower Protection Act. In its discussions, GC recognized that the policy provides important protection for graduate student employees and offered their unanimous endorsement.

Proposed Revisions to the Compendium

Graduate Council discussed the Academic Planning Council’s (APC’s) proposed changes to the Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units and Research Units. The proposed revisions include items such as deletion of reference to the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), which was disbanded in 2011, changes to Five-Year Planning Perspectives reporting, and simplification of the review process for proposed joint degrees. GC found the revisions to be appropriate and unanimously endorsed the proposed draft.

Copyright and Fair Use – Presidential Policy

Graduate Council was asked to consider a revised version of the President’s Policy on Copyright and Fair Use, which was intended to replace the 1986 Policy on the Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials for Teaching and Research. The new policy was developed in order to conform to new changes in law, technology, and academic practices. In addition to the proposed policy, the Office of the President launched an updated UC Copyright website, designed to provide further advice and information on copyright and fair use for faculty, staff, and students. GC found the policy as written to be innocuous and without much substance, and offered no further comment, but did provide feedback on the content of the website.
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.

X. Consultations with the Administration

- Rod Alferness, Dean of the College of Engineering

XI. Carry Over Issues for 2014-15

- Graduate student support
- Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition (NRST)
- Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs Policy (SSGPDP)
- Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policy

Members:
Bruce Robertson, Chair
John Melack, Vice-Chair (fall, winter)
Tania Israel, Vice-Chair (spring)
Paul Amar
Paul Berkowitz
Julie Bianchini
Cynthia Brown
Andrew Carter
Gary Charness
Xianzhe Dai
Kathleen Foltz
Sabine Frühstück
Lynn Gamble
Michael Glassow
David Hinkley
Lisa Jacobson
Chen Ji
Chandra Krintz
Upamanyu Madhow
Viola Miglio
Laura Oaks
Tao Yang
Carol Genetti, Graduate Dean (Ex-Officio)
Marcel Broussseau, Representative, Graduate Students Association
Christian Villaseñor, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division (Consultant)