Graduate Council
Annual Report 2016-17

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Graduate Council met for thirteen regularly scheduled two-hour sessions during the 2016-17 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 2016-17 term, among them:

• Proposal to Establish an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Neuroengineering
• Removal of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) as an admission requirement for the Five-Year B.S./M.S. Program in Electrical & Computer Engineering
• Revising the Academic Senate Doctoral Student Travel Grant Policy
• Commenting on various systemwide draft policy documents including: the proposed revised Academic Personnel Manual Section 190, Appendix G; the Draft Presidential Policy on International Activities; proposed revisions to Regents Policy 3101 and 3104 Regarding Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST); proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Nondiscrimination and Affirmation Action; proposed revisions to the Academic Personnel Manual (APM) sections 285, 210-3, 133, and 740, pertaining to the Lecturer with Security of Employment (LSOE) title series; and the Revised Presidential Policy on Electronic Information Security (IS-3).

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 7/1/2016 and 6/30/2017, Council processed a total of 213 course requests, including new courses, modifications, and discontinuations.

II. Review of Academic Programs and Research Units
In cooperation with the Program Review Panel, Graduate Council participated in the Academic Program Review of the following departments and programs during the 2016-17 term: Chicana and Chicano Studies, History, Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Marine Science, and Mechanical Engineering.

Graduate Council recommended five departments and one program for Academic Program Review in 2018-19.
III. Proposals to Establish Programs, Emphases, Academic Units and Research Units

- Approved the proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Neuroengineering
- Informal review of the proposal to establish a Master of Environmental Data Science
- Reviewed the proposal to establish a College of Creative Studies B.A. in Marine Science, with an eye to the potential impact on graduate programs
- Reviewed the proposal to establish a B.S. in Bioengineering and an Associated Administrative Program, with an eye to the potential impact on graduate programs

IV. Name Changes
Graduate Council did not receive any name change proposals for 2016-17.

V. Changes to Existing Programs

- Approved the proposed changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Classics
- Approved the proposal to remove the production proficiency requirement for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Film and Media Studies
- Approved the proposed curricular changes for the M.S. and Ph.D. in the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Marine Science
- Approved the proposed time-to-degree changes for the Ph.D. in Economics
- Approved the proposed curricular changes for the Master of Technology Management
- Approved the establishment of an Environmental Politics field in Political Science
- Approved the addition of the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
- Approved the addition of the Department of Theater & Dance to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
- Approved the proposed changes to the degree requirements for the M.S. and Ph.D. in Earth Science
- Approved the proposed curricular changes for the M.A. and Ph.D. in Education
- Approved the addition of the Department of Counseling, Clinical & School Psychology to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Quantitative Methods in Social Science
- Approved the proposed grading option change for a core course for the Ph.D. in Education
- Approved the proposed change in admission requirements for the Five-Year B.S./M.S. Program in Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Approved the proposed curricular changes for the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Global Studies
- Approved the proposed changes to the technical elective requirements for the Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering
- Approved course changes in the Teacher Education Program
- Disapproved a proposal to establish a new M.A. strand in Quantitative Research Methods in the Department of Education
• Approved the proposed changes to the degree requirements for the M.A. in Statistics & Applied Probability
• Approved a new M.A. track in Data Science in Statistics & Applied Probability
• Approved the proposed core requirements for the Environmental Politics Field in Political Science
• Approved the addition of the Department of Political Science to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies
• Approved the addition of the Department of Communication to the participating units of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies
• Approved the proposed change to the program learning outcomes (PLOs) for the Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology

VI. Student Petitions
The Graduate Council received one request for the appeal of admission revocation, which was denied.

VII. Local Business

Graduate Mentorship
Graduate Council discussed, over multiple meetings, creating campus guidelines for the evaluation of graduate mentoring for use in academic personnel cases. GC reviewed recommendations from the Dean of Graduate Division and a set of sample guidelines from UC Berkeley. Members raised questions about how data on mentoring would be collected and used, how to disentangle poor mentorship from poorly received mentorship, and how to maintain the anonymity of student surveys. Overall, GC felt that the establishment of campus standards for mentoring would be beneficial to faculty and students, and voted to support the Dean of Graduate Division’s proposal. GC also decided to create a committee to work on these guidelines.

After some discussion, GC decided to form a subcommittee, and specified that its membership should include representation from each of the academic areas of the campus, and ideally include those with experience as department chairs or members of the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP). The subcommittee would be asked to develop draft guidelines for consideration by the full Council. A draft of the Graduate Student Mentorship Subcommittee charge was written. The intended audience for the guidelines would be department chairs, members of the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP), and faculty who could use the guidelines as a resource. Crafting mentorship guidelines will continue in the 2017-18 year.

Graduate Council Delegation of Authority: Retroactive Changes in Student Transcripts
Graduate Council considered a proposal to modify the 2016-17 Delegation of Authority, which stated that the Chair and Vice-Chair had approval authority for retroactive changes in student transcripts. In practice, however, the Graduate Division had been handling
retroactive changes in student transcripts for a number of years, due to the large number of requests. GC felt that it was appropriate to align policy with practice, and voted unanimously to modify the Delegation of Authority to delegate retroactive changes in student transcripts to the Dean of Graduate Division.

Policy on Incomplete Grades: 597, 598, 599 Courses
Graduate Council considered a proposal from Graduate Division to rescind a policy allowing 597, 598 and 599 courses to be assigned an incomplete grade without a student petition. In 2011, the Graduate Division and Office of the Registrar looked into why instructors were allowed to assign incomplete grades for 597, 598 and 599 courses without a student petition. Since no documentation was found at the time, ‘e-grades’ was re-programmed to treat these courses the same as all others in regards to incomplete grades. A 1994 memo from Graduate Council approved this different policy for 597, 598 and 599 courses; however, the policy was never included in the General Catalog. Members discussed the merits of having the ability to assign an incomplete grade, but determined that there are other grading options that can be used for students not meeting academic progress or expectations. GC unanimously voted to rescind the 1994 memo and have 597, 598 and 599 courses follow the same incomplete policy as all other courses.

Nominations for Program Review Panel
Graduate Council submitted the names of eight Senate faculty members to the Committee on Committees for consideration for service on the Program Review Panel (PRP) beginning in 2017-18.

Academic Senate Doctoral Student Travel Grant Policy
Graduate Council discussed the current policy regarding the Academic Senate Doctoral Student Travel Grant. Senate staff consulted with Academic Senate Chair Bohn about ways to increase the number or amounts of awards given each year. GC was presented with a proposal to increase the amount of the awards (determined by world region) for the 2017-18 academic year to bring the Doctoral Student Travel Grant in line with the Faculty Research Travel Grant. Members were supportive of this idea, but there was discussion about the reasons why more doctoral students are not applying for this grant. Members suggested that the award amounts are not enough to cover all travel; requiring that doctoral students be advanced to candidacy is reducing the number of eligible applicants; and that students may strategically wait for a “best” conference to use the grant towards, and ultimately not end up applying.

Members suggested other ways to increase applicants or to increase the amount of funding spent, including increasing the award amounts even more; using carryforward funds to award additional grants; allowing pre-advancement students to be eligible; and allowing students to receive the grant more than once (the current policy does not allow students to receive the grant more than one time in their academic career).
GC concluded that increasing the award amounts to match the Faculty Research Travel Grants would be an acceptable change for 2017-18, but that the policy should be revisited in 2017-18.

VIII. Systemwide Business

Proposed Revised Academic Personnel Manual Section 190, Appendix G, Program Description: Retirement Contributions on Academic Appointee Summer Salary (APM-190, Appendix G)
Graduate Council discussed the proposed Revised Academic Personnel Manual (APM) Section 190, Appendix G: Retirement Contributions on Academic Appointee Summer Salary. The Council voted to unanimously endorse the updated policy, but expressed unease with the lack of justification and supporting documentation and the short turn-around time for comment. Furthermore, in the wake of the UCRP 2016 Tier implementation, members wondered whether there are any other forthcoming adjustments that will impact academic appointees under the preceding retirement plans.

Proposed Revisions to APM 015 and APM 016, and Conforming Amendments to Senate Bylaw 336
Graduate Council discussed the Proposed Revisions to APM 015 and 016, and Conforming Amendments to Senate Bylaw 336, regarding updating language in the Faculty Code of Conduct surrounding sexual violence and sexual harassment. GC agreed that the revisions addressed the concerns that the Council communicated during the previous round of review, and had no further comments.

Draft Presidential Policy on International Activities
Graduate Council discussed the Draft Presidential Policy on International Activities. Members expressed concern that the draft policy placed collaborations between UC faculty and peers overseas under the approval authority of the Executive Officer while the first point under the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) stated that such collaborations were routine low-risk activities that did not require approval. GC recommended that the Office of the President better define risk throughout the policy, and clarify the types of activities that do and do not require Executive Officer approval.

Proposed Revisions to Bylaw 182, University Committee on International Education
Graduate Council discussed the Proposed Revisions to Bylaw 182: University Committee on International Education, to expand the charge of the committee into a broader range of international activities. GC voted to endorse the proposal.

Proposed Revised Regents Policy 3101 and 3104 Regarding Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST)
Graduate Council discussed the Proposed Revised Regents Policy 3103 and 3104 Regarding Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST). Overall, GC felt that the proposed revised policy was an improvement over the current policy in that it clarified the distribution of
financial support and the roles of the President and Provost. GC voted to endorse the proposed revisions to the policy.

Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action regarding Academic and Staff Employment and APM-015
Graduate Council discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Nondiscrimination, Harassment and Affirmative Action in the Workplace, and the corresponding change to APM-015. GC voted to endorse the proposal.

Proposed Revised APM Sections- 285, 210-3, 133-0-B, 740
Graduate Council discussed the proposed revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) sections 285, 210-3, 133, and 740, pertaining to the Lecturer with Security of Employment (LSOE) title series. While members had various questions and comments about the details and implementation of this change, overall, GC was in favor of the proposal, and felt that the Teaching Professor title and academic expectation changes were more indicative of the work that current LSOE do. However, GC did question one element of APM 210 in the proposed revision, which was the decision to place service on thesis and dissertation committees under “University and Public Service”, and not in “Teaching Excellence and Innovation”. This revision would bring the Teaching Professor series in line with current review criteria for ladder rank faculty.

Revised Presidential Policy on Electronic Information Security (IS-3)
Graduate Council discussed the revised Presidential Policy on Electronic Information Security (IS-3). Members were confused by the general tone of the policy, which veered from very specific in certain sections to overly vague in others. GC had many questions and concerns about the revised policy, including questioning the meaning of “institutional information” and what is an “institutional resource”. The definitions provided seemed far too broad. Members also thought that the human resource requirements needed to ensure compliance with this policy seemed unwieldy, and who would be responsible for compliance was unclear. There was also general concern that unit heads and PIs will now bear the cost of an incident. Members remarked that the delegation of financial risk to unit heads and PIs could prove catastrophic for some departments and faculty members, and emphasized that the policy should be protective of faculty, rather than punitive.

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. Carry Over Issues for 2017-18
- Graduate student mentorship
- Doctoral Student Travel Grant policy
- Graduate Council Delegation of Authority: Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)
Members:
Dar Roberts, Chair, CCGA Rep
Geoffrey T. Raymond, Vice-Chair (F, W)
Robin L. Nabi, Vice-Chair (S, M)
Sarah E. Anderson
Eileen C. Boris
Maurizia Boscagli
Erin Dowdy
Amr El Abbadi
Michael Gordon
Steven L. Gross
Heejung Kim
Bernard Kirtman
Michael Ludkovski
Andreas W. Ludwig
Juan P. Lupi
Carl D. Meinhart
Cynthia Skenazi
Subhash Suri
Ines M. Talamantez
Mian Wang
Carol Genetti, Graduate Dean, Ex-Officio
Heather Macias, GSA Rep
Christian Villasenor, Assistant Dean, Consultant
Kelly Erland, Advisor