

UC DAVIS GRADUATE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Room 203 Mrak Hall

ATTENDEES: Thomas Aguilar, Toby Beauchamp, Abhinav Bhushan, Ed Caswell-Chen, Hector Cuevas, Matthew Farrens, Jeffery Gibeling, Rachael Goodhue, Jack Gunion, Annik Hirshen, James Hodgson, Lynette Hunter, Cathy Jurado, Andre Knoesen, Walter Leal, Martha Macri, Jeffrey Schank, Lenora Timm

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Steven Albrecht, Nicole Baumgarth, Anne Britt, Peggy Farnham, Mari Golub, Tonya Kuhl, Rita Mehta, Hans-Georg Mueller, Yuhang Shi

GUESTS: Howard Day, Ari Kelman

The Graduate Council meeting began at 3:05 with a discussion about the review of the graduate program in Geography. See below for details of the discussion. The Geography discussion was followed by the regular agenda order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. **Graduate Council Chair** – Chair Jack Gunion noted that his announcements are included in Attachment 4.3. Several of the items in the attachment will be brought up for discussion later in the meeting.
- B. **Graduate Studies Dean** – The Dean of Graduate Studies, Jeffery Gibeling, gave updates on the following four items:
 - 1. **NRC (National Research Council) Assessment of Research Doctorates.** The NRC is compiling data supplied by Ph.D.-granting research institutions from across the United States. The NRC hopes to release initial findings in late Spring 2008.
 - 2. **Systemwide Task Force on Professional Doctorates.** We will be hearing more about the roles that the Graduate Council and CCGA will be playing in relationship to professional doctorates.
 - 3. **Embark and GARD.** The new online application system for UC Davis graduate students, “Embark”, is working well, considering its size and complexity. Several issues are being addressed, and the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) is receiving good feedback from staff who are regularly involved with the system. The system does not currently have the capacity to take in video or digital recordings (for example, studio art portfolios), but may at some time in the future.
 - 4. **State of California’s Budget.** The budget for the State of California will be very tight again this year. Though the Governor’s proposed budget includes financial support for graduate students, as put forward by the UC Regents, the allocation is vulnerable.
- C. **Graduate Studies Associate Dean for Programs.** No report.
- D. **Graduate Studies Associate Dean for Students.** No report.
- E. **CCGA – Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs.** Based on his recent trip to systemwide offices in Oakland, CCGA representative Matthew Farrens believes UCOP

(University of California Office of the President) is somewhat optimistic about the Governor honoring his compact with the University of California. CCGA is currently working on the non-resident tuition (NRT) issue and has had discussions with the new Vice President of Research and Graduate Education, Steven Beckwith.

- F. **GSADC – Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean & Chancellor.** Toby Beauchamp said that a number of graduate student concerns were discussed during a “Dialogue with the Dean” last quarter. Toby is working with graduate students to set up a series of discussions, which will address such issues as graduate student mentoring and underrepresented students. He also noted that the GSADC position for next year has been opened for applications. Graduate students should be encouraged to submit their names for the position.
- G. **GSA – Graduate Student Association.** Chair of the GSA, James Hodgson, has been elected to the Board of Governors of the National Association of Graduate Professionals (NAGP), which plans to lobby in Washington, D.C. on behalf of graduate education. Major issues at this point are national research funding and international visas for graduate students. James said that the GSA is also maintaining its links with other UC campus graduate student associations, even though UC Davis has shifted its focus to NAGP.
- H. **PSA – Postdoctoral Scholars Association.** Chair of the PSA, Abhinav Bhushan, told the Council that a draft outline for the revised UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholars Benefits Handbook is on the web and ready for review. Chair Bhushan also told the Council that the United Autoworkers Union has contacted postdoctoral scholars on campus, and is offering incentives for joining the union. Council members noted that the campus supports the rights of its workers to organize, but expressed its concern about the role of PSA in organizing students.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Academic Planning & Development Committee (APD).** No report.
- B. **Administrative Committee.** The Administrative Committee has taken one action regarding a graduate student appeal.
- C. **Bylaws Committee.** No report.
- D. **Courses Committee.** The Chair of the Courses Committee, Rachael Goodhue, said that the first wave of course requests was distributed to committee members, and that most of the reviews have been returned. Chair Goodhue expressed concern that so many of the course requests will need to be returned to faculty for revisions. She wonders if faculty need guidelines for submitting course requests.
- E. **Educational Policy Committee (EPC).** No report.
- F. **Program Review Committee (PRC).** PRC Chair, Andre Knoesen, reported that reviews for next year, 2008-09, are still being scheduled, and that Graduate Program Review Analyst, Lee Wilce, is working overtime to complete the schedules.
- G. **Support & Welfare Committee (S&W).** No report.

CONSENT ITEMS

No Consent Items are on the agenda.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- A. **Geography Graduate Program Review.** Council Chair Gunion introduced two guests to the Council, Professors Howard Day and Ari Kelman. Professors Day and Kelman served on the *ad hoc* committee that conducted the 2006-07 review of the graduate program in Geography. The review of Geography is deviating from normal procedures because the chair of the *ad hoc* committee took ill and was not able to complete the committee's report. Professors Day and Kelman wrote an abbreviated *ad hoc* committee report (Attachment 4.1), and attended today's Council meeting to answer questions posed by the Council.

PRC Chair Knoesen gave a brief history of the review. Professors Day and Kelman then expressed their viewpoints. Both professors are strong supporters of a Geography graduate program on the UC Davis campus, but feel major improvements need to be made to the existing program.

After Professors Day and Kelman left the meeting, the Council members discussed the merits of the Geography graduate program, as well as their concerns about its viability. They agreed that a letter must be sent to the Geography program that includes: (a) a request for feedback on the report by the *ad hoc* reviewers and the external reviewer's report (Attachment 4.2); (b) a question about how the program intends to provide financial support for its current, and any newly admitted, students; (c) a request for an academic plan that includes core courses, a group seminar and identified tracks; and (d) the Council's concerns about the depth and experience of faculty (the graduate group is faced with both faculty retirements and new hires).

The Council concluded its discussion by agreeing to allow the Geography graduate program to offer admissions to no more than 15 students for the 2008-09 academic years, with an intent to enroll 5 students. If the program does not respond satisfactorily to the Council's requests by September 1, 2008, the Council will terminate future admissions to the program. (See the February Graduate Council agenda attachments for the actual letter that is being sent to the Geography graduate program.)

PRC Chair Knoesen, who also chairs the Program Review Closure Committee, will draft a letter to the Geography graduate program, giving the program an opportunity to respond to the *ad hoc* letter and the external reviewer report.

- B. **Minutes from November 14, 2007 Meeting** (Attachment 4.4). Dean Gibeling suggested minor changes to the minutes. The Council approved the minutes, contingent on the recommended changes.
- C. **Minutes from December 12, 2007 Meeting.** The minutes from the December, 2007 meeting will be available at the next Graduate Council meeting.

- D. **Non-Responsive Programs – Timeline for Submissions** (Attachment 4.6). On behalf of EPC Chair Peggy Farnham, EPC member Jeffrey Schank presented a proposal for dealing with graduate programs that do not respond to Graduate Council requests. Specifically, the EPC was charged with developing a procedure for situations when graduate programs submit changes (e.g. degree requirement changes) to the Council, the Council requests the program to revise its original submission, and the program never responds to the Council. The EPC members agreed that graduate programs should be provided with encouragement in submitting changes to the Graduate Council, but also wants programs to know that there are consequences for inaction.

The EPC made two recommendations. First, graduate program chairs and advisers should be reminded that graduate students can only be required to adhere to requirements and policies that are formally approved by the Graduate Council. To that end, graduate programs should be provided with copies of the GC-approved guidelines for degree requirements and for graduate group bylaws. Second, a six month timeline should be set for programs to respond when the Council asks for revisions related to degree requirements, bylaws, or proposals for new graduate programs. See Attachment 4.6 for details.

The Council unanimously approved the recommendations.

- E. **Computer Science Graduate Program – Request to Delay Review**. PRC Chair Knoesen introduced the request by the Computer Science graduate program for a delay in beginning its scheduled program review. Chair Knoesen believes the program has a compelling reason for delaying the review, and recommended to the full Graduate Council that a one-year extension be granted. He made it clear to the Computer Science graduate program chair that no additional extensions would be provided.

Dean Gibeling noted that a GC policy was approved in 1999 that addresses the issue of delayed program reviews. See <http://graduatestudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/prdelays.pdf> .

The Council voted unanimously to approve a delay of the Computer Science graduate program's review for a maximum of one year.

- F. **Nursing – Proposal to Establish a School of Nursing at UC Davis**. The UC Davis Academic Senate asked its subcommittees, including the Graduate Council, for comments regarding a proposal for a new School of Nursing. Since a major objective of the School is to develop a master's degree program for students, the Council agreed that it should provide feedback and guidance to the proposal authors.

Graduate Council Chair Gunion said he had two major concerns about the proposal. First, he wants to be sure that the Graduate Council maintains appropriate control over the master's degree curriculum, courses, graduation requirements, admissions and program review. He directed the Council's attention to a chart on page 10 of his December "Thoughts from the Chair" (Attachment 3.1 for December 12, 2007 Graduate Council meeting). The chart lists the graduate degrees currently offered by UC Davis, and who has authority over their curricula and the other items mentioned above.

Second, regarding the proposal's references to a Ph.D. degree, Chair Gunion noted that the School of Nursing plans for its students to obtain Ph.D.s through other, affiliated graduate group programs. However, only half of the graduate groups listed in the proposal offer Ph.D. programs. The other half award master's degrees only.

Chair Gunion's conclusion was that we should send a letter back to the Academic Senate saying that the School of Nursing is "a great idea, but the Graduate Council expects to retain all its usual authorities over the graduate degree program".

Council members discussed various aspects of the potential graduate program, including a graduate group structure for offering the M.S. in Nursing, the admissions process for academic graduate programs, and the possibilities of offering a "designated emphasis" in Nursing.

Chair Gunion said that he would draft a response back to Linda Bisson, Chair of the Academic Senate that incorporates comments made by the Council. He will distribute the draft to Dean Gibeling and other Council members for feedback. The response is due back to the Academic Senate by January 15, 2008.

- G. **Quarter Abroad Name Change Approval Request.** The Academic Senate also encouraged interested subcommittees to provide comments about a name change for the undergraduate "Quarter Abroad" program (formerly the Short-Term Programs Abroad program). The Quarter Abroad program has been operating under its new name for several years. The program did not realize that a formal name-change request should have been submitted. This Academic Senate request is for an after-the-fact approval of the name change. Chair Gunion expressed his concern about the proposal, and the fact that – if this would ever involve graduate students – the name change might pose a problem. He will point this out to the Academic Senate.

As a final administrative item, Chair Gunion asked Council members if it would be possible to reschedule the February 13, 2008 meeting for February 20. GC Analyst Marsha Gibeling will send an email to Council members requesting their availabilities.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.