

## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

**ATTENDEES:** Buckpitt, Degnan, Farnham, Friesner, Gibeling, Gunion, Goodhue, Hurley, Knoesen, Martin, May, O'Donnell, Singleton, Stimson, Stott, Watts, Weare

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Friesner, Nincic, Schank, Tassone,

**GUESTS:** Jurado (OGS), Timm (OGS)

Meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Chair Gunion** discussed the Chair Notes which included: updates on a few business/action items from Academic Senate; Academic Senate's role in strategic planning and faculty allocation; and notes on a few of the agenda items.

**Dean Gibeling** announced that the budget cuts are still uncertain, but that graduate support allocations have gone out to the programs, and the fellowship process is underway. Applications are up to 8,000 or so, compared to 7,700 this time last year; about 860 have been admitted so far, which is up a slight amount. The Dean also discussed the Brownbag with the Graduate Dean event, in which students were concerned about their future employment. He also announced that the search for a Commencement speaker is still underway and all are encouraged to send nominations to him; qualifications include being a good speaker, and being an alum. The Dean also announced that he is continuing to work on reducing the cost of *in absentia* registration; the policy has been discussed at CCGA and is now with the Academic Council. PELPing for research will no longer be an option for students, although they can still PELP for the other approved circumstances.

**Associate Dean Timm** announced that the Graduate Student Retention Taskforce will pilot the survey to about 25 students in Spring quarter.

**Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) Representative Knoesen** announced that CCGA is discussing part-time self-supporting degree programs.

**The Graduate Student Association (GSA) Chair Singleton** announced that she has been elected Chair so the GSA, and that Karinna Hurley has been elected Vice Chair of GSA. Ms. Hurley was also in attendance. Chair Singleton also announced that she will be representing graduate students on the budget committee for student services, and that the GSA was considering responding to a request from the GSA at University of Minnesota regarding the closure of the UM Graduate School (similar to our Office of Graduate Studies).

**The Postdoctoral Scholar Association (PSA) Representative Watts** announced that the draft handbook is now online, and that PSA will begin work on Mentoring Guidelines, similar to the graduate student mentoring guidelines that OGS has created. The handbook can be found at [http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/UCD\\_PostDocHandbook\\_v1.pdf](http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/UCD_PostDocHandbook_v1.pdf)

### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Academic Planning and Development** (Knoesen)  
No new announcements.

- **Administrative** (Gunion)  
Chair Gunion announced that the Committee met to review an unusual qualifying exam where protocol was not followed properly, and Dean Gibeling discussed that the qualifying exam procedures are not uniformly followed across all programs, and he asked for ways to effectively communicate the policy and procedures to Chairs and program staff.
- **Bylaws** (Caswell-Chen)  
No new announcements.
- **Courses** (Goodhue)  
Chair Goodhue announced that the Committee is going well, and is up-to-date with all requests; there is no backlog right now.
- **Educational Policy** (Farnham)  
EPC is very busy with most of the members reviewing a request at the moment. There are many items coming forward to the next few Council meetings.
- **Program Review** (Buckpitt)  
Chair Buckpitt announced that PRC reports will continue to come into the Grad Council, including the three today. Also, the program review closures are coming along, including the two today. There have been a number of ORU's discussed in PRC, which will come to this and the next Council meetings.
- **Support and Welfare** (Martin)  
No new announcements.

## CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Minutes of the Graduate Council meetings of January 14, 2009** were approved by consent.
- B. **Revised degree requirements for the German graduate program** were approved by consent.
- C. **Graduate Council response to the Emergency Management plan forwarded from the Academic Senate** was approved by consent.
- D. **Geography graduate group request to raise admissions cap to 20** was approved by an email vote on January 28, and was approved by consent at this meeting. A second request from Geography to raise the admissions cap to 21 was added to the Discussion/Action Items part of the agenda.

## DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- **Geography secondary request: raise admissions cap to 21 to accommodate one additional student.**  
Because Council voted just last month to increase the cap on admission for Geography from 15 to 20, members could not find any additional rationale for increasing the number further.

**MOTION TO DISAPPROVE** the request to allow 21 admissions

**MOTION PASSED:** unanimously

- **Response to Academic Senate: Proposal to Reconstitute Spanish and Classics Department into the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies.**

Council reviewed and discussed the EPC and APD recommendations on this proposal. Council indicated its support for the Spanish and Portuguese department reconstitution, but expressed some concerns about the Classics and Mediterranean department proposal due to the small size of the program and the lack of evident relation between the two disciplines. Although Graduate Council does not find a direct positive impact on graduate education with regards to the Classics proposal, neither does it see a strong negative impact on graduate education. The Graduate Council's Educational Policy Committee noted that there was mention of the creation of a new graduate group in "East/West Transfusions" as part of this new department; Graduate Council notes that this proposed graduate group has not been included in the HARCS plan as one of the new graduate groups planned for in the future. Graduate Council will suggest to the Academic Senate that if this group is supported by the Dean of HARCS, it be included in the Division's plan for graduate education.

- **Response to Academic Senate: Review of the Nanomaterials in the Environment, Agriculture and Technology (NEAT) ORU (Buckpitt)**

PRC Chair Buckpitt relayed the PRC opinion that NEAT has a substantive and highly positive impact on graduate education in a field that is likely to become more important. PRC recommended that Graduate Council provide its enthusiastic support of this ORU. Council expressed concern over the budget cuts in the ORU, and also encourages NEAT to move with a proposal to create a Designated Emphasis, which has been discussed for many years.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** responding to Academic Senate in concurrence with the PRC recommendation, while adding concerns over budget and the recommendation to create a DE.

**MOTION PASSED: unanimously**

*Update: Academic Senate leadership has requested updated budget information, which will be provided to the Council. A response to Senate will be delayed until the information is received and reviewed by Chair Gunion and PRC Chair Buckpitt.*

- **Program Review Closure recommendation: Graduate Program in Art History**

Graduate Council reviewed the recommendation from the Program Review Closure Committee (PRCC) which complimented the program for its overall educational quality and for making substantial changes in the program in response to suggestions from the prior review. The response from the program and from the Dean addressed all of the issues raised. PRCC recommended that Graduate Council encourage the program complete its work on the graduate student handbook. This is an important source of information for graduate students and should not be allowed to languish until the next review. PRCC also recommended that the program maintain an updated web site, and suggested that the new content management system to be introduced to the campus will assist in this process.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** the closure of the program review and initiate the next review in 2015-2016.

**MOTION PASSED: unanimously**

- **Program Review Closure recommendation: Graduate Program in English**  
Graduate Council reviewed the recommendation from the Program Review Closure Committee (PRCC) which complimented Professor Margaret Ferguson, Chair of the English Department, for outlining in meticulous detail the program's responses to each of the recommendations made by the PRC. PRCC believes that the program has addressed admirably each of the PRC recommendations, and therefore recommended to Graduate Council that the review of the program be closed.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** the closure of the program review and initiate the next review in 2015-2016.

**MOTION PASSED:** unanimously

#### **PROGRAM REVIEW REPORTS: PRESENTATION BY PRC LIAISONS**

- **Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory – Professor JoAnn Cannon**  
Professor Cannon presented the PRC report to the Graduate Council who were pleased that that the DE draws upon faculty from a broad range of departments and programs, and makes good use of faculty resources. Council was also pleased with the high degree of satisfaction the students in the DE reported, and that the marketability of the DE has increased to the redesigned web site and dedicated staff support. Council expressed concern over the perceived exclusivity of the Executive Committee, the lack of approved bylaws for the DE, and the overcrowding of the 200A seminar. Council also discussed the staffing difficulties in teaching courses, and the need for a wider range of critical approaches.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** the report from the PRC, and transmit it to the DE.

**MOTION PASSED:** unanimously

- **Graduate Group in Education (PhD) – Professor Alan Buckpitt** (PRC Liaison Professor James Shackelford unable to attend)  
Professor Buckpitt presented the PRC report to the Graduate Council who were pleased to hear that the program's students were strong academically, that the student advising was very good, and that the program size is growing in a very positive way. Council was also pleased to hear that the PRC found the leadership of the program very strong in recent years. Council expressed concern that student funding was inadequate, and not promised for more than one quarter at a time; there was also concern that some students were promised funding, but never received any. Council was also concerned that junior faculty take on quite a lot of responsibility and advising, and that there is a general lack of space for students, staff and faculty. Graduate Council was pleased that the program recently revised its degree requirements in order to clarify the Qualifying Exam requirements.

**PRC Chair Buckpitt will circulate a revised/corrected report via email for Graduate Council vote, before transmitting to the program.**

- **Graduate Group in Avian Sciences (MS only) – Professor Lynn Epstein**

Professor Epstein presented the PRC report to the Graduate Council who were delighted to hear that that the ASGG is highly praised by its students, and consists of both students and faculty who are extremely enthusiastic and committed. Council was pleased that students were financially supported well, and that staff support for the Group was excellent. Council expressed some concern over a few curriculum issues, and the small size of the program. Council also discussed possible solutions to the concern expressed by the program that many of its students would like to take Ecology courses ECL 200A and ECL200B, which have priority enrollment for Ecology students. Other issues of concern were staffing classifications and that the Council had not reviewed the bylaws and degree requirements previously submitted by the program.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** the report from the PRC, and transmit it to the program.

**MOTION PASSED:** unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.