

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

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

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Friesner, Goodhue, Nincic, Schank

GUESTS: Cuevas (OGS), Jurado (OGS), Shintaku (OGS)

Meeting began at 3:08 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gunion discussed the Chair Notes which included: notes on the agenda items, and his continuing concern regarding the lack of Graduate Council and Office of Graduate Studies input into the strategic planning process on campus.

Dean Gibeling introduced Richard Shintaku, the new Assistant Dean (replacing Annik Hirshen). Dean Gibeling also announced that OGS has received a record number of applications (up more than 3%), that program admissions are also up, and that we now have a record number of students intending to register. He also announced that UCD students received a record number of NSF graduate research fellowships; there were 18 awarded this year, compared to a usual number of 6-7. He cited the preparatory workshops held on campus and in graduate groups as the cause of such a high number of awards.

Associate Deans Caswell-Chen and Timm were not present, but Dean Gibeling announced that the Graduate Student Retention survey would launch this week. Survey questions can be viewed at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=a8lbZECBAJvHMizwUxAdhA_3d_3d (not a live link)

Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) Representative Knoesen announced that CCGA's previous concern regarding WASC's increased participation in graduate education has now been allayed; WASC is only concerned with the newer and smaller programs. He also stated that there would be an increase in fees for graduate students in the coming year, much to the disappointment of CCGA. Representative Knoesen also stated that CCGA is continuing to consider issues regarding part-time self-supporting programs across the UC.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) Chair Singleton announced:

- Graduate Women Thrive zine is now published on the GSA wiki page and contains peer advice and resources at http://gsa.ucdavis.edu/Grad_Women_Thrive_in_Academia
- Held at UC Davis on April 2-4 was the Western Regional Conference for the National Association for Graduate and Professional School students which was very successful.
- GSA participation in the budget advisory committees, the Student Regent Selection Committee, the Wellness Carnival, and Picnic Day.
- Elections for GSA Executive Council will be held June 3.
- GSA is outreaching to the Law Student Association and the Postdoctoral Scholars Association for increased activity and possible mentoring.

<http://gsa.ucdavis.edu/>

The Postdoctoral Scholar Association (PSA) Representative Watts announced that PSA is considering a "Postdoc Appreciation Day" to increase the visibility of the contributions of postdocs across campus. Representative Watts also announced that there are 12 nominees being considered for the Excellence in Research award. <http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/index.html>

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Academic Planning and Development** (Knoesen)
Chair Knoesen stated that APD is continuing to discuss recommendations regarding the oversight of degrees, recommendations on criteria for evaluating graduate programs, and sample MOU's for distribution.
- **Administrative** (Gunion)
No new announcements.
- **Bylaws** (Caswell-Chen)
No new announcements.
- **Courses** (Goodhue)
No new announcements.
- **Educational Policy** (Farnham)
Chair Farnham stated that there are numerous documents in queue, including the proposal for a graduate group in Nursing, all coming forward by the end of the year.
- **Program Review** (Buckpitt)
Chair Buckpitt announced that there is only one on-site review left to complete and that he expects to bring reports forward to the next Graduate Council meeting, including some PRC Closure recommendations.
- **Support and Welfare** (Martin)
Chair Martin was not available to comments, but Chair Gunion announced that the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Awards ceremony went very well.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of March 18, 2009** were approved by consent.
- B. **Performance Studies request to change from a department-based program to a graduate group (along with revised degree requirements and bylaws)** was approved by consent.
- C. **Health Informatics MS degree requirements** were approved by consent.
- D. **Discussion on the Bylaws for Physics** were postponed until Physics completes program review.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- **Consolidation of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (BMB) with Cell & Development Biology into the Graduate Group in Biochemistry, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (BMCDB).**
Council discussed the proposal, requesting some minor changes and the insertion of more details regarding the qualifying exam. The proposal will be forwarded to the

Council of Deans and Vice Chancellors (CODVC) for their recommendation, and then transmitted to UCOP and CCGA as an informational item.

MOTION TO APPROVE consolidation with revisions

MOTION PASSED unanimously

- **Masters of Public Health degree requirements revisions.**

Council reviewed the recommendation from the EPC and agreed that approval could not be provided regarding the degree requirements until oversight of the MPH program could be sorted out. Currently, MPH does not conduct admissions or degree certification through the Office of Graduate Studies, making it impossible for EPC to recommend approval of degree requirements, as the policies and procedures of OGS and Graduate Council are not being followed.

Council confirmed that MPH was never delegated the authority to do their own admissions and degree certifications, and as an academic program it is required to follow the same rules and procedures that other programs do. [see also discussion below]

MOTION TO REESTABLISH OVERSIGHT AND POSTPONE DISCUSSION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies should jointly reestablish oversight of the MPH program, and once that is accomplished, EPC will resume review of the degree requirements.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

- **Oversight of Graduate Degrees.**

APD Chair Knoesen and Dean Gibeling presented recommendations regarding the CCGA memo about resuming authority or oversight over certain professional degrees. [see minutes of the September 24, 2008 Graduate Council meeting for details on the request from CCGA to do so] The APD will continue to bring forward recommendations on oversight after further discussion. At present, the members of Council followed the recommendation of the CCGA that the MD, JD, DVM degrees should be managed by the relevant professional schools and accreditation agencies.

MOTION TO OFFICIALLY DELEGATE OVERSIGHT OF THE MD, JD AND DVM DEGREES TO THE SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE, LAW AND VETERINARY MEDICINE RESPECTIVELY

MOTION PASSED unanimously

- **Program Evaluation Criteria.**

APD Chair Knoesen and Dean Gibeling presented some sample criteria for evaluating graduate programs on campus. APD Chair Knoesen asked that if Council members had additional criteria to suggest, or concerns about the stated criteria, they were welcome to submit comments directly to him or Analyst Wonhof. Council members are also welcome to attend the next APD meeting: Thursday, April 23 from 10:00-11:00 am in 204 Mrak.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.