

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

ATTENDEES: Buckpitt, Degnan, Farnham, Friesner, Gibeling, Gunion, Goodhue, Knoesen, Martin, Nincic, O'Donnell, Schank

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Hurley, May, Singleton, Stimson, Stott, Weare

GUESTS: Caswell-Chen (OGS), Timm (OGS)

Meeting began at 3:05 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gunion discussed the Chair Notes which included: that MOU's will definitely be required for all new proposals, and the PRC guidelines will be updated to include MOU requirements; that the BMB/CDB consolidation will be discussed at the May 12 meeting of CODVC; that he and Dean Gibeling are working on a letter to the MPH program regarding oversight; that Dean Owens (HArCS) notified Council that the only new graduate group proposal from HArCS for the next two years is the Study of Religion proposal (just received and in initial revisions); and various notes on the agenda items.

Dean Gibeling had no announcements.

Associate Dean Timm announced that the Graduate Student Retention Taskforce has received approximately 1,000 responses to the PhD retention survey but would like to see an additional 1,000 responses come in. There is a May 15 deadline, but it will probably be extended to allow more time for comments.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=a81bZECBAJVhMlzwUxAdhA_3d_3d

Associate Dean Caswell-Chen announced that Professor Jerry Hendrick (jlhendrick@ucdavis.edu) is the contact person for the UAW Postdoc negotiations. Should any faculty member wish to serve on the advisory committee for the negotiations, recommendations can be sent to Associate Dean Caswell-Chen at gsad@ucdavis.edu.

Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) Representative Knoesen announced that CCGA approved the Communication PhD proposal (adding the PhD to the existing MA program), and that CCGA is increasingly concerned that funding for graduate education is losing ground at the UCOP level. A brief discussion ensued about the increased number of graduate students this fall and how that will impact each program's budget.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) Chair Singleton was not in attendance so Representative Degnan announced that GSA has been polling graduate students about the budget crunch; most graduate student's highest priority is that allocations to units that support diversity on campus not be cut.

The Postdoctoral Scholar Association (PSA) Representative Watts announced that Postdoc Recognition Day will be on May 28, 2009. Events include a panel on career development and a reception to honor the awardees of the Excellence in Postdoctoral Research Awards, co-sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Academic Planning and Development** (Knoesen)
Chair Knoesen stated that a draft policy regarding oversight of graduate degrees offered in professional schools is on the agenda and he distributed a revised version. APD will continue to work on the program evaluation criteria, and the sample MOU's.
- **Administrative** (Gunion)
No new announcements.
- **Bylaws** (Caswell-Chen)
Associate Dean Caswell-Chen announced that there are just a few outstanding bylaw revisions to bring to Council in the next two meetings.
- **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)
Chair Farnham announced that EPC is very busy, but will be bringing numerous items to the next Council meeting, and a few more at the June meeting. At that point, EPC will be caught-up.
- **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 three today. Numerous PRCC items will be on the next agenda and the last five reviews will be presented at the final June meeting (as long as all goes well).
- **Support and Welfare** (Martin)
No new announcements.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 15, 2009** were approved by consent.
- B. **Program Review Closures for Art (Studio), Biophysics, and Immunology** were approved by consent.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- **Proposal to establish a new Graduate Group in Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership.**
Council discussed the strength of the MOU's included in the proposal, and the positive support of both the Library Committee and the Planning & Budget Committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE the proposal without revisions

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

- **Response to Academic Senate: Proposed Systemwide Policy on Furloughs and Salary Cuts.**

Council reviewed and discussed the proposed policy revising the Standing Orders of the Regents, and stated a number of concerns:

- The policy refers to “any natural disaster or other debilitating event” seemingly without specifying that said event has an impact on the financial situation of the university. It was expressed that this policy should be restricted to financial emergencies only; while a general emergency might lead to a financial emergency, the latter should be firmly established before action under this policy would be possible.
- Following the prior point, Council expressed concern about the 60 days during which the policy could be implemented without Academic Senate consultation. In the context of a financial emergency (which the policy should be confined to), Council found it difficult to conceive of a scenario in which such an immediate action would be needed, especially with regard to the implementation of furloughs and salary reductions. Council expressed that that emergency situations of a non-financial matter are under the existing authority of the Governor. Council affirmed that this 60-day interim period should be removed.
- Council also affirmed that Graduate Council representation should be guaranteed on any planning committee; in the proposed policy, only Faculty Welfare, Planning & Budget, and CAP are currently explicitly included. Council expressed that without representation from Graduate Council certain concerns would be left out of the discussion (e.g. research supervision under government grants and contracts, accommodations for RA/TA/Postdoc’s). In general, there are impacts on research that only someone intimately familiar with issues at the graduate level would be able to broach, comment, and advise on.
- Additionally, Council wondered if it was appropriate to allow Chancellors of individual campuses to declare a financial emergency for their campus without obtaining prior approval from the Regents. Council expressed that if a financial emergency occurred at an individual campus, UCOP may be able to take actions to mitigate the burden, thereby avoiding the need for the Chancellor to declare a financial emergency at all.

These concerns will be transmitted to Academic Senate Bob Powell consideration in the campus response to this proposed policy.

- **Academic Planning and Development recommendation: draft policy GC2009-01 regarding Oversight of Graduate Degrees in Professional Schools.**

Graduate Council reviewed the revised recommendation from the APD to establish a policy in response to the CCGA reconsideration of authority over graduate programs offered through professional schools (see Schumm, Chair, CCGA to Brown, Chair Academic Council, August 12, 2008).

MOTION TO APPROVE the adoption of policy GC2009-01

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

PROGRAM REVIEW REPORTS: PRESENTATION BY PRC LIAISONS

- **Graduate Group in Microbiology – Professor JoAnne Engebrecht**

Professor Engebrecht presented the PRC report to the Graduate Council who were pleased with the strength of the faculty, the diversity of the program, and the cohesion of the Group who agree on the “One Microbiology” concept. Council expressed concern that the program had still not revised the curriculum, as was recommended in the last program review; Council members affirmed that suspension of admissions would be appropriate if the Group fails to meet the February 2010 deadline for submitting revised degree requirements. Council also expressed concern about stipend rates being variable and below the minimum.

MOTION TO APPROVE the report from the PRC, and transmit it to the group with a February 2010 deadline for submitting degree requirements

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

- **Graduate Group in Agricultural and Resource Economics – Professor Brad Barber, AHC member** (PRC Liaison Professor Alan Taylor was unable to attend)

Professor Barber presented the PRC report to the Graduate Council who were pleased to note that ARE is an academically strong program, with excellent research faculty, and ranked within the top five nationally. Council did express concern over the discord apparent in the faculty, which affects morale and has led to an uncertain long-range vision for the program. Council also affirmed that the 202 core course must be revised and become more consistent, and that the Master's curriculum needs attention. Overall, Council expressed that in order to remain a strong program, ARE must address the conflict amongst the faculty immediately and possibly review its hiring processes.

MOTION TO APPROVE the report from the PRC, address the recommendations as appropriate, and transmit it to the group and separately to the Provost

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

- **Graduate Program in Mathematics – Professor Richard Scaletter**

Professor Scaletter presented the PRC report to the Graduate Council who were pleased that this is a strong program in an upward trajectory. Council expressed concern over the Program's inability to offer more advanced graduate courses due to the "1/3 rule" in the MPS Division. Council also discussed that the Program needs more support to retain good faculty. Council also affirmed that the Program should standardize the first year course content and better assist students coming in with master's degrees with accelerating their time to degree.

MOTION TO APPROVE the report from the PRC, revise the addresses, and transmit it to the program

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.