

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

**ATTENDEES:** Buckpitt, Degnan, Farnham, Gibeling, Gunion, Goodhue, Knoesen, Martin, May, Schank, Singleton, Stimson, Stott, Tassone, Watts, Weare

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Friesner, Hodgson, Nincic, O'Donnell

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

Meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

**Chair Gunion** discussed the Chair Notes which included:

Proposals to attain Department Status by Asian American Studies and Chican@ Studies (also discussed during the October 15, 2008 meeting)

Chair Gunion was asked by Academic Senate to reconsider the Graduate Council's November 3, 2008 responses to the proposals for department status for the above programs. Council discussed that in assessing the value of upgrading ASA and CHI to departmental status, it is certainly appropriate to consider the impact this would have on graduate studies under the assumption that their contributions would take place in the context of existing and possible future graduate groups. Unfortunately, the information available to Council through the proposals did not allow an assessment of the extent to which ASA and CHI are currently making substantial contributions to graduate education through appropriate graduate groups, although in their proposals both programs indicated that their faculty are doing a lot of research. And no information was provided as to how upgrade to departmental status could be expected to positively impact their contributions to graduate studies. A particular issue arose during the conversation: As ASA and CHI increase their undergraduate enrollment, they will get increased support for TAs from the usual undergraduate related sources. There is no indication from either program as to whether current and future increases in TA support are being used and will be used to support graduate students performing research within the graduate groups in which ASA and CHI participate (a particularly relevant GG would presumably be Cultural Studies, CS). In fact, Council learned that a very large percentage of the TAs in support of UG education in both ASA and CHI go to Law Students (as opposed to students who participate in traditional research). Council questioned how many graduate students doing research in the context of graduate groups are being mentored by ASA and CHI faculty, and of those who are being so mentored, how are they being supported by ASA or CHI TA funds? Council would very much have liked to see more information regarding the current contributions of ASA and CHI to graduate education in the context of existing graduate groups so as to be confident that upgrade to department status could be presumed to naturally lead to an increased role in graduate education. Council decided that the bottom line is that because of lack of information and specific plans from ASA and CHI regarding increasing their contributions to graduate education, Council is not comfortable giving a strong endorsement to their transitions from program to department status. Council recommends that if this transition does take place, both programs should develop plans for giving increased resources and emphasis to graduate education. Council also reiterated that the CHI upgrade to department status would have a positive impact on diversity and that this would be particularly valuable in graduate training and mentoring. In this regard, Council was encouraged that CHI does seem to be mentoring a significant number of graduate students.

2008 APD Report on Graduate Education

Chair Gunion announced that he will present the recommendations from this report at the November 20, 2008 Executive Council meeting and will report back to Graduate Council regarding any concerns or questions that come up during the presentation.

One of the recommendations of the 2008 Report was to grant one (1) FTE to a department when faculty from that department taught four (4) courses offered through graduate groups. In the future, should this recommendation take root, Council could advise Academic Senate that new FTE should only be awarded to departments should this requirement be met.

HARCS Academic Plan (also discussed during the October 15, 2008 meeting)

Regarding the proposed new graduate groups that the HARCS plan suggests, Chair Gunion expressed that doing all graduate student training and research in the context of a few well-formulated graduate groups (rather than having many individual departments do their own graduate training and have their own research program) fits nicely into the pattern already discussed earlier that is a hallmark of the way in which things are done at U.C. Davis in many areas.

Chair Gunion suggested that positive reply is in order but with the strong proviso that block grant, NRT, fellowship, etc. money can not be provided at the expense of graduate studies being performed in existing Departments and Graduate Groups. He also expressed concern about the general proliferation of graduate groups, but admits that little alternative given that the proliferation has been and will continue to be largely driven by academically desirable goals.

Identifying Weak or Troubled Graduate Groups

Chair Gunion asked for Council's recommendation for whether or not it would be beneficial to identify programs that struggling in order to either provide more guidance to those programs or recommend closing them. Council affirmed that with the proliferation of graduate groups, it would be important to identify some of the struggling groups and programs and requested that the Dean employ a number of criteria (both qualitative and quantitative) and in generating a list for the Graduate Council to explore further.

Another way to fund programs differently is to change the mechanism by which block grants are given. Currently, block grants are awarded based upon the three year average enrollment of a program or group. Council could advise the Dean to modify this funding mechanism based upon program review data or other campus academic priorities. Dean Gibeling provided a link to Ohio State who has done this recently—*Funding Models for Doctoral Education Based Upon Quality (2007)*:

[http://oaa.osu.edu/documents/FundingofDoctoralEduc3207AdHocCommRpt\\_000.pdf](http://oaa.osu.edu/documents/FundingofDoctoralEduc3207AdHocCommRpt_000.pdf)

Other information from Ohio State's initiative can be found at:

<http://oaa.osu.edu/DoctoralProgramReview.php>

**Dean Gibeling** announced that planning for a commencement speaker in June 2009 has begun, and he requested that if anyone knew a distinguished UCD alum who is also a good speaker (preferably from a non-Science field, since we've had a couple years of Scientists) to please put forward her/his name to the Dean or to Fredericka Parker ([faparker@ucdavis.edu](mailto:faparker@ucdavis.edu)). The Dean also announced that the UAW (United Auto Workers) is now the official representative body for the Postdoctoral Scholars and that negotiating a contract will get underway this year. Dean Gibeling also announced that the previously approved new graduate group in Forensic and Behavioral Sciences (a joint program with Fresno State) is being tabled until funding can be secured by both campuses.

**Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) Representative Knoesen** announced that even with all the budget concerns this year, campuses are required to allocate a certain amount of funds to graduate education. While there are no new funds, CCGA is urging Graduate Councils on each campus to determine how much each Chancellor is allocating towards graduate education this year. The Dean stated that he should be able to get the amount for the Council. Representative Knoesen also announced that the School of Nursing proposal update will be submitted this week to Academic Senate, and he suggested that Graduate Council at least give it a preliminary review. Analyst Wonhof will notify the Academic Senate Office that Graduate Council would like to see the updated proposal when it is submitted.

**No announcements from the Graduate Student Association (GSA).**

**No announcements from the Postdoctoral Scholar Association (PSA).**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Academic Planning and Development** (Knoesen)  
No new announcements.
- **Administrative** (Gunion)  
Chair Gunion announced that the Administrative Committee is working on revisions to the *Blanket Exception to the QE Policy* and would be bringing it to Council at a future meeting.
- **Bylaws** (Caswell-Chen)  
No new announcements.
- **Courses** (Goodhue)  
Chair Goodhue announced that it has so far been relatively quiet.
- **Educational Policy** (Farnham)  
Chair Farnham announced that there are a couple of items that will be brought to the December meeting for Council approval.
- **Program Review** (Buckpitt)  
Chair Buckpitt announced that responses from the programs that were reviewed last academic year (07-08) were due on November 10 and now the Program Review Closure Committee will begin to review.
- **Support and Welfare** (Martin)  
Chair Martin announced that selection for awards committees is underway, and that there have been some changes to how awardees are selected. For example, in the travel awards, only three nominations will be accepted (because no applicant beyond the third ever received awards). For internal fellowships, GRE scores will be weighted less, the program rank scores will be weighted more (doubled), and programs will go back to ranking continuing students separate from incoming students; for those fellowships that are open to both new and continuing students, they will be fused together for evaluation.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. **Education Ph.D.** revised degree requirements were approved by consent.

**DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS****A. Responses to Academic Senate re: Academic Plans**

Council members were assigned particular plans to review regarding issues related to graduate education. Each member will prepare a draft response to Academic Senate. **Please see attachment** to these minutes which includes all the departmentally-based graduate programs and graduate groups sorted by Lead Dean.

- **College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) (Schank)**  
Professor Schank reported that on the Social Sciences side of the plan, there were no serious issues pertaining to graduate education as part of the plan, except the retirement age of faculty in the College, which they are aware of. Member Stott will present on the Biological Sciences side of the plan next meeting. Council agreed that the response should include Council's concern that substantial attention to graduate education is lacking in all the academic plans.
- **Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) (Knoesen)**  
Professor Knoesen informed Council that MPS has a division-wide workload policy that contains an incentive for awarding degree and supervising postdocs, but that no specific graduate education is mentioned. Much of the focus was on the needs of undergraduate education, and the student to faculty ratios. Council agreed that the response should include Council's concern that substantial attention to graduate education is lacking in all the academic plans.
- **Division of Social Sciences (Stimson)**  
Professor Stimson reported to Council that little information was provided in the divisional plan on graduate education. Specifically, there was no accounting of Social Sciences faculty contributing to graduate groups outside of their departmental graduate programs or plan for what that role will be in the future. The plan focused on undergraduate education, and especially undergraduate writing. Concern was concerned that by providing FTE in UG writing courses would strip graduate students of the opportunity to provide this instruction. Council agreed that the response should include Council's concern that substantial attention to graduate education is lacking in all the academic plans.
- **School of Veterinary Medicine (Farnham)**  
Professor Farnham reported to Council that Vet Med plans for an increased enrollment in graduate education from 167 students to 220, but that is what not clear into what programs these students were expected to enroll in. Council questioned whether the "authorized student" funding model actually flowed to the graduate groups. Council expressed that the growth was probably meant to increase DVM's into PhD programs. Council agreed that some additional information might be helpful in creating a comprehensive response so Professor Farnham will contact Associate Dean Kent Lloyd to clarify the enrollment growth, and then formulate a response.
- **School of Education (Martin)**  
Professor Martin reported that while the economy is in a downturn (making teaching positions scarce) the School of Education still expects enrollment growth in graduate education, especially in the Ph.D. program (there are many different Education programs). Concerns raised by Council include the School's plan to increase undergraduate enrollment, and the instructional workload for ladder faculty in graduate education.

- **College of Engineering (Gunion)**  
Chair Gunion reported that there were relatively few specifics provided regarding graduate education, especially for a College of this size which has so many graduate students. Transportation Technology and Policy is expecting large enrollment growth, and the associated newly proposed Energy Graduate Group would also add students. Council agreed that the response should include Council's concern that substantial attention to graduate education is lacking in all the academic plans.
- **Still to come:** CAES Biological Sciences (December meeting, Stott); School of Law (January meeting, not assigned yet, due 1-20-09)

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

*Note:* GG = graduate group  
D-B = departmentally-based program

**College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences - Lead Dean: Neal Van Alfen**

Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry GG  
Agricultural and Resource Economics D-B  
Animal Biology GG  
Atmospheric Science GG  
Avian Sciences GG  
Child Development GG  
Community Development GG  
Design D-B  
Ecology GG  
Entomology D-B  
Food Science GG  
Geography GG  
Horticulture and Agronomy GG  
Human Development GG  
Hydrologic Sciences GG  
Integrated Pest Management (not accepting applications) GG  
International Agricultural Development GG  
Maternal and Child Nutrition D-B  
Nutritional Biology GG  
Pharmacology and Toxicology GG  
Plant Pathology D-B  
Soils and Biogeochemistry (formerly Soil Science) GG  
Textiles GG  
Viticulture and Enology GG

**College of Biological Sciences - Lead Dean: Kenneth Burtis**

Animal Behavior GG  
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology GG  
Biophysics GG  
Cell and Developmental Biology GG  
Exercise Science GG  
Genetics GG  
Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology GG  
Neuroscience GG  
Plant Biology GG  
Population Biology GG

**College of Engineering - Lead Dean: Enrique Lavernia**

Applied Science Engineering D-B  
Biological Systems Engineering D-B  
Biomedical Engineering GG  
Chemical Engineering D-B  
Civil and Environmental Engineering D-B  
Computer Science GG  
Electrical and Computer Engineering D-B  
Materials Science and Engineering D-B  
Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering D-B  
Transportation Technology and Policy GG

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**College of Letters and Sciences - Lead Dean: by division**

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**Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (HArCS): Jessie Ann Owens**

Art (Studio) D-B

Art History D-B

Comparative Literature GG

Cultural Studies GG

Dramatic Art D-B

English D-B

French D-B

German D-B

Music D-B

Native American Studies D-B

Performance Studies D-B (proposal to be a GG instead in the works)

Spanish D-B

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**Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences: Winston Ko**

Applied Mathematics GG

Biostatistics GG

Chemistry D-B

Geology D-B

Mathematics D-B

Physics D-B

Statistics D-B

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**Division of Social Sciences: Steven Sheffrin**

Anthropology D-B

Communication D-B

Economics D-B

History D-B

Linguistics GG

Philosophy D-B

Political Science D-B

Psychology D-B

Sociology D-B

**School of Education - Lead Dean: Harold Levine**

Education (Credential with M.A.) D-B

Education (Doctor of Philosophy) GG

Education (Master of Arts) D-B

Educational Leadership (CANDEL) D-B

Educational Leadership (Joint Doctorate, Program in Ed Leadership) GG

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**School of Law - Lead Dean: Rex Perschbacher**

**International Commercial Law GG**  
**Master of Laws GG**

**School of Medicine - Lead Dean: Claire Pomeroy**

**Clinical Research GG**  
**Health Informatics (formerly Medical Informatics) GG**  
**Microbiology GG**

**School of Veterinary Medicine - Lead Dean: Bennie Osburn**

**Comparative Pathology GG**  
**Epidemiology GG**  
**Immunology GG**

**UC Davis Extension - Dennis Pendleton**

**Forensic Science GG**