

August 31, 2008

**ACADEMIC SENATE, IRVINE DIVISION****Re: 2007-08 GRADUATE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

The Graduate Council respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2007-08.

**I. COUNCIL OPERATIONS**

The Council met 11 times during the academic year. David van Dyk served as the Council Chair, Chair of the Subcommittee on Graduate Student Housing, UCI representative to the University-wide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), as well as the Senate Cabinet during the fall and winter quarters. Glen Mimura was nominated and unanimously elected to serve as Council Chair, Chair of the Subcommittee on Graduate Student Housing, UCI representative to the University-wide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), and the Senate Cabinet for spring 2008 and for 2008-09.

Several subcommittees were appointed to work on a particular issue throughout the year:

- A. Graduate Student Housing (*G. Mimura, M. Martinez*)
- B. Graduate Student Support (*K. Treseder, F. Wan, C. Sokolov*)
- C. International Education (*J. Skeem, S. Sorooshian, Dean C. Boyd, Asst. Dean C. Sokolov*)
- D. Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs (*F. Wan, R. Nideffer, Asst. Grad. Dean C. Sokolov*)
- E. Graduate Mentoring and Program Structure (*J. Jones, M. Martinez, Asst. Dean C. Sokolov*)
- F. Academic Program Reviews (*L. Porter, S. Rychnovsky*)
- G. Senate Committee on Diversity (*G. Mimura*)
- H. Student Mental Health Committee (*J. Skeem*)
- I. Graduate Commencement Committee- (*A. Brysk*)
- J. Graduate Resource Center Committee (*L. Porter*)
- K. Graduate Diversity Committee (*J. Jones*)

**II. PROGRAM REVIEWS**

- A. School of Physical Sciences (2006-07): Members found the external review to be very positive and appreciated the School's efforts to pursue excellence despite the financial constraints it faces along with the other schools on campus. The departments responded favorably to the external review and have addressed the concerns expressed in the report.
- B. Review of the School of Biological Sciences (2007-08): Members reviewed the survey and charges to the External Review Teams for both the departmental review and the School-wide review. The members found the surveys and draft charges to be comprehensive and appropriate. The Academic Program Review Board (APRB) selected external reviewers and conducted the campus visit on March 10-20, 2008.

- C. Review of the School of Humanities (2003-04)- Follow-up Report: The Council agreed that the School appears to be dealing with a number of ongoing challenges (e.g. the need for more TAs, prolonged time to degree, increasing graduate enrollments) that much of the campus is also facing. The Council expressed its hope that the School will continue to look for creative solutions to these complex problems. GC was very concerned about the tensions between the Departments of English and Comparative Literature over TA allocations and requested updates on the situation.
- D. Review of the School of Social Ecology (2003-04)- Follow-up Report: Members reported that the review triggered dramatic change and the School is progressing reasonably well.

### **III. SCHOOLS/DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS/ORUs**

- A. Schools  
No proposals received.
- B. Departments
  - 1. Department of Population Health and Disease Prevention: Proposal to Establish a New Department, GC requested that Senate Chair Bradley request further information regarding integration with Epidemiology, 4/4/08.
  - 2. Proposal to Disestablish the Department of Community & Environmental Medicine and the Transfer of the Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology Program into the Department of Medicine: GC approved the requested actions and agreed that the suspension to the PhD program should be maintained, 5/1/08.
- C. Proposals for New Degree Programs
  - 1. Master of Public Policy: The proposal was approved by GC and the Academic Senate Cabinet in spring 2007. The proposal was sent to CCGA on 11/28/07. The proposal has yet to be officially approved.
  - 2. Master of Science in Nursing Science: The proposal was approved by GC on condition of the receipt of the EVC's letter of commitment for resources, 6/7/07. The proposal was sent to CCGA on 11/5/07 and approved on 5/08.
- D. Proposals for New Programs, Concentrations, Emphases, or Gateway Programs
  - 1. Arts Computation Engineering (ACE): GC reconfirmed its previous endorsement of full Program status and suspended admissions to the Arts and Engineering components of the program, 2/26/08.
  - 2. Graduate Gateway Program in Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacology (MCP): GC was concerned over the influence the private sector may have over the program's academic affairs and that the proposed Chair of the Program was not a Senate member, 7/12/07. After reviewing the additional information provided by the Program, GC was satisfied that its previous concerns had been addressed, 10/4/07.
  - 3. Proposal to Establish an Emphasis in Integrated Composition, Improvisation, and Technology (ICIT): Members endorsed the proposed emphasis that merged two existed emphases (Jazz Studies and Composition and Technology), 12/6/07.
  - 4. Proposal to Establish a Concentration in Cognitive Neuroscience in the Psychology Ph.D. in the Department of Cognitive Science: endorsed, 1/17/08

- E. Proposals for New Organized Research Units
  - 1. Molecular and Mitochondrial Medicine and Genetics (MAMMAG): CG judged that the educational and research objectives were outstanding, but that there appeared to be unresolved financial concerns that should be resolved before the ORU is established, 2/12/08.

#### IV. Proposals to Modify Graduate Degree Requirements

- A. Political Science Time to Degree Policy: Returned for additional information, 2/1/08.
- B. MFA in Studio Art: endorsed, 9/20/07.
- C. Ph.D. in Psychology & Social Behavior: endorsed 9/20/07.
- D. Paul Merage School of Business, MBA: endorsed, 12/6/07.
- E. Earth System Science: endorsed, 11/1/07.
- F. Networked Systems: endorsed, 12/6/07.
- G. General Social Ecology Ph.D. and General PhD w/ concentration in Environmental Analysis & Design: endorsed, 12/6/07.
- H. Chemistry: endorsed, 12/6/07.
- I. Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering: endorsed, 12/6/07.
- J. Environmental Toxicology: GC approved the requested changes but requested additional info regarding the future of the program, including the possible move to the Dept. of Med. Given its concerns, GC temporarily suspended admissions, 12/6/07. After GC's initial concerns were addressed, members considered the Program's plan for currently enrolled students during this transition to be responsible and agreed to reopen admissions to the MS program. GC did not approve of the request to admit PhD students, 2/21/08.
- K. Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program (INP): GC approved the proposal to withdraw the Department of Cognitive Science from INP, 5/2/08.
- L. Music M.F.A.: endorsed, 12/6/08 and 3/6/08.
- M. MS and PhD in Statistics: endorsed 12/6/08.
- N. Interdisciplinary Concentration in Democracy Studies: GC could not approve the proposed concentration because campus centers cannot by definition run training programs, 12/6/08.
- O. Philosophy: Members approved the requested change contingent upon the receipt of the revised catalogue and website copy, as well as a modified copy of the proposal with corrections, 1/17/08.
- P. Time to Degree for Political Science Graduate Students: GC continued to have significant concerns with the proposal and requested additional academic justification for the action. Chair Petracca informed GC that the issue is tied up and that the Dept. may reform the degree requirements.
- Q. Electrical Engineering & Computer Science: endorsed, 2/7/08.
- R. Computer Science Ph.D. Program: Approved addition of CS278. Requested further justification for the proposal to increase TTD, 2/28/08.
- S. Articulation Agreement with Mathematical, Computational & Systems Biology (MCB) Gateway Program: endorsed, 1/23/08.
- T. MS/PhD Program in Transportation Science, Members approved of the request to move the administrative responsibilities to Grad Division, 1/23/08.
- U. Chemical & Biochemical Engineering: endorsed, 2/7/08.
- V. Women's Studies: endorsed, 2/21/08.
- W. Visual Studies: endorsed, 7/16/08.

- X. French PhD: endorsed, 6/5/08.

## V. PROPOSALS FOR ENDOWED CHAIRS

None

## VI. GRADUATE EDUCATION POLICY ISSUES

- A. Academic Senate Review of Law School Programs: GC believed it was critical for the Senate to be involved with the review of the courses and programs offered by the Law School and recommended that Chair Bradley initiate a formal policy, 9/20/07.
- B. Parental Accommodation Leave Policy: The proposed policy was sent in 2 parts. The first established time extensions for research doctoral student milestones. The second requested TAs and GSRs be excused from regular duties for a period of 6 weeks without loss of financial support. In response to EVC&P's questions, GC provided a few clarifications. Grants would continue to pay the student when on leave. GC proposed limiting the number of hours a TA replacement can work, so that fee remission will not have to be provided. The 6-week leave would only apply to one parent per birth or adoption, 3/6/08.
- C. Admissions Requirement: Waiver of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT) or a Paper-based Test (PBT) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Members reviewed the current policy and unanimously approved of the following revision: A student may receive a waiver to the requirement for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT) or a paper-based test (PBT) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for purposes of admission to a UCI graduate program if the student completed all the requirements for their high school diploma, bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree in a country where the primary and/or dominant language is English *and* English was the language of instruction of the school where the requirements were completed. The list of countries as approved by the Graduate Council where English is the primary or dominant language is available on the Graduate Division website at: [http://www.rgs.uci.edu/grad/staff/emplmnt\\_tools.pdf](http://www.rgs.uci.edu/grad/staff/emplmnt_tools.pdf) under Section 2.4, English Language Proficiency Requirements, 3/11/08.
- D. Development Support for Graduate Students at UCI: GC requested that Senate Chair Bradley forward the memo requesting development support for graduate students to the EVC&P, 1/8/08. A reply was not received.
- E. Bologna Process: Members discussed whether a three-year bachelor's degree, newly created under the auspices of the Bologna Process, should be used as a basis for admission to graduate standing at UCI. Since the standards for the Bologna Process have not been finalized, members agreed students should be admitted on a case by case basis, 1/17/08.
- F. Graduate Student Filing Fee: It was brought to the Council's attention that students who file in summer quarter do not have to pay a filing fee, while students who file during the rest of the year do. With equity in mind, GC voted in favor of charging graduate students the same filing fee regardless of which quarter they graduate in.
- G. Proposal for Modifying the Current Fee Payment Policy for GSAR/GSAR Employment-a Four Quarter Pilot Program: GC appreciated the flexibility of the proposed program and hoped that it will increase the number of students hired as GSR/GSARs. GC encouraged the use of the block allocation to support a student's first two years of study, but voted that the use of the block should not be restricted to the student's first two years. Although the block is intended to support recruitment and a student's first and second

- years, members were concerned that it may be disruptive to replace students on grants when they reached their third year. Furthermore, faculty may prefer to hire advanced students for their projects since they would most likely have more experience and a better understanding of the project. The Council also judged that block funds should not be used to support students with Doctoral 2A status in the context of this pilot program.
- H. Revision of the Graduate Housing Guarantee Policy to Include Late Admits: GC proposed that Students who are unable to meet the May 1, 2008 deadline or unable to move into campus housing by fall, due to documentable visa- or health-related delays, may still be eligible to receive the graduate housing guarantee. GC proposed extending the guarantee to winter and spring admits as well, 6/10/08.
  - I. Review of UCI Time to Degree Policy: GC requested that MFA programs submit NTTD and MTTD policies for approval and requested that PhD programs review their programs to make sure that their TTD timetables do not produce students with Doctoral 2A status. The University receives a budget based on student headcount. Students in this category are not included in these headcounts, 6/5/08.
  - J. Electronic Submission of Dissertations and Theses: GC proposed implementing an electronic submission system for theses and dissertations on an optional basis for a one-year trial period, 5/1/08. The proposal was endorsed by the Cabinet, 6/3/08.
  - K. Graduate Student Mental Health Survey: GC highlighted areas of concern and offered recommendations for improving graduate student mental health to Graduate Dean Boyd, 6/5/08.
  - L. Appeals Process for Graduate Students: Senate Chair Bradley requested that GC appoint a representative to serve on an ad hoc committee to consider procedures for graduate student appeals based on appendix II and Graduate Council policies. A GC representative was appointed.

## VII. DIVISIONAL SENATE/CAMPUS ISSUES

- A. Campus Five-Year Perspectives for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units: The Chair noted that all lists appeared correct, but requested clarification regarding GC's role in reviewing joint degree programs.
- B. Proposal to Revise Appendix VIII: UCI Academic Senate Policy on Academic Honesty: Approved proposed changes but request that further clarifications be made, 5/15/08.
- C. Evaluating Teaching at UCI: GC suggested that peer evaluation should not supplant student evaluations and recommended that UCI return to the paper system, 6/5/08.

## VIII. DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS

- A. Departments

## IX. SYSTEMWIDE ISSUES

- A. Systemwide Review of the Proposed Amendments to SR 636: GC agreed that the amendment was well justified, however, members were generally concerned with whether the number of TA slots available is adequate to meet the campus' needs. GC hoped that the decrease in the enrollment cap for writing discussion sections will not be met by further decreasing the number of TA slots available elsewhere on campus, 10/4/07.
- B. Systemwide Review of the CCGA/UCEP Report, *The Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction*: GC had no objections to the proposed changes and supports the revised CCGA/UCEP report, 11/1/07.

- C. Systemwide Review of the Report of the University of California Joint Ad Hoc Committee on International Education: GC was disappointed that more thought was not given to the implications of graduate education, 12/6/07.
- D. System-wide Review of Regents' Task Force on Diversity Reports: GC sent comments and criticisms to Chair Bradley 2/7/08.
- E. CCGA/UCEP/ITTP "Dialectic" Paper on Remote/Online Instruction: GC recommended that a task force be formed and that undergraduate and graduate issues be considered separately and the needs of different disciplines be addressed, 2/7/08.
- F. Systemwide Senate Review of the UC Information Technology Guidance Committee (ITCG) Report, "Creating a UC Cyberinfrastructure": GC supported the overall goals but suggested that faculty involvement should be increased, 4/3/08.

#### **XI. GRADUATE COUNCIL GUESTS**

- A. Tim Bradley, Senate Chair
- B. Luisa Crespo, Executive Director, Academic Senate
- C. Michael Gottfredson, Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost
- D. Nadine Fishel, Labor Relations Specialists, Human Resources
- E. Cathleen May, Director of Dissertation Publishing, Proquest

#### **XII. CARRY-FORWARD ISSUES TO 2008-09**

- A. Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Behavior: Requested signatures on form and catalogue copy before offering final approval, 1/17/08. Still not received.
- B. M.S. and Ph.D. Degree Program in Epidemiology: The Council judged the proposal to be well conceived and agreed that the Program represents an important step in forming a School of Public Health. Before making a formal recommendation, members requested additional information, 6/5/08.
- C. Senate Review of the Academic Programs in the School of Biological Sciences, 2007-08  
GC will review the report.
- D. Doctoral 2A Status and Review of UCI Time to Degree Policy for Doctoral Programs: At the May 15 and June 5, 2008 meetings of the Graduate Council (GC), members discussed Doctoral 2A status and UCI Time to Degree Policy for Doctoral Programs. Doctoral 2A is the UC designation for doctoral students who are more than nine quarters post-Advancement. The University receives a budget based on student headcount. Students in this category *are not included* in these headcounts; thus, the campus does not receive funding from the Office of the President for Doctoral 2A students. Not only do students with Doctoral 2A status create a financial burden to the University, but these students do not qualify for almost all fellowships and are only allowed to receive TAs by exception due to their status. It is the belief of Graduate Council that graduate students, who have progressed within their approved time to degree, should not be penalized by not being given full access to financial support. Therefore, GC will request that all programs review their time to degree timetable in policy and in practice to ensure that the system does not automatically produce students with this status.

#### **XIII. GRADUATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

##### Voting Members

**David van Dyk, Statistics (ICS), Chair fall 07, winter 08**

**Glen Mimura, Film & Media Studies (Humanities) Chair spring 08**

Robert Nideffer, Studio Art (Arts)

Kathleen Treseder, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Biological Sciences)

Lyman Porter, Business  
Michael Martinez, Education  
Soroosh Sorooshian, Civil & Environmental Engineering (Engineering)  
Joie Jones, Radiological Sciences (Health Sciences)  
Scott Jordan, Computer Science-Systems (ICS), spring 08  
Scott Rychnovsky, Chemistry (Physical Sciences)  
Jennifer Skeem, Psychology & Social Behavior (Social Ecology)  
Alison Brysk, Political Science (Social Sciences)

Non-Voting

Carolyn Boyd, Dean, Graduate Division (*ex officio*)  
Richard Matthew, Chair, Subcommittee on International Education  
Frances Leslie, Associate Dean, Graduate Division  
Carol Sokolov, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division  
Court Crowther, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division  
Lorelei Tanji, Librarians Association University of California Irvine  
Erin Kent, Associated Graduate Students  
Crystal Murphy, Associated Graduate Students  
Nick Bravo, Associated Graduate Students