## Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)
## Annual Report 2015-16

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Per Senate bylaw 180, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) advises the University President and all agencies of the Senate on all matters regarding research and learning related to graduate education. One of CCGA's chief responsibilities, as delegated by the Regents, is the authority to review and evaluate all campus proposals for new graduate programs and schools that require approval of the President. In addition, CCGA establishes basic policies and procedures for coordinating the work of the various graduate councils and divisions, recommends to the Assembly minimum standards of admission for graduate students, reviews standards and policies applied by graduate councils, reviews policies concerning relations with educational and research agencies, and approves UC graduate courses as system-wide courses to be listed in divisional catalogs.

### Review of Proposed Graduate Degree Programs

During the 2015-16 Academic year, the campuses submitted 29 proposals to CCGA for review; of these, 24 were approved, and 5 were left to carry over into the next academic year. This included 27 proposals for new graduate degree programs, of which 15 were SSGPDPs.

### Proposals Under Review as of August 10, 2016

| Campus | Program | Degree | Request | SSGPDP |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Irvine | Finance | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Los Angeles | Conservation of Material Culture | M.S./Ph.D. | Establishment | No |
| Los Angeles | Environment & Sustainability | M.S./Ph.D. | Establishment | No |
| Santa Barbara | Technology Management | Ph.D. | Establishment | No |
| San Francisco | Nursing Practice | DNP | Establishment | Yes |

### Programs Approved During the 2015-16 Year

| Campus | Program | Degree | Request | SSGPDP |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Berkeley | Public Affairs | Master | Establishment | Yes |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Berkeley | Earthquake Engineering | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Davis | Interdisciplinary Energy Studies | MS/PhD | Establishment | No |
| Davis | Nursing (Entry Program)* | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Davis | Public Health Sciences* | PhD | Establishment | No |
| Davis | Business Analytics | MS | Establishment | Yes |
| Davis | Environmental Policy and Mgmt. | MS | Establishment | No |
| Irvine | Computer Science | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Irvine | Human Computer Interaction & Design | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Irvine | American Law* | Master of Laws | Establishment | Yes |
| Irvine | Art History* | B.A./M.A. | Establishment | No |
| Irvine | Asian American Studies | B.A./M.A. | Establishment | No |
| Irvine | Embedded Cyber-Physical Systems | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Irvine | Pharmacology | M.S. | Establishment | Yes |
| Irvine | Legal and Forensic Psychology | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Los Angeles | Social Sciences* | Master | Establishment | Yes |
| Los Angeles | Applied Statistics | Master | Establishment | Yes |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | Teaching Asian Languages* | MA | Establishment | No |
| Los Angeles | School of Music | | Establishment of School | No |
| Los Angeles | School of Arts and Architecture | | Reconstitution | No |
| Merced | Mechanical Engineering | MS/PhD | Establishment | No |
| Merced | Economics | MA/PhD | Establishment | No |
| Santa Cruz | Computational Media | MS/PhD | Establishment | No |
| San Diego | Chinese Economic and Political Affairs | Master | Establishment | Yes |

* Indicates a proposal carried over from 2014-15

**Topics of Note During the 2015-16 Year**

Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs)
The ongoing reductions in state support have resulted in campuses increasingly looking to self-supporting graduate professional degree programs (SSGPDPs) as one means of funding new degrees and growing departments, as well as backfilling declining state support for existing programs. SSGPDPs also have the potential to allow the University to meet the state's needs for professional training that are not currently addressed through UC's existing academic graduate programs. Accordingly, the University has seen a rapid year-to-year increase in SSGPDPs, most notably from UC Irvine, which had 7 self-supporting program proposals under review in AY15-16.

While CCGA recognizes the potential benefits of such programs, their recent influx has raised a number of concerns for the committee. First and foremost is the concern about how best to apply CCGA's standard review criteria of academic quality and financial soundness for UC caliber graduate programs, given their increasing variety and the absence of many constraints in the Presidential policy authorizing them. For example, applicant selectively is often used as a metric of academic excellence. If a program targets working adults, and it has been determined that metrics such as GPA and standardized test scores are not useful for applicant selection, what metrics should properly be used in their place to ensure that the highest quality applicants are admitted? Similarly, what are the pressures to downgrade selectivity, for programs that are highly scalable due to enabling technologies such as on-line delivery? In setting fees for self-supporting programs, what kind of data are essential for ensuring that fees are set appropriately so that admissions criteria do not end up being relaxed in order to generate sufficient income for the program to remain solvent? A second major concern is the impact of proposed self-supporting programs on state-funded programs. This is a particular concern given that ladder rank faculty are required to be involved in program oversight and delivery in order to ensure UC quality, but their involvement is often on an overload or buy-out basis, implying that they will have less time to devote to regular state programs since a faculty's available bandwidth is typically limited. What policies should guide the amount

of faculty time impacted and the number of faculty in a unit impacted by involvement in self-supporting programs?

The lack of a detailed policy/set of procedures for reviewing SSGPDP proposals resulted in recurring questions related to the role of SSGPDPs and return-to-aid and program evaluation, in addition to those listed above. The committee, in consultation with UCPB, discussed a number of these key questions at length for a variety of SSGPDP proposals. In the face of these questions, the committee worked diligently to provide consistent, fair, and informed guidance and decision-making in this new and complicated arena. Toward the end of the academic year, CCGA took it upon itself to form a subcommittee to help examine these questions and how to best resolve them. As part of this, the subcommittee worked with UCPB to revise some sections of the CCGA Handbook related to self-supporting programs (Appendix K) and suggested guidelines for SSGPDP assessment during periodic program review. The major changes to Appendix K were a new requirement to provide the SSGPDP cost analysis data that is submitted to OP with CCGA proposals and to list some specific issues that proposals should address. CCGA also developed a new process for review of SSGPDPs in the 2016-2017 Academic Year, which was not discussed in Appendix K revisions, where the lead CCGA reviewer will be paired with a member of UCPB to carry out the review. The CCGA Handbook revisions and new review process are expected to expedite co-review of SSGPDP proposals by the two committees in the future.

In July 2016, the new University Policy on SSGPDPs was finalized by the President's Office. As of this writing, it has not yet been put into use on new proposals (due to the timing of its release). However, the committee is enthusiastic about having it as a reference for campus composition and CCGA review of proposals in the 2016-17 year.

Sexual Harassment/Sexual Violence (formerly VAWA) Policy
In response to federal legislation and system concern, the President worked to develop a sexual harassment/sexual violence policy for the University. CCGA was asked to closely review the new draft policy in terms of its implications for graduate students – both as potential victims and as designated reporters for undergraduate students. A policy had been initially drafted without faculty input; however the President put it in place as an interim policy to allow time for Senate faculty to contribute to the development of a new policy. The new draft policy stated that all faculty and all student employees would be reporters for undergraduates. GSIs would report to the campus Title IX officers, not to the faculty members for whom they work. Under the policy, each campus designates some employees as "confidential resources." An employee designated as a confidential resource is exempted from reporting to the Title IX office. Faculty will have to be responsible for making sure that graduate students are aware of their responsibility for undergraduates. CCGA discussion highlighted the need for details to be refined on the campus level; members were urged to talk to their administration and ensure that graduate student training is adequate.

Graduate Student Mental Health
UC Medical Director Gina Fleming visited CCGA to make a presentation and answer questions related to graduate student mental health. This visit arose out of concerns voiced by the 2014-15 CCGA Student Representative.

Data collected from graduate students systemwide show the following as the top diagnoses for students who report mental health issues:
- Anxiety Disorders
- Depressive Disorders
- Relational Problems
- Academic Problems
- Phase of Life Issues

In response, the University has developed targeted mental health services such as:
- Wellness outreach activities
- Therapy groups
- Satellite offices at several grad/professional schools

- Interactive Suicide Prevention screening program (ISP)
- Training for graduate student TA's and Instructors on how to identify and respond to students in distress
- Liaisons for various graduate programs
- Participation on relevant committees
- Presence at graduate student orientations
- Inclusion of graduate students on mental health advisory board
- Targeted advertisement material.

The importance of mentoring of graduate students was also discussed at several points in the year. It was noted that UC Davis is in the process of developing "best practices" for graduate student mentoring. This will likely be on the agenda for the 2016-2017 academic year.

UC MEXUS
UCORP was the lead committee for the UC Mexus review; however CCGA was heavily involved throughout the process. Members agreed that the Mexus report was very clear and direct about both strengths and weaknesses of the program. CCGA commended the strengths of the program, noted that it would be beneficial to expand the diversity in its financial sources, and that efforts should be undertaken to increase the competitiveness of its grant programs. CCGA also discussed whether funding should be by topic and whether Latino studies should be part of the program's mission. Members felt that the program could have proposed more innovations for its renewal, especially in light of current efforts from other border universities to establish their own binational centers. As a result, CCGA found it difficult to support *expanded* UCOP funding for UC Mexus, particularly during the current fiscal environment, although it was supportive of renewal of the program without contingencies. The committee asked if UC Mexus' extensive experience in research with Mexico could be leveraged in some way to the benefit of the UC system as a whole.

Items of Interest from Academic Affairs
Graduate Research Advocacy Day took place in March. Students from all ten campuses went to Sacramento to talk with legislators about the importance of graduate research. The students were joined by President Napolitano in advocating for graduate research and highlighting its contributions to the California economy. Academic Affairs worked to develop a Graduate Student Fact Sheet to help explain the role of graduate students within UC.

The systemwide Grad Slam tournament was held on April 22 in San Francisco; LinkedIn hosted. The event – in its third year - is an important way for graduate students to share their research information in front of the public.

The Provost visited the committee to discuss the financial analysis for PDST proposals. She explained that items would be coming before the Regents related to PDSTs, and asked for CCGA's input on a briefing paper about them. Some PDSTs are out of compliance with policy, and the chair of the Board of Regents has stipulated that the University must obey the policy or change it. There is a hope to put something in place that allows for reasonable changes in PDSTs and only requires Regental approval for significant changes.

The Provost informed CCGA that she deliberately did not search for a new Research and Graduate Studies Vice President last year because the President was in the midst of making decisions about how she would organize the role in conjunction with the new Senior Vice-President for Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The President wants a SVP who will be very outwardly focused on research innovation and entrepreneurship – someone who appreciates research and can move in the corporate and government worlds. Arthur Ellis joined UC as the new RGS Vice President on August 10, 2016.

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Research Analyst Chris Procello, and Council of Graduate Deans representative Tyrus Miller (UCSC). Special thanks to Council Chair Dan Hare, Council Vice Chair Jim Chalfant, Senate Associate Director Jocelyn Banaria and Senate Executive Director Hilary Baxter.  CCGA is particularly appreciative of Analyst Fredye Harms' support of the committee during a year that saw an accelerated expansion of Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program proposals.

Respectfully submitted,

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