

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)
Annual Report 2018-19**

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 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 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 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 2019-20 Academic year, CCGA approved 14 program proposals, and declined one. Seven of the approved proposals were Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Programs (SSGPDPs), and one proposal was a PDST (Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition). Three proposals are currently under review and will carry over to the 2019-20 year.

Programs Decided Upon During the 2019-20 Year

Campus	Program	Date Received	Date Approved	SSGPDP?
UCB	Master of Development Engineering	3/2/20	6/3/20	Yes
UCI	Master of Data Science	2/13/19	12/4/2019	Yes
UCI	Master of English	3/27/19	12/4/19	Yes
UCI	PhD in Global Studies	4/5/19	11/6/19	No
UCI	School of Pharmacy (Preproposal)	6/25/19	11/6/19	No
UCI	Addition of MS to Existing MD	12/23/19	2/5/20	No
UCI	School of Pharmacy (Full Proposal)	3/10/20	6/3/20	No
UCI	Pharm D	3/10/20	6/3/20	No
UCLA	Master of Applied Geospatial Information Systems and Technologies	5/14/19	11/6/19	Yes
UCLA	Dual Master of Financial Engineering – Asia Pacific	12/20/19	5/6/20 (rejected)	Yes
UCLA	Master of Urban Planning	2/28/20	5/6/20	No
UCLA	Master in Healthcare Administration	3/2/20	7/8/20	Yes
UCLA	Convert Master of Engineering	3/2/20	5/6/20	Yes
UCM	MS in Cognitive and Information Sciences	11/25/19	2/21/20	No
UCSC	Master of Human Computer Interaction	3/21/19	10/2/19	No

The committee worked diligently with campuses and faculty throughout the year to help them craft and improve proposals that would meet the University’s expectations of excellence.

Proposals Under Review to be Carried Over to 2020-21

Campus	Program	Date Received	Status	SSGPDP?
UCR	Master of Science in Business Analytics	3/3/20	Under Review	Yes
UCSD	MS in Health Informatics	5/29/20	Under Review	Yes
UCSD	Master of Science in Computational Social Science	6/10/20	Under Review	Yes

Topics of Note During the 2019-20 Year

Disruptions COVID-19 and the Murder of George Floyd

Nearly each of the topics mentioned below was interrupted by the advent of COVID-19 and the transition to working and learning from home. While the committee continued to meet via Zoom, progress on areas other than program approvals were largely sidelined. The murder of George Floyd and the national reaction also pulled considerable focus and energy from the committee at the June meeting.

Mentoring and Teaching Evaluations

In 2018-19, the Council of Graduate Deans initiated the idea that Mentoring should be considered an integral part of Teaching Evaluations of Faculty during promotion and merit processes. CCGA agreed in principle and discussed various rewordings of APM 210, which were shared with UCAP. UCAP expressed concerns about the specifics proposed. In 2019-2020, CCGA in coordination with UCAP proposed renaming the teaching category in APM 210.1.d to “Teaching and Mentoring”, thus capturing the spirit that teaching and mentorship are all-inclusive activities that faculty conduct in diverse ways. A memo was sent to the Academic Council to be presented in its September 23rd meeting.

Concerns about UCOP Restructuring

CCGA raised concerns regarding the "housing" of graduate education in the new structural reorganization of the UCOP top administration positions. The committee invited the Provost to its November meeting to discuss several issues in that regard. The provost assured CCGA that Graduate Education and Research are paramount to the UC mission, and that the new Vice President for Research and Innovation would be integral to this graduate mission and would be an academic. Indeed, in March 2020 Dr. Theresa A. Maldonado was appointed Vice President for Research & Innovation. She has participated in many CCGA meetings and has been very supportive and responsive.

SSGPDPs

The committee had UCPB Chair Malloy in to talk about SSGPDPs. He said he was surprised at how much time was spent on SSGPDPs the previous year. The Committee is concerned about the sheer volume of SSGPDPs it has seen over the past few years. Campuses are increasingly turning to these, and there needs to be a study about how the campuses have come to rely on these. Chair Balasubramaniam said that CCGA shared a lot of these concerns is equally concerned about their growth and the possibility that they could be becoming parasitic. That said, state-supported programs are not getting more money to function. Mr. Malloy said that the money that is generated by these seems to be going into the dean’s office and not being tracked. Also use of space and student services are not being tracked.

Mr. Malloy suggested the creation a smaller subgroup with reps from UCPB and CCGA to brainstorm some of these larger issues and report back on ways to tweak the process and think about the big picture and then report back to the committees. Each committee (UCPB and CCGA) identified 2-3 people who formed a study subgroup to report back to the committees. The work of this subgroup was interrupted by COVID-19.

Dual Degree Programs

Committee member Smith (UCSC) explained that there are very few dual degree programs in the UC system. Dual degree programs exist when an existing degree at UC partners with an external institution. A student who matriculated in to the dual degree pathway would earn two graduate degrees. Very little guidance for these types of proposals exists. WASC has some policies on dual degree programs, but those guidelines are very minimal. One of the things that needs close attention is the controlling of admissions There were a lot of questions about how open and accessible this would be to students in California and whether there would be open and fair access and equal accessibility in the program. UCLA had to push for separate admissions policies at each university. The committee discussed the concept. Also clarified was the issue of Joint versus Dual Degree – one has two degrees offered, the other just has one degree offered. The committee asked if explicit language should be added to the Handbook for these degree proposals with a memo to the graduate councils. Chair Balasubramaniam and Professor Smith had planned to discuss this, but the progress was stopped with the advent of COVID-19.

Discussion about the GRE

Committee members shared their campus experiences and thoughts about the efficacy of using GREs. Many departments had voted not to use the GREs and students were getting mixed messages. There was also discussion about holistic review, the factors that go into it, and if it, too, can be considered biased. The Committee had some input from experts from UCSF: Dean Silva and Professor Huang. They expressed belief that the GRE and school of origin did not figure into student performance. The extent of research experience, personal and research statements, and letters of recommendation were much more relevant factors. Letters of recommendation that are strong include examples and details of student work and achievement. The primary letter of recommendation is the best indicator of performance. In the letter of recommendation instructions it asks writers to address the students' independence, persistence, and work ethic.

Further discussion of the GRE and its use was disrupted by COVID-19.

UCSC Graduate Student Strike

Professor Smith (UCSC) said that the graduate students at UCSC filed some demands for COL increase, but the administration was unable to enter any negotiation because the graduate students are under contract with UAW. As a result, the students moved forward and initiated a formal strike. Some students who were working as TAs withheld grades in response. The administration announced two new plans to improve stability of graduate support, effective fall 2020. They were i) guaranteed support packages for all new incoming and current grads for five years support (five years doctoral students, two years MFA students) at a minimum TA level for three quarters, and ii) a need-based \$2500 annual housing supplement to be administered through the financial aid office, available to all doctoral and MFA students. Graduate student strike leaders, who overlap with the GSA leadership, are committed to their demands for a \$1412 per month COLA, to be achieved through re-negotiation of the UAW contract. Graduate students that have withheld or deleted grades received, as appropriate, letters of warning (grades withheld) or conduct summons (grades deleted from Canvas).

The strike largely was dissembled due to the shelter-in-place orders.

Emergency Covid-19 Extensions for Graduate Students

At its May 6 meeting, the Committee voted 11-0-0 to request that the period covering winter 2020 through spring 2021 be excluded from the 18 quarter/12 semester limits in APM 420-17 (for Readers, TA-ships, and Fellowships), due to the COVID-19 crisis. The committee asked that the Senate transmit this request to the Provost. Council approved CCGA's motion for the 18/12 limit. The Provost issued a temporary extension of the chancellors' authority under APM – 410, Teaching Assistants and Graduate Student Instructors and APM – 420, Readers, to grant a seventh-year extension (a maximum of 21 quarters/14 semesters) to the total length of service rendered in any one or any combination of the titles.

As for the Normative Time to Degree, there is no system wide normative time policy. CCGA encouraged all campuses to offer as much flexibility in light of COVID-19.

International Students

President Trump issued an executive order about Chinese students with ties to the Chinese military academic complex. The chairs of CCGA, UCFW and UCRP wrote a letter to the President and the Vice President of Research and Innovation asking that they take it up with UCDC to see what can be done.

CCGA also discussed an order by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to bar international students from attending any all on-line courses of study. The order was eventually rescinded in part.

Acknowledgements

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Respectfully submitted,

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