UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA   **ACADEMIC SENATE**

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

I. **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**
    Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved 12-0-0.

II. **Chair's Report** - *Chair Ramesh Balasubramaniam*

SSGPDP Sub-Committee follow-up: The Sub-Committee met and some of the issues it looked at were the lack of data on existing programs and the lack of any centralized location where program reviews on these programs could be archived. There is a "best practices" document of sorts from UCLA and a very solid report from UCI, which has given rise to some questions. The Sub-Committee decided it would study the UCI report and plan for a much wider data collection, including the accounting for program finances. When CCGA reviews these proposals in the future, it will ask programs to periodically report certain things including diversity numbers and return-to-aid. The campus also should report on how a program is to be discontinued if it is determined not to be financially viable.

The search for the Vice Provost for Research is almost concluded. The Provost still has not yet answered how that that person will interact with graduate affairs.

Standardized Testing: The STTF report was very deliberative, thoughtful, and well done. The conclusions were quite contrary to what had been anticipated. It is a function of the Academic Senate to look at admissions standards and the Senate takes it very seriously. One of the recommendations of the report is for the University to come up with alternative testing standards; the report forecasted that it could take up to nine years for such a test to be developed. BOARS recommends a more aggressive timeline.

The Unit 18 Lecturers discussion has reached an impasse. The contract has just expired. They have made a list of demands and the administration has been in negotiations with them.

Professor Smith said that the wildcat strike is continuing at UCSC and may be escalating. The administration has announced two new plans to improve stability of graduate support, effective fall 2020. They are 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. The UCSC administration has communicated in the same announcement as the grad support plans (above) that graduate students that have withheld or deleted grades will receive, as appropriate, letters of warning (grades withheld) or conduct summons (grades deleted from Canvas).

III. **Vice Chair's Report –** *Vice Chair Amr El Abbadi*
    The Vice Chair attended the Council on Graduate Deans meeting where many contentious issues were brought up including the Santa Cruz strike. One other issue that was discussed was concern about DACA graduate students and the upcoming Supreme Court decision.

The Irvine Dean was very upset about the campus' program proposals being "held up by CCGA" because of the new diversity requirement. The Vice Chair explained that the Provost's Office held up the proposals, not CCGA.

IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs
Emily Rader, Research Strategy and Portfolio Manager
Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning
Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Analyst Procello noted that most of the proposals that had been held up have submitted diversity plans and now have moved forward from the Provost to the President. At the Program Review website he added the letter Provost Brown sent to all the provosts about the diversity requirement. (This letter has been added to the CCGA Resources page at the Senate's website.)

Director Greenspan said the APC reviewed the recommendations of the Graduate Taskforce; most of the discussion was framed around mentoring. Executive Director Jennings added that it is unclear where the conversation on mentoring will go. Most of the APC was not necessarily aware about what had been endorsed in the recommendations.

Research Strategy and Portfolio Manager Rader said that the University is starting to see clauses similar to the NSF clause in some of the non-profit, foundation-based contracts and grants.

She said that there is still no news on the search for a new VP for Research, although she has informally been told to expect something in the very near future.

Ms. Rader has been meeting with the research development officers to discuss ways to address alternate means of support for graduate students who may be impacted by the DACA decision.

V. SSGPDP Subgroup Update

Most of this topic was covered in the introduction. The main issue of concern has to do with the lack of centralized data on program review. When proposals are reviewed in the future, they will be asked to report back. The SSGPDP Sub-Committee will make some recommendations and bring them back for discussion at the March meeting.

VI. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership
Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair
Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

The Council Chair provided some updates:

The Standardized Testing Task Force report was sent out on Monday and there was a press conference. The Report will go to Assembly in the middle of April. Whatever Assembly says will then be given to the President – who will form her own recommendations. The President will then submit her decision to the Regents in May.

The ruling from the Supreme Court may be that DACA needs to stop immediately. It is unclear how will the University deal with this. If students need to leave, how might they be able to finish their degrees? Can TAs be changed to fellowships? Will the state allow UC to use state funding for

undocumented students? A lot of it will come down to how much risk is the University is willing to accept.

The Working Group on Comprehensive Access was formed in response to the Dignity Health issue wherein the University was considering partnering with a Catholic hospital to provide care. The Working Group wrote a report which is now is available for comment. The Working Group chair said he would not send the report out as a *committee* report if a number of people did not endorse it; they didn't, so he sent it out as a chair's report.

The presidential search continues. Because of non-disclosure agreements, the Council Chair was unable to say more about it at this time.

Council Vice Chair Gauvain talked about the Regent's Committee on Academic Affairs. The Provost gave a presentation on graduate education and the California economy. The Regents are not familiar with graduate education and the Provost wanted to highlight it in a way that would be compelling to them. He wanted to get them to see that graduate education should be supported.

The admissions audit is going to happen.

There is a GO bond for education on the March ballet.

The Merced chancellor search committee is holding interviews the end of February/beginning of March.

VII.   New Program Proposals

A. Proposal for an M.S. in Cognitive and Information Sciences from the Merced campus *Lead Reviewer – Divyakant Agrawal*
    The proposers responded adequately to the comments from the reviewers.
    ___Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-2.___

B. Proposal for a Dual Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) – Asia Pacific with the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University (Master of Finance) [SSGPDP] on the Los Angeles campus – *Lead Reviewer LeRoy Westerling*
    The lead reviewer is still working on securing reviews. He has been in touch with the proposers about the proposal's lack of addressing the diversity requirement.

C. Proposal to add a Master of Science in Medical Science to an Existing MD program on the Irvine campus – *Lead Reviewer Partho Ghosh* –
    The proposal is to add a terminal masters to the MD program. Students have to complete the first year of medical school and a service learning project. They will also have to pass a very comprehensive oral exam. There was nothing in the proposal about diversity. The Lead Reviewer communicated with the proposers and they issued a statement saying that they would track the diversity numbers in the program
    ___Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.___

D. Proposal to establish a Graduate Academic Certificate in Family Caregiving on the Davis campus - *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*
At the last meeting, CCGA voted on the proposal saying that it did not need CCGA approval. However, the campus says it wants committee approval. The Chair will communicate with the campus and explain the committee's decision.

VIII.   **Discussion about the GRE**
Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies
Guo Huang, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, UCSF
Elizabeth Silva, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, UCSF

Dean Silva told the committee that UCSF has gone through two application cycles where the majority of programs did not require the GRE. In 2014, a paper was published from a faculty member at UCSF about graduate admissions. It found that GRE and school of origin did not figure into performance. The extent of research experience, personal and research statements, and letters of recommendation were much more relevant factors. There is an administrator who reads through each application that is submitted and culls those that do not meet things like GPA requirement, lack of research, and a poor personal statement. About 300 of the typical 500 applications received go on to faculty review. Dean Silva said that she would not recommend getting rid of the GRE unless an institution's entire admissions process had been reviewed. Now that the program has gone without the GRE for two years, it is going to review its holistic admissions policies.

Professor Huang talked about the Tetrad program, which does not require the GRE. He said that the program evaluates the length of high-quality research experience. Students who have half a year of research experience or less are probably not going to do well in the PhD program. Most students, however, have at least one year of high-quality research experience. For the Tetrad program, there is not a place for students to input a GRE score, so it is not a factor at all in screening. 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.

There has been an increase of applications by about 10-15 percent since the GRE has been eliminated. The program has a large and diverse admissions committee to help guard against bias in letters of recommendation; each application is read by four members.

Members had several questions and there was considerable discussion. Professor Wilson observed that the GRE gave different means for different subgroups, and that this is a conceptual error--this is not bias--unless they know ALREADY that the groups are equal, then its actually important info about group differences.

IX.   **Campus Updates**

UCLA – There has been some concern about new proposals that involve dual degree programs since there is not much guidance in the handbook for them. There are also concerns regarding admissions standards for dual degree programs since another institution is involved.

UCI – Some undergraduate students are claiming they don't want to go to class out of fear of the coronavirus. Faculty are no longer asking for medical excuses and are frustrated. The Provost is asking for pre-approval if faculty are travelling to China.

Merced – The campus is updating the handbook to include policies and procedures for student-advisor conflict resolution, as well as standards and expectations for professional communications.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54.