

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Notice of Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved 9-0-0.

II. Chair's Report - Chair Ramesh Balasubramaniam

The Chair reported that the biggest item to discuss at this meeting is the 12 semester/18 quarter rule for maximum allowable TA funding for graduate students. He asked what would be the best way to suggest leniency with this. Right now it is very strict. Much of this lies in the hands of graduate divisions and graduate deans.

He added that since the last meeting, he sent a memo to the graduate deans about the GRE. The GRE is not accessible to a lot of people and the letter suggested taking into account more holistic review and less reliance on the GRE for the fall.

Council of Graduate Deans representative Jean-Pierre Delplanque said that the SIRs are on par with what they were supposed to be. The big concern is the summer melt which could be much more pronounced than what it normally is. And the other big unknown is international students and if they will be able to get visas.

The Trump administration issued an Executive Order about legal immigration and it looks as though most of the postdocs and faculty are already in the system and there have been no major changes to that.

The Chair reminded the committee of the three big items from the March agenda that have been pushed because of COVID-19: the issue of the GRE and graduate testing, the SSGPDP Task Force, and the discussion about adding "mentoring" to APM 210. He said that he hoped to resume discussion on these items soon.

III. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Amr El Abbadi

The Vice Chair said he attended the Assembly meeting and said that it was quite informative and interesting. An important item is that the state budget, which is dependent on the federal budget. Because the taxes were collected later than usual, there will be no new budget by June 15. Administrative salary cuts will be discussed later on and there is a hiring freeze. He also attended the graduate deans meeting, where they discussed the issue of the DACA; everyone is waiting for the Supreme Court decision. Regarding COVID 19, one of the big issues is how to fund international students and what do they do in the fall. Can they take classes in the fall remotely? Can they be hired as TAs and GSRs? Is it possible to have tuition remissions? There were more questions than answers.

The Vice Chair also attended the UCACC meeting, which discussed three main issues. One was the extreme extra workload that faculty are feeling during remote instruction. Another issue that was of much concern was the possibility of dishonesty in remote exams. Many faculty would like to observe the students using Zoom, but there are privacy issues. It was

aired and was not resolved. The final issue was preparation for the fall instruction, which seems to be a hybrid model where classes are both in person and remote. There is concern that this will result in the doubling of the workload.

IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning

Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Analyst Procello said that this week there was a meeting with the academic planning deans from the campuses. A lot of time was spent on the dual mode instruction model where the default is online but some in-person instruction is a possibility. Most campuses are considering this dual mode instruction model whereas some are planning on going completely online. He added that summer enrollments are up at several campuses. This is primarily undergraduate students, but it might impact graduate students as well.

Director Greenspan noted that the summer session directors are meeting weekly. There may be additional summer melt when housing deposits are due depending on what the campuses have decided to do about the dorms. If the campuses do not open the dorms, it is likely that students will find denser (more populated) housing off-campus. There is talk about having graduate students on campus and undergraduates online, but no decisions have been made. Proctoring of online exams is also an issue; no one is happy with the online proctoring options.

Executive Director Jennings said that her office still working on the NRST for international students who want to stay past the three year stoppage on the time clock. She also talked about the CARES Act. Her office has worked with the financial aid director to make sure that the guidance that went out highlighted that graduate students need money, too. The CARES funds go directly to campuses with the stipulation that 50 percent of the money needs to be directed directly to students for emergency financial aid. Her office is continuing to do work for the UCHSI and is getting ready for the UCHBCU. Some of the campuses were able to hold their Grad Slam competition, but many were cancelled, as was systemwide.

V. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

The Council Chair said it is speculated that the legislature will suggest a flat budget for UC, but she is skeptical. The University will know more in August/September after the tax revenue has come in. Robert Horowitz has been elected vice chair of the Senate from UCSD. He was on Council last year and is very familiar with Senate.

The budget is unknown and each chancellor was asked to fill out a template with different scenarios: Bad, Very Bad, and Really Bad. The CoC is meeting today. There is also an ad hoc budget committee; it consists of a group who meets weekly to go through the figures. She said she cannot share them at this time because they are currently calculating revenues.

There is also an issue around testing for COVID. Campuses cannot open for in-person meeting without having a testing protocol in place. The health center campuses are doing a good job with this. The non-health center campuses are also pushing hard for this. Berkeley's testing is on hold because it

can't get the swabs. UCSB is looking at doing something with CRISPR. It is very necessary to have some coordination across the campuses; the VCRs are talking how this be done.

Chair Bhavnani said that it might be interesting for CCGA to see what plans are being put in place for contact tracing across the state because there may be a role for graduate students. UCSD will be testing 200 people on a routine basis and people who are found to be positive will be put into quarantine. The Chancellor is very optimistic that this will allow the campuses to open in the fall. UCSF will ask people to work through an app to do a self-check on symptoms.

In May, the Regents will be looking at the results of the Standardized Testing Task Force. There is also a climate taskforce being established with an interim working group underway. The interim working group has developed a charge and sent it to UCOC and asked them to populate the task force. The first point in the charge is to encourage campuses to set up their own climate working group. The Chair told members to talk to their local CoC if they are interested in participating.

The President will hopefully be making an announcement at the May Regents' meeting about the conclusion of the Chancellor search at UCM.

VI. Graduate Issues in Light of COVID-19

UCLA is working on guidance for departments who have admitted international students for fall 2020. The campus is wondering about international students who are abroad and how they will get back. There is discussion of a transcript notation for the spring 2020 quarter to indicate that there were instructional changes and grading changes in that quarter. The campus did pass a delegation of authority so that departments could delay matriculation of graduate students from one quarter to one year. The campus also released a statement on the GRE and standardized testing to emphasize a more holistic review of applications. There is talk about what is going to happen with self-supporting programs – if they don't hit their enrollment target, they are likely to go into the red - so there will be some stress test this year with SSPs. Finally, there is work on how to get graduate students back into the labs as quickly as possible after the SIP orders are lifted.

Merced – The campus had programs that were encountering difficulties – they have requirements over and above those in the graduate handbook which were difficult to satisfy during this semester. It enacted a policy that allows all of the graduate groups to relax their requirements. This has resulted in some pushback from the humanities. The graduate departments at UC Merced are not well institutionalized, so they do not have staff person with institutional memory of how rules are applied there and some of the programs do not want flexibility and they want the graduate council to decide everything for them. The campus has been talking about short term crisis management. The UC is financially fragile. The campus is under a lot of financial stresses and the campus really needs to discuss how it can deliver and pay for graduate education.

Riverside continues to deal with questions of student well-being. The campus has set up an emergency fund up for graduate students that will be available in a week. There was a question about how the campus is doing TA evaluations. The second big question was about allowing for postponed program reviews – the campus has already had at least one request for a postponement. There is an ongoing provost search, but it is difficult to have a leadership change now. There was a meeting with the campus VC for Planning and Budget about SSGPDPs. There is a timeline that suggests by June the campus will have an idea of where the SSP funds are going. UCR is closed by county order through June 19.

Berkeley is having a very similar range of things. The campus did send a letter to the CCGA Chair about the cap on GSRs. The campus has had a graduate diversity task force on how to bring in a more diverse group of students into grad programs, particularly in STEM. The Dean and Grad Council chair are leading an effort to try to bring five years of funding to all graduate students.

UCSD - The campus has approved one quarter extension of time limits for graduate students as a blanket policy. It has also been getting some requests for program review extensions. Grad council granted one that was very limited in time. The thought was that the campus would grant the extension for a quarter or two and the program would arrange a Zoom program review. The UCSD dean has also been talking about five year support for graduate students. Most recently, it has been talking about COVID testing and bringing back graduate students – the campus is calling it Return to Learn. There is initial testing of approximately 5000 graduate and undergraduate students. Some labs are populated, others are holding off.

Irvine – The campus has postponed program reviews for this quarter. Grad Council has been involved in the three-year review of SSGPDP programs to see what is going on from an academic perspective. The campus has also been having on ongoing discussions about exams for English proficiency for TAs – the grad division is trying to downplay the use of the tests. English proficiency for TAs is on ice. The campus might not have so many international students teaching next year, so it might not be quite the issue. A group called ForCOLA has been trying to get the cost of living adjustment for all TAs. A petition was circulated to all grad students and faculty for another full year of funding for graduate students - they wanted to extend time to degree for a year and provide funding. Hundreds of students signed onto it.

Davis has decided to accept Duolingo in addition to the other language exams for international students. The campus left the GRE in the hands of the departments; there is only one program that asks for the subject tests. Likewise, TA evaluations are being left in the hands of the departments. The campus got its first request for postponing reviews. The head of the program review committee does not want to postpone the reviews and probably will not do so.

UCSB has done an extension of time to degree – it was an extension of time for up to a year, with no extension of funding. The campus also allowed the departments to decide if they would offer satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading for the graduate courses. For incoming students, it sent out a memo to the departments saying that the graduate division is going to allow a deferral for up to a year, but the terms of admission would remain the same. There is also a lot of concern because of the disruption of the research activity. The VCR laid out the plan and it is hoped that some aspects of research will resume on campus by June. The library will be opening in phase one.

UCSC has extended normative times and has encouraged programs to be flexible. The campus has been flexible about modifying program requirements. It has been encouraging programs not to request such a blanket approval – maybe do it quarter by quarter instead of for the year. The campus has sent out several communications to the students. The COLA furor has quieted down. Fifty students received a notice of dismissal. Most of the students who were leading the strike did turn their grades in and will be eligible to TA. The campus has recently adopted a five-year guaranteed funding model but it is not clear how that will be developed.

One of the student representatives commented about the tremendous anxiety graduate students are having over not being able to do data collection in the summer.

VII. Dual and Joint Degrees

There is not a good guidance for Joint or Dual degrees for either the campus level or CCGA level. At UCLA the only joint degree it has allowed was with CSU. Joint degrees can be approved but they but they are seen as riskier than dual degrees because a diploma that has two institutions on it is needed. There are also regulations from WASC.

Difference between Joint and Dual degree: Joint Degrees have classes in common that count towards the degree and Dual Degrees the courses need to be completely separate. Both are permissible under UCLA's regulations. There is a dual degree with the business school and Singapore that was approved 13 years ago. Most of the dual degrees at UCLA have been internal.

Analyst Procello added that there is a long history of Joint Degree programs in the late 90s/early 2000s but there has not been any policy on Dual Degree programs.

VIII. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal to establish 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*
After the last meeting, the Lead Reviewer wrote to the campus and has not heard back.
Action Taken: The Lead Reviewer made a motion that the proposal go back to the campus and it was approved 9-0-1.
- B. Proposal to establish a Masters in Development Engineering on the Berkeley campus [SSGPDP]
-- *Lead Reviewer Linda Cohen*
The Lead Reviewer is still working on getting reviewers. UCPB has looked at it and has given its report to the Lead Reviewer.
- C. Proposal to establish a Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) dual degree with the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) on the Los Angeles campus
-- *Lead Reviewer Erith Jaffe-Berg*
The Lead Reviewer has received two reviews and both were very favorable. The concern has to do with diversity – additional resources should be made from URM students for the international experience. She will report that to the proposers.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 8-0-1
- D. Proposal to establish a Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) on the Los Angeles campus [SSGPDP]
-- *Lead Reviewer Don Smith*
The proposal is under review.
- E. Proposal to convert a Master of Engineering (MEng) from state-supported to self-supporting on the Los Angeles campus [SSGPDP]
-- *Lead Reviewer Amr El Abbadi*
The proposal was very well written and all the reviewers were quite supportive of the program. UCPB was also very supportive.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 8-0-1

F. UC Irvine School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Proposal Review

– *Lead Reviewer Ramesh Balasubramaniam*

The Lead Reviewer has not received the materials from the UCI grad council. He has sent the proposal out to four reviewers and received two of them back; one of them is very negative. He is waiting for the other two reviews to come in.

G. Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Business Analytics on the Riverside campus
[SSGPDP]

-- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*

The Lead Reviewer has gotten two reviewers and they have both been very thorough. The third reviewer has not responded. She is communicating with the proposers

IX. New Business

The Chair brought up the 12 semester/18 quarter limit on funding in APM 420-17. He said there are two roads the committee can take. One is that it works to modify the regulation that puts this cap in place and the other is to ask graduate deans to have a little bit of leniency regarding this rule for students who are delayed related to COVID-19. Each student who is in such a position would file a petition to the graduate division. It was decided that the committee would write the Council asking that they approach the Provost about allowing this flexibility.

**Action Taken: The committee voted to write Council with the following request:
CCGA requests that the period covering winter 2020 through spring 2021 be excluded from the 18 quarter/12 semester limits in 420-17 – for Readers, TAs, Fellowships.
The request was approved 11-0-0.**

The committee adjourned at 2:54.