

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting**Tuesday, November 3, 2009****10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.****UCOP, 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland – Room 11326****Telephone: 510-987-9466**<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/>**I. Chair's Report/Announcements/Updates – Chair Farid Chehab**

- Oct. 21 Academic Council
 - Council discussed the Differential Fees Proposal to which they are largely opposed; the item has been pulled from the November Regents agenda.
 - Council heard updated on various workgroups of the Gould Commission and issues of potential interest to CCGA.
 - Chair Chehab brought to the President's attention that with the increase in fees, the annual cost of a first-year graduate student has surpassed the annual cost of a Post Doc and that this will undoubtedly affect how the faculty conducts research.
 - Bruce Schumm, Chair of the On-line Instruction Committee presented its final report to Academic Council. The report will be disseminated to campuses and systemwide committees for comments.
 - Vice Provost Todd Greenstein discussed proposal for piloting on-line instruction.
 - Council discussed the Education Abroad Program and expressed that they would like to see EAP maintained; UCOP would like it to self-sustaining.
 - Chair Chehab thanked members for weighing in on the graduate student fees letter.
 - Council discussed a proposal to reinstate unfunded enrollment and possible alternatives to meeting the funding gap.
- Oct. 14 Assembly of the Academic Senate
 - There was a report of inactivity on RE-89, the Regental policy on reporting procedures for proposals to obtain research funding from the tobacco industry.
 - President Yudof commented on his mandate to balance the budget and stabilize the University and also on diminished state support. He reported that the proposal for mid-year and 2010-11 student fee increases will be presented to Regents in November and noted that he is receptive to mitigating impacts on graduate students. The President is hopeful that furloughs will not extend for a second year. He also reported on several other topics including UC's request of about \$305M from the state; the restart of employee UCRP contributions; and an anticipated 10-15% increase in out-of-state students. On faculty salaries, the President stated that there will not be any increase in faculty salary scales in 2010-11, but likely in 2011-12. With regard to issue of the use of furlough days on instructional days, he shared that this was not something that he could agree to at a time when student fees are being raised.
- Oct. 26 Academic Planning Council (APC)
 - The APC considered issues that it may bring to Council/the Administration this year such as undergraduate online instruction and changes to the academic calendar the committee also discussed the goals of the Gould Commission.

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of the October 6, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Members approved the agenda and minutes with minor modifications.

III. Announcements from the President's Office, Academic Affairs

Steven Beckwith, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies

Todd Greenspan, Director Academic Planning

Hilary Baxter, Academic Planning, Programs and Coordination

- Hilary Baxter introduced a new AAPC staff member Jocelyn Banaria. APPC has received a couple inquiries for "Permission to Negotiate" which may point to a need to revise guidelines in the CCGA Handbook.
- Todd Greenspan provided an update on the issue of CSU pursuing the Nursing Doctorate and some history on joint program proposals, noting that Catherine Nation is most knowledgeable on the topic. He also commented on the various workgroups of the Gould Commission of particular relevance to CCGA; issues associated with academic calendar and minimum days of instruction.

IV. Continued Roundtable on the Value of Graduate Education and Why Graduate Students are Critical to UC – Chair Chehab

ISSUE: The Regents are considering mid-year student fee increases in 2009-10 followed by additional fee increases in 2010-11. Last month, CCGA submitted a letter to Council not to support further increases in graduate student fees due to their impact on graduate academic students, research faculty, and the research mission of the University. The letter, which offered possible solutions to mitigate the financial burden, was approved by Council and will be sent to the Provost and President. Members will continue the discussion of the larger issues associated with the value of graduate students and how CCGA might convey its position to Council.

DISCUSSION: Chair Chehab summarized main thoughts from last meeting's discussion, including reframing the discussion as value of UC as research institution; salient points from a Jan. 2005 Presentation to Regents on graduate education and University research: i) graduate education provides a highly educated workforce that will help California retain its position as a leading economic force in the world; ii) to prepare students for traditional and non-traditional post-graduate employment; and iii) graduate education is all about innovation and prosperity. Members expressed concern with the use of the term prosperity and that it should be broadly defined to include public service and cultural capital.

Members put forth the following supporting statements that University research:

- fosters international cultural exchange and builds cultural capital locally
- drives and conditions undergraduate education and creative endeavors
- creative innovation drives the UC educational mission and fuel California's economy
- defines new knowledge, brings innovation to the market and enriches the quality of life
- is threatened by the shortfall in producing research and professional graduate students
- fosters intellectual creativity and flexibility and critical thinking skills of undergraduates vis-à-vis their hands-on involvement in University research and work alongside graduate student and faculty researchers

IV. Continued Roundtable on the Value of Graduate Education and Why Graduate Students are Critical to UC – Chair Chehab
(cont.)

Members also noted the importance of using very specific examples that are easily understood and representative of multiple disciplines in the final document. It was also suggested to cite prior reports such as the 1999 “Making Discovery Work” report.

ACTION: Chair Chehab will summarize these points and come up with a list of bullet points for discussion at the next meeting.

V. Proposed UC Undergraduate Mission Statement – Chair Chehab

ISSUE: In 2007-08, the Academic Council circulated a proposed UC Undergraduate Mission Statement for informal Systemwide review. The statement was crafted by a Senate task force on undergraduate education whose charge was to “... develop and articulate a clearer philosophy of undergraduate education that would enhance public understanding of the unique value of an undergraduate education at UC.” Keith Williams, co-chair of the Education and Curriculum working group of the Gould Commission suggested to Chair Chehab that CCGA discuss the undergraduate mission statement and convey its recommendations back to him.

DISCUSSION: Members considered whether or not it seems appropriate to modify the undergraduate education mission statement to be inclusive of graduate education. It was suggested that this may be outside CCGA’s purview and that the Committee may at some point consider crafting a graduate mission statement when the undergraduate statement is recast given that it’s not likely to be adopted. Chair Chehab suggested adding the phrase, “and provide opportunities for talented students to pursue graduate education” to the statement, which has emerged from discussions of the Gould Commission. One member suggested that CCGA could focus its comments on what constitutes a “world-class research and public” university in the first line of the mission statement. Others commented on the statement’s vague and peculiar language and omission of goals and timelines. It was suggested that CCGA consider what would be helpful for the Commission to have as a guidepost for graduate education, e.g., indicators of quality for graduate. Chair Chehab proposed that we consider what messages we wish to convey independent of the proposed statement.

ACTION: Members declined to modify the proposed undergraduate mission statement and instead elected to transmit 1) CCGA’s comments that a strong and vigorous graduate program is central to providing undergraduates with opportunities to engage in creative activities in the arts and sciences; and 2) the question of what is gained by the creation of a new Undergraduate mission statement, rather than just referencing the existing University’s mission statement. Chair Chehab will forward CCGA’s position to Professor Keith Williams.

VI. Possible Discontinuance of the Geography Graduate Group at UC Davis – Chair Chehab and Prof. Rachael Goodhue (UCD)

ISSUE: The Davis Graduate Council has notified CCGA of the future possible discontinuance of the Geography Graduate Group. At this time, the Graduate Council is not formally requesting CCGA’s approval of this discontinuance, but seeking its advice since this is a contested action between the UCD Graduate Council and the Geography Graduate Group.

VI. Possible Discontinuance of the Geography Graduate Group at UC Davis – Chair Chehab and Prof. Rachael Goodhue (UCD)
(cont.)

DISCUSSION: Prof. Goodhue provided background on the item as well as potential issues on which CCGA may wish to comment. Several members noted that the need for a parallel CCGA review process and outside reviewers was neither relevant nor required in this instance. Members suggested that the campus stipulate a concrete deadline for the Graduate Group to deliver the materials and checklist required by the Graduate Council and the importance of keeping the lead Dean involved in the process.

ACTION: No action was taken at this time.

VII. Reconsideration of Proposed Bioinformatics Name Change at UC Santa Cruz – Chair Chehab

BACKGROUND: CCGA considered last academic year a proposal from UCSC for a name change of its M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs from Bioinformatics to Bioinformatics and Biomolecular Engineering. The change also included a request that students be allowed to have degree titles of either “Bioinformatics and Biomolecular Engineering” or “Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics” depending on their area of concentration in the Program.

CCGA deliberated whether or not the name change request constituted two new programs or two-related yet distinct degrees/ tracks/specializations within the existing program. Members determined that the new program structure as proposed represented two separate programs and thereby would necessitate formal local Graduate Council and CCGA reviews. The issues were whether the Bioinformatics program was being split into two different programs or being reconfigured into the same Program with a new area of concentration.

CCGA ultimately agreed to recommend the following options for the campus to consider:

- 1) Approve the name change to “Biomolecular Engineering” with an emphasis in Bioinformatics. This option would constitute a “simple” name change.
- 2) The option of having two degree titles “Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics” and “Bioinformatics and Biomolecular Engineering” are consistent with two separate programs and would therefore entail divisional Graduate Council and CCGA reviews in accordance with local campus and Systemwide procedures.

ISSUE: UCSC has since identified pedagogic and practical problems with CCGA’s recommended name changes and appealed to CCGA in hope of coming up with a mutually agreeable solution.

DISCUSSION: Chair Chehab noted the overwhelming support of UCSC faculty to the name change and retraced CCGA’s review of this item and dialogue with the campus. Chair Chehab described the chief concerns of the previous CCGA and framed the issues at hand from a systemwide perspective: 1) whether or not this is one program diverging into two programs; and 2) whether or not CCGA, in approving the name change, wants to create a precedent for other UC programs with two fields in their graduate program name to seek approval of a similar permutation. Prof. Carter (Santa Cruz) provided additional background on the campus’s review of the proposal and spoke to its merits. One member suggested that CCGA could defer to the campus in this case, and reiterate that CCGA would continue to evaluate proposals on a case-by-case basis and from this point onward establish a minimum threshold or criteria in

VII. Reconsideration of Proposed Bioinformatics Name Change at UC Santa Cruz – Chair Chehab
(cont.)

defining a new program. Members agreed that conferring two degrees based on a permutation of a graduate program name is not a good idea and expressed that graduate programs on their campuses with two fields in their name choose which field is first in their name. Chair Chehab expressed that CCGA should not second guess the support of the UCSC faculty and proposed that CCGA adopt the name change to “Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics” and not its permutation.

ACTION: The Committee voted (10-0-1) to approve the program name change from “Bioinformatics” to “Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics” only, but not its permutation, thus allowing the program to confer a single degree title in “Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics”.

VIII. Update on the Graduate Student Health Insurance Work Group – Dean Jeff Gibeling (UC Davis)

ISSUE: Dean Jeff Gibeling, Co-chair of the GSHIP Workgroup, asked CCGA to consider a proposal that would result in significant changes to graduate student health insurance plans with the aims of enhancing benefits (including affordable dependent care coverage) and stabilize costs. He will also brief the Committee on a proposal to make GSHIP a mandatory non-academic requirement which would enable UC to pursue changes that are advantageous to students and faculty (especially those whose fees are covered through research grants).

DISCUSSION: Dean Gibeling provided members with an overview of the work of the Workgroup and various options currently under consideration. He also discussed details associated with a proposal to make GSHIP a mandatory non-academic requirement that the Regents will consider in November. CCGA members (including the graduate student representative) were supportive of the Workgroup efforts and endorsed their goals towards the consolidation of health insurance plans to graduate students.

ACTION: No action was taken at this time.

IX. Proposed Degrees and Programs for Review

A. Proposal for a graduate degree program in Architecture-Based Enterprise Systems Engineering leading to the Master of Advance Studies (M.A.S.) at UC San Diego – Chair Chehab

ACTION: Prof. Morris Maduro (UC Riverside) was assigned as the Lead Reviewer.

B. Proposal for a Ph.D. degree program in Epidemiology and Translational Science at UC San Francisco – Lead Reviewer Rachael Goodhue (UC Davis)

REPORT: Prof. Goodhue reported that she is tracking down sections missing from the proposal so that she can send the complete document to potential reviewers. She shared some of her initial impressions of the proposed program. On a related note, members discussed how CCGA ought to deal with proposals where the commitment of resources from the host-School or Program is uncertain. CCGA members preferred to focus their reviews on a proposal’s academic merits, while the Program’s proponents look for alternative sources of support such as faculty research grants.

C. Proposal for an M.S. degree program in Dental Hygiene at UC San Francisco – Lead Reviewer Steven Nelson (UCLA)

REPORT: Prof Nelson provided an overview of the program and his initial impressions of the proposal.

D. Proposal for an M.S. and Ph.D. in Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership at UC Davis – Lead Reviewer Ira Tager (UCB)

REPORT: Prof. Tager reported that he has four of five reviews in hand and discussed some reservations he had with the UC reviews. He provided an overview of the program and discussed some of his concerns and potential problem areas at this point in the review.

E. Proposal for a M.A./Ph.D. degree program in Chicana and Chicano Studies at UCLA – Lead Reviewer Jim Carmody (UCSD)

REPORT: Prof. Carmody informed the committee that he has received two of four reviews in hand and expects to have these in hand next month.

F. Proposal for a joint UC San Diego/SDSU Ph.D. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Bioengineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Structural Engineering) – Lead Reviewer Valerie Leppert (UCM)

REPORT: Prof. Leppert briefed the committee on the history and status of her review of the three JDP proposals. She summarized comments and concerns emerging from the external reviews. It was discussed whether a student pays UC or CSU fees and what was the incentive for students to apply to the JDP since the admission requirements are the same for the JDP and SDSU. . Members offered feedback on advantages for UC, such as a more diverse applicant pool. Prof. Leppert noted that it would be helpful to have an additional Bioengineering review as there are two more reviews pending. Overall, Prof. Leppert has six reviews in hand... Chair Chehab offered to follow-up with Prof. Sarah Nelson (UCSF) for a review and will work with Prof. Leppert on drafting a letter to send to all three programs for a response to the incentive question.

X. New Business

- **Draft UCEP Survey – Chair Chehab**

UCEP has requested quick feedback from CCGA on a draft survey on the Impact of the Budget Crisis on Educational Quality that it plans to send to Division Chairs, Undergraduate/Graduate Councils. Members offered the following comments:

- Include a descriptor, e.g., specify impact in dollars and percentages relative to the whole program
- Rewording: Describe the most significant impact experienced by your unit?
- Deans and Chairs would be the most appropriate audience and likely to know answers to requested information
- Add “don’t know” to 1-5 response scale

ACTION: Analyst Eric Zárate will share these comments to the UCEP staff analyst.

XI. Executive Session (members only)

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Attest: Farid Chehab, CCGA Chair
Prepared by Eric Zárate, Committee Analyst

CCGA 2009-10 Remaining Meeting Schedule:

December 1 2009 – Room 5320
January 5, 2010 – Room 5320
February 2, 2010 – Room 12322
March 2, 2010 – Room 12322
April 6, 2010 – Room 12322
May 4, 2010 – Room 12322
June 1, 2010 – Room 12322