

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

I. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of the Agenda and Approval of the Minutes of March 2016.

Action Taken: *The agenda was approved; the minutes will be sent after they have been reviewed by the Chair.*

II. Chair's Report - Chair Valerie Leppert

The University did a retrospective study over the past 10 years that shows that the ratio of academic doctoral to undergraduate student enrollment has been declining over the past few years. Conversely, there has been a two to three times increase over the past few years in the number of students enrolled in Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs). Chair Leppert raised the question of how this might impact the University's mission. She said that the Provost suggested during the March APC meeting that SSGPDPs could be a topic of discussion for next year's APC.

The search committee for the VP of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) has held its first meeting. The committee is considering candidates that are "out of the box" and that possibly do not have a traditional academic background. Members reacted strongly to this possibility, and asked that Chair Leppert communicate their concerns to the search committee. She agreed to do so.

III. CoGD Update – Vice Chair Kwai Ng

There were no updates from CoGD.

IV. UC Mexus Draft Report - Chair Valerie Leppert

CCGA was asked to look at the draft review report to determine if any information should be amended or added. Members agreed that the report was very clear and direct about both strengths and weaknesses of the program, and agreed with concerns contained within it about the lack of diversity in financial sources for the program and the relatively low level of competitiveness for its grant programs. Members also discussed concerns that the program did not propose many innovations for its renewal, especially in light of current efforts from other border universities to establish their own binational centers. Due to these concerns, members found it difficult to support expanded UCOP funding for UC Mexus, particularly in light of the demands on centralized funding in the current fiscal environment. Members also wondered 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, beyond UC Mexus' grant awardees. The committee also discussed the need for the advisory committee and leadership to be aligned with guiding the center in responding to feedback from the current review. The Chair said she would draft a committee response based on the discussion and send it out for review and approval.

V. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Pamela Jennings, Graduate Studies Director

Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Analyst Chris Procello noted that the Provost's Office will be giving closer scrutiny to SSGPDP budgets and advised members that campuses should endeavor to ensure that the proposal budgets are strong and well-documented before they are submitted.

Director Pamela Jennings informed the committee that Graduate Research Advocacy Day had taken place in March. Students from all ten campuses went to Sacramento to talk with legislators about the importance of graduate research and its contribution to California's economy. The students were joined by President Napolitano in advocating for graduate research and public higher education. The third-annual Grad Slam will be held in April at LinkedIn in San Francisco. This is a great opportunity for UC to showcase its students and research, and the University is fortunate to have found such a prestigious and helpful partner in LinkedIn. The event is easily accessible via BART and staff are anticipating a strong turn-out. As was the case last year, President Napolitano will be serving as emcee.

VI. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Dan Hare, Academic Council Chair

Jim Chalfant, Academic Council Vice Chair

Academic Council Chair Hare remarked that the retirement options were approved as presented to the Regents in mid-March; the Senate considers this an important victory. The Intolerance Statement was approved after an amendment, and was likewise adopted. The President thanked the Senate for securing a better retirement option and for its amended language for the Intolerance Statement.

The Transfer Pathway work is completed. Twenty-one pathways have been approved and are now online. The University is considering an optional process for some smaller majors to adopt pathways that exist – particularly in the life sciences. Some economics and physics programs also might be able to work in a similar way. This process would give them visibility that they might not otherwise have. The Senate will soon start reviewing the CLEP exam to determine to what extent it can they be used for credit or if it is too insubstantial.

The state audit of UC is out, and the hearing on it was held this morning. Chair Hare said that Nathan Brostrom and Steve Handel did a good job defending the University, and that UC has a written response that has also gone out. It is not clear what the reaction to the audit will be, but it did not cast UC in a good light. Analyst Fredye Harms sent a link to members so that they could stream the recording of the hearings. It is uncertain if the audit will lead to a resurrection of the issue of UC's autonomy; however issues of non-resident enrollment will continue to be heavily debated.

The report of the Joint Committee on Faculty Discipline was delivered on time. Most action is taken at the Title IX Office; very little makes it to P&T for a hearing. The main finding was that there are no significant gaps in the current policies, just a lack of knowledge about them and how they should be implemented.

VII. New Proposals for Assignment

- A. Proposal to establish a new Masters of Finance program on the Irvine campus [SSGPDP]

Action Taken: Jan DeVries was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

- B. Proposal to establish a new program of Technology Management leading to the PhD at the Santa Barbara Campus

Action Taken: Jason Rock was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

VIII. Proposed Graduate Degrees and Programs for Review

- A. Proposal to establish a new Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems (MECPS) at UC Irvine [SSGPDP] - *Lead Reviewer Laurel Beckett (UCD)*
Reviewers are unanimous about the need for the program; however some think that the timeline is ambitious and over-demanding. The faculty are very highly qualified and encompass a substantial knowledge base. Reviewers expressed some concern about the number of faculty required and the number available, as well as the involvement of the industry personnel and one-year vs two-year scheduling. The Lead Reviewer will take the UCPB and reviewer comments back to the proposers with the hopes of having responses ready for a May vote.
- B. Proposal to establish a new Master of Science in Pharmacology at UC Irvine [SSGPDP]- *Lead Reviewer Michael Coffey (UCR)*
This proposal was not discussed due to the absence of the Lead Reviewer.
- C. Proposal for Master of Science (M.S. Plan I & II) and Ph.D. Degree (Plan B) in Interdisciplinary Energy Studies at UC Davis – *Lead Reviewer Dar Roberts (UCSB)*
Four reviews have been received, and in general they are very positive. Reviewers expressed some concerns about facilities (West Village is a non-departmental location), as well as questions as to the extent to which the program is actually interdisciplinary. The Lead Reviewer is waiting on one last review. The reviews thus far received have been sent to UCD and the proposers have responded to each of the reviewer letters. The Lead Reviewer hopes to be able to vote on the proposal at the May meeting.
- D. Proposal to establish a new Master of Computer Science at UC Irvine [SSGPDP] - *Lead Reviewer Ioanna Kakoulli (UCLA)*
This proposal was not discussed due to the absence of the Lead Reviewer.
- E. Proposal to establish a new Ph.D. and M.A. (in lieu or en route) in Economics within the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at UC Merced – *Lead Reviewer Jan DeVries (UCB)*
This proposal was not discussed as the campus has not yet responded to the initial review of the program.
- F. Proposal to establish a new Master of Science Degree in Environmental Policy and Management at UC Davis – *Lead Reviewer Michael Dawson (UCM)*
The Lead Reviewer expressed concern that Davis was not responding positively to comments from one reviewer. That particular review was more negative than some of the others and questioned the advisability of a one-year masters program. A version of this proposal was originally submitted in 2008; the proposers received critical feedback at that time, including concerns that were raised about a one-year masters program, and pulled the proposal from the table then. The current round of reviews is essentially the same as those for the 2008 proposal: it probably should be a two-year program. In response, the proposers have submitted a new proposal to make it a six-semester program; committee members felt it should be reformulated along a longer time structure. The Lead Reviewer will draft a letter to this effect and will circulate it for input before sending it to Davis.
- G. Proposal to establish a new MS and PhD in Computational Media at UC Santa Cruz – *Lead Reviewer Kwai Ng (UCSD)*
The Lead Reviewer explained that the proposers hope to train individuals who have some

computational skill in new media and bring in interdisciplinary approaches. More will be discussed at the May meeting.

- H. Proposal to establish a new MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering at UC Merced – *Lead Reviewer Susan Charles (UCI)*
Two reviews have been received, and three more are expected shortly, making for a total of five. The reviews that have been received will be forwarded to Merced.
- I. Proposal to establish a new 4+1 BA/MA degree in Asian American Studies at UC Irvine – *Lead Reviewer Donald Smith*
There was no update at this time.

IX. Transfers, Consolidations, Disestablishments, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal to Discontinue the Joint PhD in Near Eastern Religions at UC Berkeley
This is a joint program with the Graduate Theological Union; however there does not seem to be any reference to a discussion with GTU at the institutional level about the discontinuation. Chair Leppert will write the Berkeley campus requesting additional information as to the extent of consultation with GTU in the discontinuation process. GTU's website lists the program as under review and not accepting students, but makes no reference to the discontinuation that seems to have taken place 3 years ago.

X. Proposals Continued from 2014-15

- A. Proposal to establish a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Health Sciences at UC Davis – *Lead Reviewer David Salmon*
There was no official update at this time. It was noted that given the length of time since reviewer comments were originally transmitted to the proposers (May, 2015), and the substantial revision that is likely needed in response to them, that they should consult with the UC Davis Graduate Council on their revised proposal before it is sent to CCGA.

XI. Discussion of CCGA Proposal Review Process

The committee discussed a number key questions related to SSGPDPs at length: Are they intended as a way to generate financial support for traditional programs? (Per the Provost, they are not). Do they impact traditional programs? How much money are they actually making - are the revenues optimistically stated and the costs underestimated? Should CCGA be reviewing for engagement of ladder rank faculty in those programs? SSGPDPs are supposed to meet the same standards of traditional programs, but many of them are strictly online – can those be commensurate with traditional doctoral programs? Should programs be evaluated without regard for their funding method? After considerable discussion, members decided to form a sub-committee to explore these questions. The sub-committee will be headed by Chair Leppert and will include Vice Chair Ng, Dar Roberts (UCSB), Susan Charles (UCI), Chris Procello (UCOP), and CCGA analyst Fredye Harms. The sub-committee will meet once via telephone before the May meeting and will report back to the committee at that time.

XII. Discussion of Issues at the Divisional Graduate Councils and New Business

- A. Update on the Tri-Campus Classics Program
The deans of graduate studies are communicating to ensure that each campus is living up to its commitments to the program; Susan Charles will update the committee in writing by May.
- B. [SR 735](#) Graduate Academic Certificates
This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

C. Questions from UCB and UCR Divisions

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

The meeting adjourned 4:05pm.

Minutes prepared by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst

Attest: Valerie Leppert, Committee Chair