GRADUATE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
February 8, 2018
10:00 – 12:00 PM
Gallagher Hall’s Executive Board Room 3102


I. Announcements

a. Graduate Council Chair (Baumgarth)

The request for an online MBA program has been submitted, the proposal will be forwarded to the Educational Policy Committee for review of the degree requirements, and to the Bylaws Committee for review of the bylaws. The GC Ad Hoc Committee will work to develop policies for online graduate programs, this will run parallel with the review of the MBA proposal.

The GC Ad Hoc Committee met this week. One of the issues that was brought up during the discussion was the fact that the ICMS system does not have specific fields to include the details or requirements for online courses. The system will need to be updated to incorporate this information, in the meantime, a short term solution is needed for reviewing online courses.

Town hall meetings were held to receive feedback on the campus-wide strategic planning efforts. Attendance from the faculty was extremely low. Faculty are highly encouraged to take the time to participate by providing comments on the strategic planning website “to boldly go” (https://leadership.ucdavis.edu/strategic-plan) and provide their feedback.

During the Program Review Exit meetings, a potential faculty code of conduct violation was noted by the review team. The Office of Graduate Studies recommended reaching out to JP Delplanque to obtain more information on whether the program has reported this issue to OGS and to determine how to move forward.

b. Vice Provost and Dean Graduate Studies (Mohapatra)

There Electrical and Computer Engineering Program and the School of nursing are also considering submitting proposals for online graduate programs.

Graduate Group Chairs have requested to meet with the Chancellor to discuss the challenges and concerns they face with their Graduate Groups. The Dean of Graduate Studies will propose to the Graduate Group Chairs that he and the Provost meet with them instead.

c. Graduate Studies Associate Deans (Waterhouse & Delplanque)

There will be a few policy revisions that will be sent to Graduate Council for review within the next week. Chair nominations are now being submitted for appointments. Met with the chairs
last week and there were concerns raised regarding the Open Access Policy. In particular from
the Humanities department. Chairs were particularly interested in knowing whether this is
going to apply to all previously existing theses and dissertations or just new ones.

There was a questions from a graduate program coordinator, regarding changing the
permission levels to the online progress report, to allow for interim reports to move forward
without the signature of the academic advisor and the major professor. The old form asked the
question “when do you expect to finish?” and the new form does not have the option for this.
Further discussion is required to look at the policy to allow this and whether it’s possible to
program this into the system. Andy Waterhouse will get in touch with the program coordinator
to gather more information on this request and will report back to Graduate Council.

Faculty in general have expressed interest in online graduate programs.

d. CCGA – Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (Hsu)
   UC is putting together a campaign to update the Regents on graduate students and data on
placement after graduation. There will be a presentation in March at the Regents meeting
regarding the importance of graduate education. Prasant Mohapatra will ask for feedback from
GC on this presentation.

Discussion regarding review of Self Supporting Degree Programs (SSDP) continues. CCGA
will be requesting information regarding the review process for SSDP programs for each UC
campus.

CCGA continues discussion of online graduate programs. There are currently no policies for
online graduate programs from UCOP. One issue CCGA is considering are the potential
conflicts of interest when there is an outside vendor involved.

e. GSA – Graduate Student Association (Taggueg)
   Currently beginning the bargaining process on the TA contract, the first meeting is scheduled
for February 28th. GSA will also have a separate Assembly meeting to disseminate
the information that comes from the bargaining meeting.

   The Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Student Symposium (IGPS) coordinator
search failed, the application process will reopen to try and fill this position. In addition,
nominations for next year’s Council will be opening soon.

f. PSA – Postdoctoral Scholars Association (Abdelfattah) – not in attendance.

g. GSADC – Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean and Chancellor (Hope) – not in attendance.

II. Consent Calendar 10:20 am
   a. Meeting Summary from January 26, 2018
   b. DE in Organism-Environment Interaction GC Transmittal Letter
Motion to approve: unanimously approved.

III. New Business

a. Educational Policy Committee (Cappa)
   i. Request for Consultation Regarding SR A546(A)
      10:25 am
      The Educational Policy Committee was asked to provide guidance on Regulation A546 on Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory Grading. Under the current policy students can incur an Academic Probation indicator for multiple reasons that do not actually reflect an academic problem, and that can be longstanding with no way to resolve them. EPC determined that the request from the registrar to allow for students to take a course on a S/U basis, even when the student would not be eligible was reasonable.

      A frequent reason for triggering academic probation that a student cannot resolve appears to occur when they accumulate more than 8 units of an unsatisfactory grade in 299 units. EPC recommends revising language in the above policy that would exclude 299 units from the 8 unit rule and would count them separately. Unsatisfactory progress would only be accumulating if unsatisfactory progress is logged for consecutive quarters and no longer considered once one quarter of satisfactory progress is reported.

      Council members were not certain how a consecutive term would be interpreted in the policy. In addition, there was lengthy discussion as to whether separating the 299 courses from other courses would be a good idea, and whether changing the policy was necessary.

      An alternative was proposed in which students who are showing good progress after a period of unsatisfactory 299 units could petition for reinstatement of “good standing”. Such petition would have to be supported by their Major Professor and Graduate Advisor.

      It was recommended that EPC continue discussion and bring this issue back to GC at a later date.

b. Program Review Committee (Zieve)
   i. DE Graduate Student Questionnaire
      10:45 am
      Council members made recommendations for the following questions:

      Question #5 – If this questions is in reference to demographics, it might be worth considering changing the options to a scale (maybe 0-10) and clearly defining what is meant by diversity. Changing the term “diversity” to “inclusion” was also suggested.
Question #6 – It is recommended to change the wording to “intellectual foundation” as opposed to “discipline”.

Question #7 – It was recommended to add a comments field and change the question to the following: “How would you rate the availability of the courses in your designated emphasis?”

Question #19 – It was recommended to include more guidance on this question. Mention strength weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement.

ii. DE Faculty Questionnaire

Council members made recommendations for the following questions:

Question #3 – It was recommended that active involvement include engagement in communication with the program, including reading and responding to emails related to the DE.

Question #15 – It was recommended to consider rewording the question.

Action Item: Rena Zieve to update surveys as suggested by GC. Will be placed in the agenda for brief discussion at the next GC meeting.

c. Bylaws Committee (Burman)

i. French & Italian Bylaws

- Header should include French and Italian.
- Section B last sentence should read: “a vote is conducted”
- Section D take out quotation marks on “anticipated contributions” end sentence at “in section B above.”

Motion to approve: unanimously approved with changes to be incorporated.

d. RFC Final Report Joint Task Force Research Units (Baumgarth)

No further comments were provided on the whiteboard or at the meeting. The response to the RFC was not further amended.

Motion to approve: unanimously approved.