

**GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2012-2013**

TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

During the academic year 2012-2013, the Graduate and Research Council (GRC) met 17 times in person and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UCM Senate Bylaw II.IV.3.B. The issues that GRC considered and acted on this year are described as follows:

Administrative Structure

- The Graduate and Research Council operated with three standing subcommittees that met via email throughout the year:
 - Awards Subcommittee reviewed guidelines, applications and provided recommendations on awardees to the Graduate Division and DivCo.
 - Membership: Chair Ruth Mostern (SSHA), Roummel Marcia (SNS), and Valerie Leppert (SOE)
 - CRF Subcommittee reviewed all graduate course request forms and provided a recommendation to the council as a whole.
 - Membership: Chair Erin Johnson (SNS), Stefano Carpin (SOE), and David Noelle (SSHA)
 - Policy Subcommittee provided the initial review and recommendations on all graduate policies and systemwide policies.
 - Memberships: Chair Sayantani Ghosh (SNS) and Jason Hein (SNS)
- In addition, ad-hoc subcommittees were formed for the Senate Research Awards and Office of Research Tier Rankings.
- GRC expanded the meeting material distribution list to include Graduate Program Chairs, School Graduate Program Coordinators, and the Coordinator of Institutional Assessment in order to provide an opportunity for feedback.

Annual Review of Policies and Procedures

- GRC sent the call for the annual review of graduate group policies and procedures, instituted last year, in order to ensure continuing compliance with campus and system wide policies. GRC noted to Graduate Groups that particular attention would be paid to the following points:
 - Graduate Group Policies and Procedures in regard to transfer of credit should adhere to the requirements in the Graduate Advisor's Handbook (GAH). Noting that PhD students may not transfer credit taken towards a graduate degree at another institution but may petition for a waiver of coursework based on that work, using the process outlined in the GAH.
 - Possible outcomes of critical exams include pass, fail and partial pass

CCGA Proposals

- **GRC Lead Reviewers and Process**

Given the complexity of the UCM CCGA proposal review process, GRC defined the steps and developed a timeline for review so that programs had a chance of CCGA review this Academic Year. GRC identified the following members as the GRC lead reviewers:

- Political Science: Valerie Leppert (SOE)
- Interdisciplinary Humanities: Stefano Carpin (SOE)
- Applied Mathematics: Jason Hein (SNS)

- **Internal Reviewers and Process**

Chair Leppert developed a timeline, process and pre-review rubric for CCGA Proposals which formed the UC Merced Internal Reviewers Packet. In order to streamline the review process a letter was drafted for all UCM Internal Reviewers that provided detailed instructions for review of CCGA Proposals.

- **Reviewed CCGA Proposals**

- **Applied Mathematics CCGA Proposal:** Applied Mathematics submitted their CCGA proposal to GRC on 12/1. GRC completed their preliminary review on 1/25. In accordance with UC Merced Policy, CAPRA and the Acting Dean of the Graduate Division were asked to review and provide feedback. GRC also extended the review to consultation with CRE, UGC, and ALO Martin. In general, reviews were positive, but concerns were voiced around the compliance of academic requirements with UC Merced and University of California policies and the assessment plan. GRC requested a teaching rotation for undergraduate and graduate courses, further details explaining the rationale for the two Masters plans proposed, and a simplified program assessment plan. A revised proposal was submitted on 2/15 and forwarded to the three non-GRC UCM Internal Reviewers identified. On March 14, comments from the UCM Internal Reviewers were received. GRC reviewed the UCM Internal Reviewer comments and requested additional revisions that addressed the synergy of the proposed program with other programs on April 4. At its meeting of April 30, 2013, GRC unanimously approved the revised Graduate Group proposal submitted by the Applied Mathematics faculty at UC Merced. The final Applied Mathematics CCGA Proposal was transmitted by the Chancellor to the CCGA and UCOP on May 15 for review.
- **Interdisciplinary Humanities CCGA Proposal:** Interdisciplinary Humanities resubmitted their CCGA proposal to GRC on 11/3. CAPRA, Graduate Dean Kello, CRE, UGC, ALO Martin, and the EVC were asked to opine. Before final approval, GRC also conducted a comprehensive review of the revised proposal to verify that reviewer recommendations resulting from review of the initial proposal had been adequately addressed. GRC determined that all recommendations had been

adequately addressed and no further revisions would be required on 1/30. On February 28, Chancellor Leland transmitted the final Interdisciplinary Humanities CCGA Proposal to CCGA and UCOP for review.

- **Political Science CCGA Proposal:** Political Science submitted their CCGA proposal to GRC on 10/20. CAPRA, Graduate Dean Kello, CRE, UGC, ALO Martin, and the EVC were asked to opine. In general, reviews were positive, but concerns were voiced around the adequacy of resources, compliance of academic requirements with UC Merced and University of California policies, and the assessment plan. GRC discussed the results of the pre-review and agreed that further revisions were needed before soliciting outside reviews. The revised proposal was further reviewed by two non-GRC UCM Reviewers that were asked to provide feedback based on a review rubric. The UCM Reviewers raised minor points that the Political Science faculty were asked to address before submission of the proposal for administrative review, resulting in some minor revisions. At its meeting of January 29, 2013, GRC unanimously approved the revised Graduate Group proposal submitted by the Political Science faculty at UC Merced.

Committee for the Review of PLO Reports

- ALO Martin asked GRC for feedback on what type supportive feedback can be provided to graduate programs regarding their program assessment practices as reported in PLO Reports. While reviewing the template and rubric, the committee recommended implementing a sampling process for the review of PLO reports in which 1-2 PLOs are reviewed every year by graduate groups in an effort to reduce workload associated with the process. The committee also felt that the review of PLO reports points to the overall need for the campus to prevent duplicating work for faculty and staff when creating new requirements, and instead integrate PLO assessment to the extent possible into the seven-year academic program review.

CRU, MRU, and ORU Budget Proposal Tier Rankings

- Chancellor Leland and Vice Chancellor of Research Traina asked GRC to review the five budget proposals submitted through the Office of Research for a Centralized Research Unit, two Organized Research Units, a Multi-campus Research Unit, and a Research Institute. Chair Leppert recused herself from the discussion and ranking due to her position as Director of the IMF, with Vice-Chair Mostern presiding instead. Members were asked to rank the proposals into 3 tiers with 1 being the highest priority for the campus, and provide a short justification for their rankings. The committee discussed the individual member rankings and as a result of the discussion the finalized rankings are presented below.
 - Tier 1: Imaging and Microscopy Facility (IMF)
 - Tier 2: ReCCess , SNRI, HSRI
 - Tier 3: Advanced Solar Technologies Institute (UC Solar)

Faculty Research Grants

- Provost/EVC Peterson and Budget Director Jefferds have confirmed that 130K is available for faculty grants this year. GRC discussed a timeline for review of faculty research grant applications. GRC set the submission deadline to April 30, 2013 to allow the award subcommittee two weeks for review, and notification of award recipients by May 14, 2013. Members agreed to assign two reviewers to each proposal with one reviewer from the same school to provide a better level of expertise. Each reviewer was asked to provide a rating on a scale of 1-5 for merit and need. The ratings were tallied, averaged and ranked. A total of 35 proposals were received totaling \$217,651.93 in funding requests. GRC discussed proposal rankings and options for funding proposals. Members chose to fund all proposals ranked 3.75 and above.

Graduate Course Request

- **Approved CRFs**
GRC reviewed and approved 52 courses.
- **CRF Policy and Form**
The course request policy was reviewed and revised by the GRC Chair, Analyst, Registrar and ALO. GRC had no objections to the proposed changes.
- **Graduate Online CRF System**
The approval of graduate courses is a significant workload of the GRC Analyst as all graduate courses are approved by an email-based system. Chair Leppert worked with Graduate Dean Kello, UGC Chair and SOE Assistant Dean German Gavilan to begin the discussion of creating an online-system for approval of CRFs. GRC requested and received a proposal and cost estimate from SOE Assistant Dean German Gavilan. It was agreed that the graduate CRF approval system would be integrated with the Undergraduate Management System so a unified UGC/GRC CRF Workflow was created. Dean Kello spoke with Provost/EVC Peterson about the CRF on-line system and funding was made available.
- **Reoccurring Submission Deadline Calendar**
On August 22, GRC voted to adopt a reoccurring CRF and CCGA submission deadline calendar. GRC officially communicated this to graduate groups on August 23.

Graduate Group Websites

- In preparing for review of the Social and Cognitive Sciences emphasis under the IIGP program, and for submission of Political Science's CCGA proposal, GRC found a potential issue with SCS websites being in compliance with CCGA and WASC requirements. GRC discussed this issue at its October 9th meeting, and requested that ALO Martin screen the content of SCS websites. Because university website content is under the authority of the administration, GRC requested that Graduate Division determine and correct problems with compliance for all graduate studies websites. GRC

recommended that the Graduate Division work with the Office of Communications and the School Deans, to identify and implement mechanisms for addressing these immediate concerns, and for supporting the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of graduate group websites.

Graduate Program Review

- Program Review Policy and Procedures

GRC made several edits to the Program Review Policy and Procedures to: allow flexibility for the review of tracks within a graduate emphasis area, clarify the role of GRC, and align for consistency with UGC Program Review Policy and experiences of the Undergraduate Program Review Committees. GRC was then asked the Senate Chair to make additional revisions to allow the establishment of a joint Undergraduate-Graduate Program Review Committee.

- Revised Graduate Program Review Cycle

Chemistry and Chemical Biology was approved as a stand-alone graduate program by CCGA. GRC revised the Graduate Program Review Cycle to reflect the program's new review cycle.

- Social and Cognitive Sciences Program Review

Until mid-AY2012-2013, there were five different graduate group "tracks" under the Social and Cognitive Sciences (SCS) emphasis under the IIGP umbrella: Public Health, Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, and Sociology. SCS Graduate Group Chair Trounstine requested a deferral from review in AY2011-2012. GRC reviewed the request and responded that the program would undergo an abbreviated Program Review in AY2012-2013. In the absence of a policy for abbreviated program reviews, GRC in AY2012-2013 discussed the form and merit for requiring SCS to undergo Program Review with such a complicated dynamic. Members suggested that SCS should be reviewed as a whole or conduct separate reviews of each field based on the year students were first admitted into the program. GRC agreed to request information prior to reviewing the SCS, asking them to identify their membership, graduate students, provide a list of their last approved bylaws and policies, elect their executive committee and graduate group chair as per their by-laws, and revise their by-laws and degree requirements so that they are consistent with senate policy and the Graduate Advisors Handbook. This process was completed towards the end of AY2012-2013, and resulted in Anthropology removing itself from the SCS Emphasis and SCS renaming itself to the Social Sciences Emphasis under the IIGP umbrella. The Political Science CCGA proposal was approved in the interim, which will leave just Economics, Public Health, and Sociology as tracks under the SS Emphasis beginning in Fall 2013, once WASC approval is obtained for the Political Science graduate degree program. Review of the SS Emphasis will take place in AY2013-2014.

Graduate Recruitment Promotion Plans

- GRC was asked to provide feedback on the Graduate Recruitment Promotion Plans and felt that the campus would benefit more from the use of marketing funds to improve the graduate application system.

Graduate Student Issues

- Members reviewed the report from GSA regarding reoccurring graduate student issues and distributed the report to School Program Coordinators and Lead Deans.

Hellman Family Faculty Fund

- The last two years the Hellman Family Faculty Fund has awarded grants that are intended to support the research activities of promising Assistant Professors in their second or third years of their pre-tenure period. GRC was given the task to advise the EVC/Provost regarding the call, recommending the amount of each award, and reviewing faculty proposals. GRC discussed the UC Merced-Hellman Foundation Agreement and the 2012 Hellman Fellowship Call. Members agreed that the Hellman Committee should not be primarily GRC representatives and the Provost's Office should be responsible for finding the membership for the committee, as per agreement between the Provost's Office and DivCo in previous years. A member also recommended that the Provost's Office develop and provide clear review guidelines to the Hellman Committee so that the review of applications is not conducted on an ad-hoc basis.

Joint Senate-Administration Library Working Group

- DivCo asked GRC to revise the draft charge for a joint Senate and Administration Library Working Group in consultation with other senate committees. GRC discussed the proposed charge and membership of the Senate-Administration Library Group. The committee sent a memo to the GRC representative of the Senate-Administration Library Working Group with a charge detailing what the committee would like the representative to accomplish. Of particular concern to GRC was the resolution of: current perceived shortfall in physical library resources, apparent lack of established process for faculty consultation on acquisition of new resources, lack of campus consultation of prioritization of use of library space, and faculty consultation with the management of research data in satisfaction of federal grant requirements.

Model for Graduate Program Funding

- **AY 2012-2013**
In September, Acting Dean Kello provided an update on the model for graduate program funding. GRC was informed that the committee would no longer be receiving \$500,000 from the "Opportunity Fund Pool" previously distributed by the EVC/Provost. Graduate Programs are to be funded by USAP money as a result of new funding streams. The AY2012-13 funding model gave Schools money for fee remission and asked Schools to decide the use of USAP funds internally. Members' raised their overarching

concerns of how staff needs, recruiting needs and NRT needs to help support graduate students would be met by the combined pots of funding available to the campus. GRC discussed the concern that Schools were not aware that funding provided by the Graduate Division included graduate student funding for the summer. Dean Kello agreed to follow-up with the confusion in the School of Engineering regarding graduate group funding provided at the beginning of the year.

- **AY 2013-2014**

Graduate Program funding policies and streams for graduate students have changed every year. Dean Kello was asked to provide an update on his efforts to stabilize funding policies and streams for graduate students. As a result, GRC sent the Graduate Student Funding Stability Memo to Dean Kello on 2/22 that asked for funding model for review. Graduate Dean Kello asked GRC to opine on the draft internal funding model for graduate student research and teaching. Graduate Dean Kello provided an overview of the funding model to the committee that proposes to preserve the intentions of the original graduate division support model with one exception: TA support and fellowship support are treated separately. GRC raised concerns regarding long term funding availability, lack of incentives for faculty to support graduate students with grants, and transparency of the funding model. The suggestion was made to use weighing factors from the National Research Council to develop quantitative measurements that have some factors by disciplines that could be helpful in establishing the graduate program funding levels. Questions were raised about the NRT models which seem to be working but are not finalized with the budget office. GRC then discussed the issues with TA assignments. The current problems include: timing issues with students funded by grants at the last minute, how the TA slots are assigned to courses, low numbers of students supported by grants, and transparency of TA assignments.

Online Graduate Application System

- Last year, the Graduate Division asked for money to improve/repair the online graduate application system in the Budget Call. The request was denied; however, the Graduate Division hired a programmer to fix the immediate problems with the in-house application system and hired temporary staff to help improve the routing of applications. The Graduate Division will evaluate how the internal system works before heading towards a market system used by other institutions. At the start of the next academic year, GRC will ask for feedback from the Graduate Groups in order to assess the in-house graduate application system. GRC will review comments and provide a formal recommendation to the Graduate Dean.

Position Description: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education

- A draft position description based on UCLA's recent search from among internal candidates was sent to search committee members on 10/29. GRC reviewed the draft position description and were concerned with the strategies for dissemination of the

position advertisement to ensure a highly qualified pool of national applicants. Chair Leppert conveyed GRC concerns to the search committee and as a result, the same search firm used for the SNS Dean and EVC searches was hired.

Requests from the Graduate Division

- First Year Fellowship

- **Guidelines:** GRC reviewed the draft 2013-2014 First Year Fellowship Guidelines and provided recommendations for revisions to the evaluation process. GRC recommended against asking graduate group chairs to write full letters of support of behalf of each fellowship candidate, for extending the deadline for graduate group nominations to avoid excluding students, and for changing the eligibility requirements for the two first year grants. The committee also requested that the Graduate Division track fellowships declinations so that fellowships can be offered to additional students. The Graduate Division requested clarification and approval on two changes to the 2013-2014 Fellowship Calls. One of the revisions made to fellowship guidelines was establishing a GPA requirement that would serve as a joint measure for review. Members were supportive of allowing more applicants by lowering the GPA requirement that would allow for exceptions to be made by each graduate program. As each graduate group puts a different weight on GPA, GRC agreed to respect each discipline and request one memo that would explain the overall graduate group ranking system used.
- **Review and Rankings:** A total of 25 applications were received for the continuing student fellowships. GRC provided the top five ranked nominees for the Miguel Velez Fellowship, Presidential Dissertation Year Fellowship, Fletcher Jones Fellowship, and Faculty Mentorship Program.

- Catalog: Graduate Studies Section

Assistant Graduate Dean Callale Concon briefed GRC on the history behind the review of the Catalog- Graduate Studies Section. Members agreed that GRC's role should only be reviewing the catalog copy for senate policy compliance and not compiling the revised graduate group sections. Moving forward, the Graduate Division will be sending the call for Catalog revisions to the graduate groups and compile them with track-changes (or equivalent) for GRC's review. GRC discussed the revision made and had no objections. The major revisions were three graduate group name changes and removal of the faculty membership. Members discussed the need for all graduate groups under the IIGP umbrella to mention that they are an emphasis and agreed to request additional revisions from the relevant graduate groups.

- Continuing Student Fellowship

- **Guidelines:** GRC was asked by the Graduate Division to provide feedback on draft 2013-2014 Continuing Student Fellowship Guidelines. The committee felt that the turnaround time for GRC and Graduate Group rankings was too short and made

revisions to the proposed timeline. GRC also suggested adding the number of fellowships that will be awarded in the calls.

- **Review and Rankings:** GRC was asked by the Graduate Division to provide a rank list of nominees for the Chancellor Graduate Fellowship and Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship. The committee sent the top six ranked applicants to the Graduate Division on 2/27. GRC was asked to provide additional rankings to the Graduate Division. The Awards subcommittee evaluated the remaining graduate group nominees and proposed a final extended ranking. GRC endorsed the subcommittee rankings on 4/30.

- **Critical Examination Outcomes**

Sister campuses do not offer the conditional pass but offer a “partial pass” outcome for examinations. On October 9, GRC was asked to address the issues concerning the overall campus policy on critical examination outcomes. GRC reviewed the subcommittee comments on the proposed language for critical examination outcomes. GRC agreed on renaming the outcomes to pass, fail, and partial pass in place of pass, fail, and retake. GRC agreed with the recommendation but had additional concerns on when a partial pass would be applicable. Members felt that a partial pass could only be applied if an examination had multiple components and each one of the components could be clearly separated, allowing for a retake of the specific failed portion.

- **Graduate Advisors Handbook**

On April 16, GRC reviewed the proposed revisions to the Graduate Advisors Handbook that addressed the issues concerning the overall campus policy on critical examination outcomes. GRC members discussed the discrepancy and other proposed revisions. GRC approved the suggested revisions and sent a formal request to the Graduate Division for revisions to the Graduate Advisors Handbook.

- **Graduate Student Services: Graduate Writing Instruction**

A graduate student writing tutor was hired by Graduate Student Services and the extent of consultation with Graduate Division and faculty is unclear. GRC agreed that tutoring for graduate students would be helpful if clear service guidelines are set between the tutor and graduate group programs. GRC recommended requiring each student who seeks the services of the tutor to sign a disclosure agreement so that the tutor is not held accountable.

- **Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award**

Graduate Division received a total of nine applications and three awards were given to Graduate Students in each of the three schools. GRC reviewed and approved the Award Subcommittee awardee recommendations.

Requests from Graduate Emphasis Areas/Groups

- **Campus Recharge Committee**
GRC discussed the problems with the lack of school and faculty representation on the previous recharge committee. Members were concerned with a requirement currently under discussion to require faculty approval of all instrumentation use. In the past, the recharge committee has been focused on non-research facilities and VCR Traina is proposing a new composition for a joint Senate-Administration subcommittee. Members discussed the VCR memo to Senate Chair (3/13) and supported the formation of the committee.

- **Expenditure Reports for Previous GRC Allocations**
GRC previously collected expenditure reports on GRC funds distributed to graduate groups, to consider in allocating new funding. The committee discussed the benefits of continuing to collect expenditure reports even if no funding would be allocated directly by committee. GRC agreed to not continue collecting expenditure reports.

- **Joint Senate Administration Advisory Committee on Research Safety**
Provost/EVC Peterson delegated the authority to Vice Chancellor of Research Traina to create a Joint Senate Administration Advisory Committee on Research Safety. GRC reviewed the proposed charge and had recommendations on the committee composition. Members suggested that the committee membership should include: laboratory staff, an Assistant Dean and a member from the Senate Committee on Research.

- **Laboratory Safety Management and UCLA Settlement**
Chair Leppert received a request from faculty for GRC to become involved in the new policies that will be implemented for safety management as a result of the UCLA settlement. Members agreed that GRC should be involved in the discussion and would benefit from a discussion with the new EHS Director Ott. GRC invited EHS Director Ott to discuss faculty consultation in research laboratory safety management and how the UCLA Lab Safety Settlement requirements would be met. Members agreed to send a formal request to Vice Chancellor of Research Traina to establish a joint working group for lab safety policy at UC Merced.

- **MEAM Name Change Proposal**
GRC unanimously approved a proposed name change to the Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics (MEAM) Graduate Group Emphasis under the IIGP to that of Mechanical Engineering (ME) Graduate Group Emphasis under the IIGP. The name change was due to the group wishing to remove the redundancy in the old name, and did not result in any changes in faculty or student membership, by-laws, or policies & procedures.

- **PHYS-CHEM Name Change Proposal**

The IGP Physics and Chemistry Graduate Group Emphasis submitted a proposal to change the group name to IGP Physics Graduate Group Emphasis. This is a result of Chemistry and Chemical Biology (CCB) becoming an approved stand-alone graduate program and the name no longer reflecting the current membership of the graduate group. GRC reviewed the memo from the Physics Graduate Group Chair regarding the request and had no objections to the name change. GRC agreed to request an updated copy of their Bylaws, faculty membership, updated graduate student list, and their revised Policies and Procedures.

- **Physics Revised Bylaws**

GRC approved the name change of Physics with the provision that their Bylaws and Policies & Procedures would be reviewed before the end of the academic year. GRC briefly discussed the concern raised by CRE regarding the removal of a faculty member from the graduate group. Members had no additional concerns and agreed to request the revised Policies and Procedures from Physics.

- **Political Science CRFs**

Social and Cognitive Science (SCS) Graduate Group submitted CRFs indicating that approval was by vote of the Political Science faculty, which is not recognized in GRC's most recent copy of SCS group by-laws as having authority over the SCS curriculum. GRC requested a submission of a memo from the SCS Chair to GRC, indicating the CRFs have been approved by vote of the Social and Cognitive Sciences faculty, or the SCS EPC or EC in order to move forward with final approval.

- **Re-allocation of Funds Request**

In spring 2012, GRC allocated Research/Travel and Shared Equipment Awards to Faculty. A faculty member has submitted a request to GRC for re-allocation of funds within the 2012 Award. Members had no objections to grant the request for re-allocation of funds.

- **Review of Graduate Group Policies and Procedures**

GRC sent out the call for Graduate Group Policies and Procedures to ensure that changes in policies are consistent with systemwide and campus policies.

- **Revised Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) Policies and Bylaws**

EECS submitted two versions of their revised EECS Policies and Bylaws. The first version contained some problems regarding the transfer of credit policy for PhD students as the Graduate Advisors Handbook only allows courses for PhD students to be waived, not transferred, from non-UC institutions. The second version approved by GRC addressed rights of affiliate faculty and waiver of coursework requirement for Ph.D. students transferring from another institution or coming in with a M.S. GRC had no objections and approved the revised EECS Policies and Procedures.

- **SCS Name Change Proposal**

At its meeting of November 20, GRC unanimously approved a proposed name change to the Social and Cognitive Sciences (SCS) Graduate Group Emphasis under the IIGP to that of Social Sciences Graduate Group Emphasis under the IIGP. This name change reflected the current membership of the Graduate Group Emphasis, as Cognitive Sciences established their own CCGA-approved graduate program.

- **Social Sciences Revised Bylaws**

As part of the information requested in advance of Program Review, GRC requested a new set of bylaws for review. The new document is expected to become binding for students enrolling in 2013-2014. GRC reviewed the suggestions received from CRE regarding the need to define the role of the faculty advisor. Members had no additional concerns and agreed to approve the revised Social Sciences Bylaws.

Request to Renew the Interim Individual Graduate Program (IIGP)

- The Graduate and Research Council (GRC) unanimously voted to renew the Interim Individual Graduate Program (IIGP). The IIGP was put in place to incubate disciplinary and interdisciplinary graduate programs at UC Merced. Given the support that the IIGP has provided in successfully growing the graduate programs at UC Merced, GRC requested an extension of the IIGP for AY 2013-2014 to CCGA that was granted on 6/5.

Review Requests from DivCo

- **Academic Honesty Task Force**

Last year, DivCo charged a task force with revisions to the academic honesty policy this year. A GRC representative was requested and GRC send a request to all Graduate Groups for a volunteer. Professor Evan Heit volunteered and GRC forwarded the official appointment recommendation to CoC.

- **Draft 2013 WASC Accreditation Handbook**

The Policy Subcommittee reviewed the draft 2013 WASC Accreditation Handbook and the concern was raised regarding the approach that WASC has taken with graduate education. GRC reviewed the subcommittee comments and forwarded final comments to DivCo regarding the meaning, quality, and integrity of the doctorate degree. Members recommended that doctoral degrees should be defined instead by two simple standards that form the real basis by which students preparing to graduate with a PhD are judged – originality of work presented in fulfillment of degree requirements, and demonstration that the student has attained peer status with other PhDs in the field who have graduated from peer institutions. GRC noted that while the effort to change and streamline the development and maintenance of ‘assessment infrastructure’ is notable and in the right direction, in general, the level of bureaucratic book-keeping proposed in the 2013 WASC Handbook may not necessarily be helpful and may shift needed resources and time away from faculty.

- **Draft Long Range Enrollment Plan**
GRC was asked to review the draft 2013 Long Range Enrollment Plan (LREP) that would determine the development of graduate programs and research capabilities. GRC felt that submitting two scenarios to UCOP for consideration would be helpful as it was unclear how enrollment projections would impact future funding.

- **Draft- UC Merced Principles of Assessment**
GRC reviewed the draft principles drafted by the Campus Working Group on Assessment and while the intent of the document was understood the committee felt it would be helpful to know the context in which the principles would be used, how they would be applied, and implications of their adoption and broader dissemination, in order to better evaluate their suitability. GRC recommended (1) adding language to address the specific base on which assessment could be done using direct and indirect lines of evidence, and (2) adding a principle that addresses assessment of the evolution of individual success and creative thought as graduate students become more advanced in their education.

- **English and Spanish Undergraduate Majors**
UGC extended the consultation process and invited GRC to comment on the proposals to establish a B.A. in English and a B.A. in Spanish. Members had no comments on the proposals.

- **Establishment of a Joint Graduate-Undergraduate Program Review Committee**
Senate Chair O'Day sent a memo to UGC and GRC requesting both committees to jointly revise the current graduate and undergraduate program review policies to form an joint PRC subcommittee of both GRC and UGC, without the stipulation that PRC members also serve as members of UGC or GRC. GRC discussed the joint committee membership, policies, and responsibilities. The suggestion was made to look at the entire academic program review process with administration during the strategic planning process.

- **Graduate-level WASC Substantive Change Review & Program Assessment**
Chris Kello, Acting Dean of the Graduate Division and Laura Martin, Coordinator for Institutional Assessment asked for recommendations on how to most effectively leverage a new half-time position dedicated to supporting the development and implementation of graduate level program assessment, including related support for CCGA and WASC Substantive Change proposal development. GRC reviewed the request and agreed that some degree of coordination was needed for graduate assessment and defining the role for this position should not result in removing the burden of support for graduate program assessment, and CCGA and WASC substantive change proposals, from the assessment staff in the schools.

- **Life and Environmental Sciences Bylaw 55 Unit Proposal**
Following the establishment of four bylaw units in the School of Natural Sciences the remaining faculty submitted a proposal to establish the Life and Environmental Sciences (LES) Bylaw 55 unit. GRC discussed the potential issue that may arise since the membership of the Bylaw 55 Unit is non-continuous with the membership of the graduate and undergraduate programs associated with it. GRC submitted a memo to DivCo regarding the membership issue that would present challenges and recommended that the Bylaw 55 Unit be mindful of the needs of the graduate and undergraduate programs in future planning. GRC also noted that the LES Bylaw 55 Unit proposal points to the overall challenge of the structuring of interdisciplinary programs on campus when non-continuous with a Bylaw 55 Unit.

- **Long-Range Development Plan**
The Chancellor and Provost proposed amendments to the 2009 campus Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) for presentation to and approval by the UC Board of Regents in May. GRC had a preliminary discussion on the proposed amendments and noted that no indication was made of additional parking and the use of the public-private partnership funds to pay for parking garages which cannot be done with state funds.

- **Political Science and Sociology Bylaw 55 Unit Proposals**
In general, members had no objections to establishing the Political Science and Sociology Bylaw 55 Units. However, GRC noted that the Bylaw 55 Unit proposals point to the overall need for the campus to consider the creation of discipline-based Bylaw 55 Units, their infrastructure requirements and impact on faculty and staff workload, and how they support the interdisciplinary mission of campus.

- **Proposed 2013 Summer Session Calendar**
GRC has reviewed the proposed 2013 Summer Session Calendar. In general, members had no objections to the proposed calendar. However, GRC would like to note the overall need for the campus to consider the impact of the proposed change on graduate student support (TA funding).

- **Reorganization of Senate Committee Structure and Membership**
GRC was asked to provide feedback on the possible reorganization of the Senate standing committee structure. Members strongly agreed with the proposed GRC committee split that may streamline committee workload. A memo was sent to DivCo with feedback and a proposed division of committee duties for consideration.

- **Revised MAPP**
In response to the request by DivCo, GRC reviewed the newly revised MAPP and had no objections.

- **SACAP Charge and Composition**

GRC reviewed SACAP's charge and composition, and agrees that its present structure and charge should be reviewed and revised as necessary in order to better contextualize it within overall senate and administration assessment and program review efforts currently underway at UC Merced.

- **WASC Graduate Student Success Indicators**

GRC review the WASC draft set of templates for documenting and evaluating student success at the graduate level and forwarded its comments to DivCo. GRC has several major concerns regarding (1) the lack of adequate staff support for additional assessment needs, (2) the feasibility and benefit of aggregating the data by degree type as proposed by WASC, and (3) WASC has not provided any information on how the data would be evaluated, what type of data would be acceptable, or the implications after the data is submitted.

Senate Awards

- An ad-hoc subcommittee reviewed and selected nominees for three distinguished faculty awards:
 - Senate Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award- One nomination was received.
 - Senate Award for Distinguished Early Career Research- Six nominations were received.
 - Senate Award for Distinction in Research: two nominations were received.

Systemwide Business

- **Systemwide Items Reviewed by GRC**

- **New APM-430, Visiting Scholars:** GRC reviewed the proposed new [APM-430](#) that accommodates students and academics visiting the University of California and had no objections or additional comments.
- **Open Access Policy:** GRC reviewed the proposed [Open Access Policy](#) developed by University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). In general, the committee was supportive of the intention behind the proposed policy but believed that faculty buy-in would be difficult to achieve. GRC also felt that the proposed policy did not address the potential resource cost and staff time to implement, the impact on faculty time should be minimized, and the public access and mechanism for retrieval of deposited open-access articles must be very transparent.
- **Rebenching and Enrollment Management Principles:** GRC reviewed the [Rebenching Budget Committee Report](#) and [Enrollment Management Principles in the Context of Rebenching](#). GRC suggested getting clarity as to whether a new memorandum would be developed and how long it would last to help define when the rebenching criteria would be relevant for the campus. The committee raised

their concern of the scaling factor for funding different kinds of students as it seems to penalize campuses without a medical program and seems to go counter to the core tenant that the quality of instruction is the same across the different campuses. GRC also found that mechanism for determining how the off-the-top allocation is made is not clearly defined and can be seen as further means of favoring schools with medical and professional programs.

- **Revised APM Section 241, Faculty Administrators (Positions Less than 100%):** GRC was asked to opine on the proposed revisions to [APM Section 241](#) and declined to comment. The proposed revisions bring APM 241 into conformance with Regents Policy 2307 in its specification of how systemwide Multi-campus Research Unit (MRU) directors are chosen
 - **Revised APM Section IV, Salary Administration (APM 600 Series):** GRC was asked to opine on the proposed revisions to [APM Section IV](#) and declined to comment. The proposed revisions are updating outdated delegations of authority, technical corrections, congruent formatting with overall APM, and replaces payroll system with UC Path initiative component to build a systemwide Shared Service Center.
 - **Revisions to APM-700, Leaves of Absence/General:** GRC reviewed the proposed systemwide revisions to [APM-700](#) and had no objections to the proposed revision that address the need for a presumptive resignation policy.
 - **Systemwide EH&S Policies:** On January 24, 2013, the campus Human Resources emailed a notification of formal review of proposed systemwide EH&S Polices. No consultation was made with Senate in drafting the proposed policies: [Lab Safety Training Policy](#), [Minors in Labs Policy](#) and [Personal Protective Equipment Policy](#). Due to the short turn around request, Chair Leppert drafted memos in response to the policies proposed for committee feedback. Another memo was drafted asking for senate consultation for proposed laboratory research policies.
- **Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)**
GRC Chair Valerie Leppert reports on CCGA activities included the following:
- CCGA decision to allow program submitting a CCGA proposal to solicit two external reviews that may replace two CCGA solicited reviews.
 - Draft 2013 WASC Accreditation Handbook
 - Review of Self-Supported Graduate Program Policies
 - Issues for student tuition with Self-Supported Graduate Programs
 - Review of the Political Science CCGA Proposal
 - Review of the Interdisciplinary Humanities CCGA Proposal
 - Review of the Applied Mathematics CCGA Proposal
- **University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC)**
GRC Vice Chair Ruth Mostern reports on UCOLASC activities included the following:
- Open Access Policy
 - UC Press

- Composite Benefit Rates- UCOP has proposed changes to the benefit rates for health and retirement that will impact faculty summer salaries.

- **University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP)**

GRC Representative Michael Cleary reports on UCORP activities included the following:

- Composite Benefit Rates- UCORP discussed the Composite Benefit Rates proposed for faculty summer salaries between 12 to 34%. UCORP wants examples on how this will affect UCM grants. Different rates have been proposed for post-doctoral scholars and each campus will have to negotiate the rates for charging sabbaticals.
- Open Access Policy- UCORP remains concerned regarding the copyright issue and indirect cost on libraries resulting from having to offset any cost for subscriptions.
- Portfolio Review Group will be composed of faculty and administration, and will be responsible for reviewing multi-campus research initiatives to rank and determine the systemwide funding priorities.
- UC investment in research and how it impacts the systemwide mission in teaching and education.
- Lab Safety Management and new policies to be implemented as a result of the UCLA Settlement.

GRC also benefited from consultation and reports throughout the year from the Vice Chancellor for Research Traina and the Provost/EVC Peterson.

Respectfully submitted,

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