

**GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2009-2010**

TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

During the academic year 2009-2010, the Graduate and Research Council (GRC) met 14 times in person and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UCM Senate Bylaw II.4.C. The issues that GRC considered and acted on this year are described as follows:

ACCREDITATION (WASC)

GRC heard a presentation in January 2010 by WASC steering committee members Laura Martin and Professor Gregg Camfield on the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER) which will focus on assessment activities. Last year, GRC and UGC formulated graduate and undergraduate program review guidelines. Both sets of guidelines need to be streamlined to be flexible, sustainable, and responsive. Since the CCGA approval process for a graduate program essentially takes the place of program review, Professor Camfield agreed that GRC can include a one page statement in the EER that discusses how the CCGA approval process is serving as program review.

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION CLASSIFICATION

The Foundation classifies universities based on their educational emphases. The next classification will be based on 2013-2014 data. UCM must produce a minimum of 20 Ph.D students that year otherwise the campus will be classified as a baccalaureate institution. U.C. Merced must prioritize its resources to increase the success of the students already in the Ph.D. pool. GRC held discussions with EVC/Provost Alley and VCR Traina about the importance of graduate education through increased funding.

CENTRALIZED RESEARCH UNIT (CRU) PROPOSALS

GRC received two CRU proposals: the Center for Autonomous and Interactive Systems (CAIS) and the Spatial Analysis and Research Center (SpARC). GRC formed subcommittees for each proposal and reviewed them in conjunction with CAPRA. GRC voted to approve CAIS in May 2010 pending a revised proposal. CAIS submitted a successfully revised proposal based on GRC feedback in June 2010. In July 2010, GRC sent a memo to DivCo as notification of GRC's approval of CAIS and in the same month, DivCo notified EVC/Provost Alley who then gave his formal approval of CAIS. A vote on SpARC was tabled until fall 2010 after GRC submits a memo to SpARC with a list of requested revisions.

COURSE REQUEST FORMS (CRFs)

GRC reviewed and approved 17 courses.

GRADUATE EMPHASIS AREAS/GROUPS

- GRC revised its procedures for the approval of graduate groups and emphasis areas to include specific language about new graduate groups and new emphasis areas. The

revised policy was approved by GRC in January 2010 and submitted to the graduate group/emphasis area Chairs and Divisional Council.

- The Physics/Chemistry emphasis area submitted its revised policies and procedures to GRC in February 2010. GRC reviewed and approved the revisions in March 2010 and the Registrar, VCSA Jane Lawrence, and the Graduate Division were notified.
- Graduate Group Proposals
 - Cognitive and Information Sciences (CIS). The proposal for a Ph.D program in CIS was first submitted to GRC in September 2009. A subcommittee of GRC was formed and reviewed this proposal in conjunction with CAPRA. Several suggestions were made to the authors of the proposal and a revised proposal was submitted to GRC in January 2010. GRC voted to approve the proposal and, as dictated by the systemwide Compendium, the proposal was submitted to CCGA and Provost Pitts by the office of Chancellor Kang in March 2010.
 - Quantitative and Systems Biology (QSB). The proposal for a Ph.D program in QSB was first submitted to GRC in October 2009. A subcommittee of GRC was formed and reviewed this proposal in conjunction with CAPRA. Several suggestions were made to the authors of the proposal and a revised proposal was submitted to GRC in February 2010. GRC voted to approve the proposal and, as dictated by the systemwide Compendium, the proposal was submitted to CCGA and Provost Pitts by the office of Chancellor Kang in April 2010.
 - Psychological Sciences. The proposal for a Ph.D program in Psychological Sciences was first submitted to GRC in December 2008. A subcommittee of GRC was formed and reviewed this proposal in conjunction with CAPRA. Several suggestions were made to the authors of the proposal and a revised proposal was submitted to GRC in February 2010. GRC voted to approve the proposal and, as dictated by the systemwide Compendium, the proposal was submitted to CCGA and Provost Pitts by the office of Chancellor Kang in May 2010.
- Interim Individual Graduate Program (IIGP) Extension. CCGA agreed to renew the IIGP for U.C. Merced. GRC and VCR Traina transmitted formal extension request letters to CCGA in April 2010.

GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING/INDIRECT COST RETURN

EVC/Provost Alley committed \$500,000 to graduate student support beginning in the current recruitment year through AY 2012-2013. Allocation of the funds was at GRC's discretion. The committee allocated \$250,000 to be divided among the nine graduate groups/areas for direct graduate student support such as NRTs, fees for grant-supported students, summer fellowships, travel, and recruitment. These stipulations would be implemented for this year, to be revisited and modified next year if necessary based on results and feedback from the graduate groups. GRC requested from EVC/Provost Alley that unspent funds carry over to future fiscal years so that graduate groups can make multi-year commitments for NRT support or recruitment fellowships. For the remaining \$250,000 (less \$50,000 that GRC decided to roll over to next year) GRC created a summer fellowship for graduate students that can be used for research stipends or conference travel. Each proposal was assigned two reviewers: a lead reviewer

affiliated with the student's School but not in the same research group and a second reviewer unaffiliated with the student's School. Seventy-seven proposals were received. GRC awarded thirty-nine proposals totaling \$207,107.

MEMOS TO DIVCO

In response to DivCo requests, GRC submitted memos to DivCo on the following issues: the planning of S&E II, the potential establishment of an Associate Graduate Dean, furlough mitigation proposals/graduate education funding, a response to the Guidelines of the Assessment of Long-Term Lecturer FTE Needs, and a potential three-semester academic year calendar.

NON-RESIDENT TUITION (NRT)

GRC and VCR Traina held several discussions about NRT.

- Revisions to the Graduate Advisor's Handbook (GAH) approved by GRC
 - VCR Traina requested that the GAH be revised to state that NRT costs for graduate students with split appointments (half GSR, half TA) should be divided.
 - VCR Traina also requested a revision that if a GSR does not qualify for NRT or other fellowships, his/her faculty advisor must pay all the GSR's fees and NRT on the grant if funds are available. If the GSR receives a fellowship or NRT, the faculty member's obligation to pay the fees is waived.
 - A GRC member requested a clarification to page 26 of the GAH pertaining to GSR appointment benefits. The change now gives graduate groups/areas more discretion in handling NRTs its own way.
- NRT Allocation.
 - GRC formed an NRT subcommittee to address the issue of NRT allocation. The GRC Analyst collected data from the Graduate Division on the percentage of foreign, California, and out-of-state applicants in each of the graduate groups. The subcommittee attempted to form an NRT needs-based distribution model based on this data. U.C. Merced was given eighteen NRT slots to award this year. After much debate, GRC voted to allocate two NRT slots to each graduate group/area (World Cultures only requires one slot so GRC will decide how to allocate the extra slot at a later date). VCR Traina notified the graduate groups/areas.

ORGANIZED RESEARCH UNITS (ORU) PROPOSALS

GRC received two ORU proposals: the Merced Energy Research Institute (MERI) and the Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI). GRC formed subcommittees for each, reviewed each proposal in conjunction with CAPRA, and sent memos to both groups requesting revisions. GRC's review process will resume in fall 2010 upon receipt of the revisions.

REQUEST FROM CRE

The Committee on Rules & Elections (CRE) reviewed the Bylaws of each Academic Senate committee. CRE requested that GRC opine on the feasibility of splitting into two committees – a Graduate Council and a Research Council – similar to other UC campuses. GRC sent a memo to CRE stating that the outcomes of splitting may be beneficial, but only if more faculty were added to the committees, i.e. summing to more than the current number of faculty serving on GRC.

REQUESTS FROM GRADUATE DIVISION

- Fellowships. For each of the following fellowships, a GRC subcommittee evaluated and ranked the nominees and forwarded their rankings to the Graduate Division for award selection.
 - Eugene Cota-Robles
 - Faculty Mentor Program
 - President's Dissertation Year
 - Chancellor's Graduate Fellowships
- Awards
 - Outstanding Teaching Assistant. A GRC subcommittee evaluated and ranked the nominees and forwarded their rankings to the Graduate Division for award selection.
- Ad-hoc Task Force on Graduate Education. VCR Traina established the task force and three GRC members agreed to serve.

RESEARCH/TRAVEL/SHARED EQUIPMENT GRANTS AND FACULTY SALARY SUPPORT

- The Academic Senate received funds from EVC/Provost Alley in the amount of \$114,000 to be disbursed to the faculty for the annual GRC research/travel/shared equipment grant competition. After extensive discussions with Divisional Council and EVC/Provost Alley on a policy for faculty furlough mitigation, GRC voted to amend its annual grant competition to include non-salary support money for PIs referred to as Chancellor's Awards. EVC/Provost Alley agreed to allocate \$100,000 from a one-time Chancellor's award pool. It was agreed GRC would award the research proposals while the Chancellor and EVC/Provost Alley had jurisdiction over the Chancellor's Award component.
- GRC revised its Call for Proposals to include language about the Chancellor's Awards. The Call was distributed to the faculty with a March 1, 2010 deadline for submission. Forty-three proposals were evaluated by GRC. Each proposal was assigned two reviewers – a lead reviewer affiliated with the PI's School but not in the same research group and a second reviewer unaffiliated with the PI's School. GRC funded twenty-four proposals totaling \$114,512. The Chancellor and EVC/Provost Alley deliberated on the awarding of the Chancellor's Awards and funded twenty faculty members totaling \$100,000.

SENATE RESEARCH AWARDS

For the second time in UC Merced's Academic Senate history, Senate awards were made to faculty. GRC had jurisdiction over the following awards:

- Distinction in Research

The Senate Award for Distinction in Research (for tenured faculty) is intended to encourage and recognize individuals for research and/or other creative activities that have had a major impact on the field, either through a sustained record of contributions or through a specific, highly influential contribution.

- Distinguished Early Career Research

The Senate Award for Distinguished Early Career Research (for non-tenured faculty) is intended to encourage and recognize individuals for research and/or other creative activities

that have had a major impact on the field, either through a sustained record of contributions or through a specific, highly influential contribution.

- Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award

This Senate Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award is intended to encourage and recognize individual excellence in teaching at the graduate level and mentorship of graduate students. Both of these are important functions of faculty at a research university. GRC received no nominations for the Teaching/Mentorship award.

GRC formed a review subcommittee for the two research award categories, evaluated the nominees, and selected the recipients. The Academic Senate announced all award recipients via an email to Senate members.

SYSTEMWIDE ITEMS REVIEWED BY GRC

- Revision to the Professional Degree Policy
- Recommendations from the UC Commission on the Future/Gould Commission
- Review of the Compendium
- Differential Fees

GRC CHAIR CHRISTOPHER KELLO'S REPORTS ON CCGA ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- Budget
- Fee increases for graduate students
- Review of graduate group proposals
- IIGP extension for U.C. Merced
- UC Commission on the Future

GRC MEMBER YARROW DUNHAM'S REPORTS ON UCORP ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- Indirect cost return
- UC patent policy
- Remote/online education
- Furloughs
- Differential fees
- UC Commission on the Future
- Expanding the area (d) laboratory science admission requirement

GRC also benefited from consultation and reports throughout the year from VCR Traina and EVC/Provost Alley.

NEXT YEAR'S BUSINESS

- In summer 2010, VCR Traina will conduct an audit of TA appointments of the last two years to examine consistency in workload. Next year's GRC will review the audit data.
- At VCR Traina's request, GRC will opine on establishing a campus wide policy that addresses faculty's financial obligations to graduate students.

- GRC will draft a memo on indirect cost return in the context of ORU proposals.
- GRC will draft a memo to graduate group/area chairs to install minimum unit requirements in their Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Kello, Chair (SSHA), CCGA Representative

Dave Kelley, Vice Chair (NS)

Raymond Chiao (ENG and NS)

Yarrow Dunham (SSHA), UCORP Representative

Carolin Frank (NS)

Ignacio Lopez-Calvo (SSHA)

Matt Meyer (NS)

Michael Modest (ENG)

Shawn Newsam (ENG)

Sholeh Quinn (SSHA)

Ex-Officio

Martha Conklin, Divisional Council Chair (ENG)

Evan Heit, Divisional Council Vice Chair (SSHA)

Sam Traina, VCR/Dean of the Graduate Division (ENG)

Student Representative

Katie Harris (NS)