GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008

TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

During the academic year 2007-2008, the Graduate and Research Council (GRC) met 15 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 this year are described briefly as follows (in alphabetical order):

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY (Request from the Undergraduate Council)

A representative from the Undergraduate student government had raised several issues about the current Academic Honesty Policy. UGC reviewed the issues and sent a memo to GRC that stated its analysis and conclusions. One of the major conclusions of UGC was the need to add a new section on faculty responsibility in regards to minimizing cheating. UGC asked for GRC's concurrence in drafting this section and recommended the formation a joint committee at the beginning of the next academic year. After some discussion GRC found it redundant to add a section on "faculty responsibility" since the issue was already spelled out in section 801.00 of the policy. GRC recommended that GRC, staff representatives from the Graduate Division and the Office of Judicial Affairs be given the opportunity to comment on any revision to the policy proposed by UGC.

AWARDS

- **Policy on Award of Graduate Fellowships**

The Vice Chancellor for Research asked GRC to advise him on the distribution of unrestricted graduate fellowship funds. Three options for distribution of funds emerged from discussions within GRC. Those options were forwarded to the UCM graduate groups and emphasis areas for input. Based on input from the UCM graduate groups and emphasis areas, Chair Kelley drafted a policy on award of fellowship funds. Final draft was sent to the Dean of Graduate Studies.
GRC recommended that the distribution of restricted funds be done competitively where each graduate group may put forward their best students.

- **Award for Excellence in Graduate Interdisciplinary Study (AEGIS) Proposal**

A UCM faculty member donated his Sherman Eureka Prize as seed money for the AEGIS fellowship. He requested that the GRC consider his proposal for the AEGIS fellowship. GRC reviewed the proposal and recommended that the eligibility criteria be modified; however due to the resource implications of the proposal, GRC could not act on this item. It was forwarded to CAPRA (Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation) for action.

- **Faculty Mentor Program Award**

GRC received five nominations and selected three candidates.

▪ **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**

The graduate division asked the GRC to review applications for the Outstanding TA Award. GRC subcommittee reviewed eleven nominations. Three graduate students were awarded the TA award and recommendations to the GRC.

CLASS BLOCK SCHEDULING PROPOSAL

This proposal came from the Office of the Registrar and was discussed by GRC at its March 31 meeting. GRC requested that the proposed scheduling patterns be applicable only to courses meeting in classrooms that are scheduled by the Registrar's office and should not apply to field courses, to laboratory courses held in rooms that are not scheduled by the Registrar (e.g. in faculty research labs), or to seminar or discussion courses held in conference rooms that are controlled by the School Deans. GRC also encouraged scheduling flexibility needed for graduate education.

CORE FACILITIES

UCM Faculty requested some guidance and clarification about the process for establishing core facilities. Main issues revolved around costs of recharge, salaries and maintenance agreements. GRC was also uncertain about what types of resources and space were available to initiate the establishment of such facilities. In response to GRC's request for assistance, the Office of Research stated that it was willing to provide assistance for faculty submitting a proposal for core facilities. Examples of business plans and proposals were made available at the Office of Research. The VC for Research advised the GRC to establish an annual competition for core facilities. The call for proposals would be distributed to faculty early in the spring; GRC would rank and prioritize proposals.

At the request of GRC, the EVC/Provost attended the committee's June 16th meeting to discuss funding commitments from the administration. The EVC recommended that the committee reconsider the degree of priority for establishing core facilities.

FACULTY RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

The Academic Senate received funds in the amount of $100,000.00 to be disbursed to the faculty to support research activities and the purchase of shared equipment. Proposers were advised by the GRC that large requests would be evaluated on a more competitive basis and very strong arguments would have to be made for those large requests. A call for proposals was approved by the GRC in January 2008 and distributed to faculty with a March 1, 2008 deadline for submission. Twenty-four proposals (totaling $135,151.19) were evaluated by GRC. Each proposal was assigned two reviewers (lead, affiliated to the School that is proposing, and a secondary reviewer, not affiliated with the School). GRC members associated with a proposal did not participate.

Following discussion, and based on the presentation of each proposal, GRC reached consensus and funded 23 proposals totaling $99,956.00.

FELLOWSHIPS

▪ **Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship**

The Graduate Division received nine nominations. A GRC subcommittee evaluated and ranked the nominations (excluding those affiliated with their program). List of the top five candidates was forwarded to the graduate division.

GRADUATE ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES (GAC)

A UCM faculty member requested that GRC discuss and approve a joint UCM/UCD Graduate Certificate Program. GAC programs are governed by SR735 and are reviewed by GRC but final approval is delegated to CCGA. The proposed joint program policy was slightly edited by GRC to include UCM.

At the time the proposal was received by GRC, GACs were being discussed within CCGA and new guidelines for these programs were in the process of being implemented. CCGA defines GACs as those that "have an independent admissions process" and decided that it will review GACs based on specific criteria outlined in SR735 and will not approve GACs unless there is a separate admissions process that requires that students be explicitly admitted to the GAC program. These requirements were in contradiction with the proposed UCM/UCD GAC proposal. GRC recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the UCM Extension Program.

GRADUATE COURSES

- **Prerequisites for Graduate Courses**

GRC Chair sent a memo to all graduate groups suggesting that all prerequisites for graduate courses be removed from the formal category of "prerequisites" in a blanket way (no other campus has prerequisites for graduate groups). GRC also considered the possibility of revising the course request form and the instructions associated with it. VC for Research suggested that rather than redoing all the CRFs, GRC could inform the graduate groups that the requirement for prerequisites will be eliminated. VC for Research indicated that he would work with the Registrar on this matter.

- **GRC's Authority on Graduate Courses**

GRC asked Rules and Elections Committee to review the authority of GRC in regard to graduate courses approval; establishment of new emphasis areas and emphasis areas seeking system-wide approval as stand-alone programs.

Rules and Elections issued a formal ruling (in accordance with UCM Bylaw II.4.B.:

> The GRC has the authority to establish the procedures for review and approval of graduate emphasis areas and graduate groups. GRC is also responsible for the review of proposals for graduate courses and the establishment of procedures for its internal review of graduate courses. The authority to approve courses lies within the UGC; however the exercise of that authority can be informed by course approval or rejection by the GRC.

GRC reviewed and approved over 80 graduate courses.

GRADUATE GROUPS CATALOG COPIES

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lawrence asked GRC to consider making changes to the graduate section of the Catalog material. Chair Kelley wrote an outline for a suggested format which was sent to the graduate degree programs and emphasis areas inviting them to expand their sections of the Catalog. Copies of the graduate section of the Catalog were gathered and sent to the VCSA in March 2008.

LIMITED SUBMISSION PROPOSALS

The GRC requested that the Division Council establish a special Senate committee whose charge would be to advise the Vice Chancellor for Research on the selection of proposals for limited submission programs.

MEDICAL SCHOOL PROPOSAL

CAPRA (Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation) asked GRC to generate a set of questions on the UCM medical school proposal. GRC was also charged with providing a recommendation to the Division Council on whether or not to continue the planning of a medical school. GRC reviewed the research component of the proposal and forwarded its analysis to the Division Council.

NON-RESIDENT TUITION

In 2006 the system-wide Senate put forward a Memorial to the Regents advocating the elimination on NRT. President Dynes responded to the Memorial by eliminating NRT for three years after a graduate student's advancement to candidacy and by instructing that NRT funds be returned to campuses earmarked for graduate student support. In January 2008, the Senate was asked to provide figures that show whether NRT fees made graduate groups less competitive in relation to UC's peer institutions.

GRC discussed Non-Resident Tuition on several occasions and regularly asked for input from the Vice Chancellor for Research.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES DRAFTED AND APPROVED BY GRC:

- Policy on Award of Graduate Fellowships
- Procedures for Review of New Graduate Emphasis Areas and Graduate Groups (Sep 2007)
- Graduate Courses Approval and CRF Process (for AY 2007-2008) (Oct 2007)

REQUESTS FROM GRADUATE EMPHASIS AREAS:

- **Applied Mathematics' Request to Change its Policies and Procedures**

Applied Mathematics faculty submitted a proposal to GRC to change their policies and procedures to institute a new graduate student stipend policy. The reasoning behind this request was to make stipends fair and equitable. GRC requested some clarification regarding a few statements in the proposed policies related to TAs and TFs. Mainly, GRC noted that emphasis areas have no jurisdiction over TA or TF appointments. These appointments are made at the discretion of the lead dean and recommendations for advancement to TF should be supported by some measure of teaching experience or performance. Applied Mathematics modified its proposal accordingly and re-submitted to GRC. The revised proposal was unanimously approved by GRC in November 2007.

- **Biological Engineering and Small-Scale Technologies Request to Change its Policies and Procedures**

BEST requested the waiving that its GRE requirement for admission for UCM undergraduates. GRC asked that BEST clarify the reasoning for its request, whom the waiver should apply to, and what the group wished to accomplish. GRC also received input from CCGA regarding this request. CCGA's informal opinion was generally supportive.
Upon reviewing the revised proposal from BEST, GRC approved the proposed changes to the group's policies and procedures.

- **Computer and Information Systems (CIS) Request to Change its Name to Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS)**

The Graduate and Research Council voted to approve this request which –according to the group's chair-entailed no change in the nature of the program nor any need for new resources.

- **Social and Cognitive Science (SCS) Request to Change its Regulations**

GRC reviewed this item on March 17, 2008 and requested further clarification from the group, namely that there was no listing of course work requirements for the Ph.D. and that it was not clear what "graduate courses with a substantive emphasis" meant. A revised set of regulations was submitted to the committee for review and approval. This was approved by GRC on April 21, 2008.

RESEARCH-RELATED LIBRARY ISSUES

Part of the charge of GRC is to "advise the Chancellor regarding administration of the Library". University Librarian Bruce Miller attended a GRC meeting to update the committee on new developments and current projects within the Library that may affect research (mass digitalization, online catalog record system, born-digital data preservation).

SENATE AWARDS

The Division Council asked GRC to define the criteria and selection process for the Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award and for the Award for Distinction in Research and Scholarship.

- **Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award**

GRC Chair drafted a set of criteria and guidelines for nominations for the Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship. The proposal was approved by the committee and was placed on the March 13, 2008 Division Council agenda.

- **Award for Distinction in Research and Scholarship**

GRC proposed the creation of two awards: one for tenured faculty (the Distinguished Faculty Research Award) and one for untenured faculty (the Early Career Research Award). The committee's recommendation was conveyed to the Division Council on May 13, 2008.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH/DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES POSITION

The EVC/Provost asked the Senate to opine on the idea of splitting the VC for Research/Dean of Graduate Studies position. VCR Traina shared a memo with GRC listing the pros and cons of having two separate positions. After consideration of the financial, academic and administrative aspects of splitting the position, GRC made the following recommendations:

- The VC for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies position should be split into two separate positions
- Both positions should be full-time positions
- Both positions should remain Cabinet-level positions (at the discretion of the Chancellor).
- The Graduate Dean should be given the title of Vice Provost of Graduate Studies and Graduate Dean.

GRC CHAIR REPORTS ON CCGA ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- Interim Individual Graduate Program
- Non-Resident Tuition
- Terminal Masters Program
- UC Budget AND Budget Cuts
- Long Range Enrollment Planning
- Graduate Students Support
- TAs Union Contracts
- UCM proposal for a School of Medicine
- UAW – Attempts made by the UAW to unionize postdocs
- Diversity Report
- In Absentia Policy (needs to be updated)
- Copyright Infringement (approved by CCGA)
- UC Riverside Medical School
- State of the UC Budget
- Long Range Enrollment Planning
- UCM Medical School Proposal
- Diversity Report

PROFESSOR DAVID NOELLE REPORTS ON UCORP ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- Special Ethics policy for dealing with pharmaceutical companies (rejected by the Senate due to existing policies)
- Appointment of Daniel M. Dooley as the new Vice President of the Division for Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR)
- Appointment of Steven Beckwith as the new Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
- Restructuring of UC's Administrative Functions
- Indirect Costs
- UCORP/UCPB joint project to examine System-wide Indirect Costs Recovery
- California Public Utilities Commission $600M/ten year funding program to investigate climate-change related issues)
- Los Alamos National Lab production of nuclear weapons components
- UCLA IRB Accreditation and Senate consultation
- Restructuration of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies
- Graduate Support (NRT)
- NIH open access publication policy

- Discussion of possible UC sponsorship of proposed State Legislation on Animal Researcher Protection
- RE-89 – The Assembly adopted the motion to oppose the adoption of RE-89 (proposed Regents' Policy Restricting University Acceptance of Funding from the Tobacco Industry
- DOD National Security and Engineering Faculty Fellowship Grant
- MRU Initiatives
- WASC Report on the UC system
- Budget Cuts
- Health Sciences and Services report (endorsed by the Regents) which indicated that UC health premium programs could be strengthened by expanding the five existing medical schools enrollment by 10% and which supports the development of a medical school at UCM
- Review of the DANR
- Declining federal budgetary support for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)
- Resolution calling for the reassessment of UC's participation in the management of national labs
- UCD proposal for a School of Public Health
- CCGA Chair report on graduate student funding
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SYSTEM WIDE ITEMS REVIEWED BY GRC

CCGA/UCEP REPORT: THE ROLE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTION

http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview/sw.rev.instruct.records.10.07.pdf

In response to a request from the Academic Council and the UC Office of the President, CCGA and UCEP prepared a joint report on the Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction. The report included proposals to amend Senate Regulation 750.B. and APM-410-4a and 4b. GRC voted in support of the proposed amendments.

DIALECTIC PAPER ON REMOTE/ONLINE INSTRUCTION

http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview/div.rev.dialectic.12.07.pdf

CCGA/UCEP and ITTP were formally charged by the system-wide senate with the drafting of a paper on remote/online instruction. The rationale behind this assignment was to encourage and advance the faculty discussion of "UC quality" in remote and online instruction.

GRC discussed the pros and cons of online instruction versus "real" faculty-student interaction and forwarded its comments to the Division Council in February 2008. The committee also noted that assignment of teaching credit for online courses was not addressed in the proposal.

REGENTS TASK FORCE ON DIVERSITY

http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview/sw.rev.diversity%20reports.01.08.pdf

The Regents Study Group on Diversity conducted a comprehensive study of diversity across the UC system. Study findings and recommendations were distributed to the UCs for comment.

GRC conveyed its comments on the report to the Division Council in March 2008

The committee also benefited from consultation and reports from Vice Chancellor for Research/Dean of Graduate Studies Traina.

Respectfully Submitted,

UCM Faculty
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Patti LiWang, Vice Chair (NS)
Michael Dawson (NS)
Qinghua Guo (ENG)
Michelle Khine (ENG)
David Noelle (ENG/SSHA), UCORP Representative
Tom Hansford (SSHA)
Tony Westerling (ENG/SSHA) (resigned November. 2007)
Wolfgang Rogge (ENG) (as of Dec. 2007)
Ex-officio
Shawn Kantor, Division Council Chair (SSHA)
Roger Bales, Division Council Vice Chair (ENG)
Sam Traina, Vice Chancellor for Research/Dean of Graduate Studies
Student Representative
Dorothy Beals (until May 2008)
Ryan Lucas (as of May 2008)