GRADUATE COUNCIL
BURT FEUERSTEIN, MD, PHD, CHAIR

MINUTES
Monday, December 2, 2002

PRESENT: N. Lane, B. Feuerstein, M. Gillen, D. Kroetz, F. Chahib, D. Fortin, C. Attkisson, G. Marshall, A. Johnson, L. Chavetz, T. Scanlan

ABSENT: No Absences


Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 4, 2002.

The minutes were approved.

Chair’s Report

B. Feuerstein reported that he received a response from Nancy Byl regarding Council’s questions on the D.P.T. proposal; he will follow-up as necessary. Health Psychology has not yet responded to questions from the Council. He also reported that the Chancellor has decided to give new faculty FTEs to the Deans as opposed to individual departments or programs.

Vice Chair and CCGA Rep Report

S. Majumda reported that at the recent CCGA meeting a joint CSU San Luis Obispo and UCSB Ed.D program was approved. UC Merced gave presentations on new programs and proposals planned for the campus; questions remain as to the funding of the programs. UC Merced plans to enroll their first graduate students in fall 2004.

Dean’s Report

Dean Attkisson reviewed the letter from the campus on the response to the Regental Commission on the Growth and Support of Graduate Education. He indicated that the key factor in enrollment growth is the ability to support the students; all campuses appear to be making progress in this area. Enrollment growth at the graduate level has exceeded expectations university-wide. It is expected that the campus will be notified of mid-year budget cuts, however, it appears that student support will be protected for the current academic year. A meeting was held with Gail Martin and Didier Stanier on the proposal for a new Ph.D. program in Developmental Biology.
Graduate Student Association Report

D. Fortin reported that the GSA is working on the upcoming Career and Research Day in March 2003.

Postdoctoral Scholar Association Report

R. Price reported on the impact and growth of the Systemwide Postdoctoral Scholar Association. Science Next Wave will sponsor a national meeting for postdocs at UCB and will highlight the development of the PSA. There will be an attempt to organize a national postdoc professional association and to seek funding to hire an executive director for the organization. He indicated that the PSA is a key reviewer of the new APM 390.

Old Business

Biological and Medical Informatics Response to Council on the Academic Program Review External Report

N. Lane, Council liaison to the review, reported that Associate Dean Calarco coordinated an exceptionally strong review committee, and the response to the review report by the program director was very cooperative. Discussion by the Council included the integration of the biological and medical components of the program, the strength of academic advising, faculty funding, submission of a training grant, student recruitment, and the availability of computer science coursework. Further clarification will be requested on several of these items. It was noted this is still a young program that is in the process of continued development and in need of future resources.

ACTION: Chair Feuerstein will request additional clarification from the program director on several issues discussed.

Proposal to Establish a Center for the Neurobiology of Digestive Diseases – Update from Task Force Representative M. Gillen

M. Gillen, who chaired the Task Force, reported that a response was produced, which included requests for the following additional information: the source of the finances in the initial phase; a detailed budget; a timeline; and requested that the membership of the advisory committee be reviewed and that more outreach be done to other departments. It was noted the proposal was very strong overall.

New Business

Visit by QB3 Director Marvin Cassman and Professor Ken Dill to Discuss Future Plans for the New Institute

K. Dill and M. Cassman reported that QB3 is one of three institutes developed by the Governor as a multi-campus initiative. Funds were provided to UCSF by the State for the building, for which construction had begun at Mission Bay. Space will largely be taken up by computational biology, imaging, and chemical biology. The program is interested in offering coursework in conjunction with UCB and UCSC. Faculty will not have independent appointments at QB3, but retain existing departmental appointments.

The PQB program in quantitative biology is very much like PIBS, which is an umbrella program over CCB, BMI, Biophysics, and Neuroscience. There may possibly be a connection in the future with Bioengineering. A Burrows welcome grant supports six graduate fellowships per year for a total of five years. The purpose of the grant is to attract students with quantitative
backgrounds to UCSF and provide options that they may not find at other places. The new umbrella organization provides additional options to students that did not previously exist. PQB has developed one new course and plans to develop others. The new building should be ready for occupancy in December 2004, and faculty who have a primary focus in computational biology will probably move to the new facility.

Dean Attkisson indicated that the campus will be asked to do enrollment program planning to 2015 and we will need assistance from QB3 for projections in disciplines related to computational biology. It was noted by Council that the PQB initiative will have a tremendous impact on graduate education at UCSF.

New Systemwide Postdoctoral Scholar APM 390: Dean Attkisson provided background information on the development of the proposed APM. The proposal is now under review at all campuses. The new structures proposed in the new APM are very consistent with what is currently being doing at UCSF. The new salary scale allows for the decoupling from the currently used NSF scale. Policies not defined in the proposal are issues related to the vacation leave policy for NSRAs. It was noted that the APM is a very positive impact for the system. Implementation is planned for July 2003, with a three-year phase in period.

Council indicated that the differentiation between employees and extramural-funded postdocs was not entirely made clear in the proposal. It was also noted that the five-year limit proposed for postdoc appointments would be problematic for the campus to implement and enforce.

**ACTION:** B. Feuerstein will write a letter from the Council that supports the proposed APM and notes the areas of concern.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Karen Nelson
Assistant Dean of Graduate Academic Affairs