GRADUATE COUNCIL
FARID CHEHAB, Ph.D.

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Guests Present: K. Nelson, D. Carlson, S. Patel, T. Novotny

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

The minutes of the December 15, 2005 and January 19, 2006 meetings were approved.

Chair’s Report
Chair Chehab thanked the Council for their recent e-mail vote on the Graduate Council Regulations that were subsequently approved by the full Senate. He provided a summary of the Campus Five Year Plan, which is currently being finalized by the Senate and the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor.

CCGA Representative Report
CCGA representative Chehab reported: 1) CCGA and the systemwide Academic Council approved a Memorial that requests the elimination of non-resident tuition for graduate students; 2) reported on the progress of the Task Force for Graduate Education; which included emerging disciplines and areas of growth within UC; and, 3) indicated that the legislature needs to be better educated on the importance of graduate education, on the intellectual and economic contributions of graduate students to the State of California, and on how UC programs may collaborate with industry and health care. Chair Chehab announced that the UCSF proposal for a Ph.D. program in Developmental Biology was approved by CCGA.

Vice Chair’s Report
No report

Dean’s Report
Interim Dean Calarco announced that the Chancellor agreed to allocate $1 million in graduate financial support for 2006-2007, as he did for 2005-2006. She indicated that this is temporary funding and that additional allocations for 2007-2008 are contingent upon the recommendations from the Strategic Planning Initiative. She also reported: 1) New CTSA developments will include graduate education with possible initiatives for new degree programs; 2) she participated in the NIH training grant site visits for Neuroscience and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics; and, 4) Professor Gross was successful in obtaining an NSF grant that will enhance the Graduate Division’s Summer Research Training Program.

Graduate Student Association Report
GSA President O’Brien reported that they are working on safety and security concerns with the Postdoctoral Scholar Association. She indicated that students are requesting help with filing tax returns, for which the GSA will try to provide assistance.

Postdoctoral Scholar Association Report
PSA President Lewis reported that the PSA plans to launch a safety survey in April, in collaboration with the GSA, for students and postdocs on the Parnassus and Mission Bay campuses.

Old Business:

Proposal for a Certificate Program in Global Health
B. Yen reviewed Council’s questions from the previous discussion and the response received from the program. A concern was the capstone requirement and more information was needed on the nature of the work to be accomplished while at UCSF. Professor Novotny from the Global Health program was available to respond to the Council and provide further information. He indicated that the program would consist of two tracks, the basic science and the clinical research track, with a research proposal and oral presentation required at the culmination of the program. A faculty committee will evaluate the students’ progress and research proposal and the participants’ career trajectory will be tracked after completion. It was recommended that Global Health make their seminars more accessible to the larger campus community and that gender diversity of the faculty should be taken into consideration.

The program was unanimously approved with the recommendation that slight modifications be made to the proposal.

Update on the Doctorate in Audiology Degree
K. Nelson reported that the UCSF School of Medicine submitted a letter of intent to the Office of the President to work with San Francisco State University to develop a joint Doctor of Audiology degree. This initiative is dependent upon new funding streams from UCOP and the Legislature.

Update on the Change in the Bylaws
Chair Chehab met with COC on 2/13/06 and reported that COC indicated that they would like some flexibility in the appointment of a Graduate Council chair and CCGA representative. In response to the proposal to appoint a chair for two years, COC will conduct a survey of past chairs to receive their input. Current members of the Council voiced their support for the continuity inherent in having a chair serve for two years on Graduate Council and CCGA.

New Business

Use of the International Language Testing System (IELTS) as an Option to the TOEFL for Assessing English Language Proficiency
K. Nelson reported that this examination is jointly managed by the University of Cambridge, the British Council, and IELTS Australia. It tests the four language components of the TOEFL, is offered in over 100 countries, and is currently accepted by other UC campuses and a large number of U.S. and international research universities. Based on a review of the test information and other campus score requirements, the Graduate Council voted to set the minimum score of 7 on the IELTS.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Karen Nelson, Assistant Dean
Graduate Division