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

Chair’s Report
No report

CCGA Representative Report
CCGA representative Chehab reported: 1) New law schools are under discussion at UCI and UCR; 2) fee levels for self-supporting programs will be reviewed and a report generated; 3) the Systemwide Graduate Financial Support Committee has made the recommendation that non-resident tuition be eliminated for graduate students and that return-to-aid for graduate students be increased; 4) the recommendation was made that the state provide research funding for UC that would also include support for graduate students.

Vice Chair’s Report
Vice Chair Waters reported that she will remain on the committee for one more year and F. Chehab will continue as chair of the Council for next year.

Dean’s Report
Dean Calarco reported that commencement exercises would take place on Friday, May 19, 2006 and Clifton Poodry, Director of Minority Programs at NIH, would be the featured speaker.

Graduate Student Association Report
GSA President O’Brien reported that a Safety and Security survey will be launched at the end of May; election of new officers will take place in June; and, the GSA is collecting comments on the new shuttle service.

Postdoctoral Scholar Association Report
PSA Representative Lewis reported that elections for PSA officers will occur in June; new PSA By-Laws will soon be ratified; and, the annual postdoc reception will be held in June.

Old Business:
Sociology Academic Program Review Report
A. Rosenblatt and C. Waters provided a summary of the external report, which included the noteworthy strengths of the program and areas in which improvement was needed. The review committee praised the faculty on their extramural funding; the strong cohort of new and continuing students; the placement of graduate students in competitive positions; the time to degree of their students (well-below the national average), and the excellent qualitative preparation and high publication rate by the students. The lack of usable space; limited multi-year recruitment packages, and future retirements of key faculty, are areas of concern. Areas needing attention include: student advising and representation on committees, and the area of the third qualifying exam.

The Council will forward the report to the program and request a response by September 2006.

De-briefing on Bioengineering Program Review
A. Rosenblatt and J. Lansman reported that the review went smoothly and that the faculty, students, and staff actively participated in the review. The student cohort and faculty research appeared very strong; many strengths were noted and a few concerns highlighted (e.g. transportation). The external report is expected to be completed in June and forwarded to the campus.

Discussion on National Research Council (NRC) Evaluation
Committee: B. Gerbert, F. Schaufele, F. Chehab
B. Gerbert reported that the sub-committee met with the dean and assistant dean to begin discussions on the NRC assessment. Surveys will begin to be distributed to the graduate programs during summer 2006. The issue for the Council is to determine a communication process with the programs and to determine methods to encourage the programs to actively participate in the assessment. Gerbert noted that rankings of programs will not occur as in the past, and programs will instead be placed in quartiles. Discussions will occur at subsequent Council meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by,
Karen Nelson, Assistant Dean
Graduate Division