The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Lansman on December 11, 2008, at 2:10 p.m., in S-30. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting were approved.

Chair’s Report – Jeff Lansman

Chair Lansman attended the CCGA committee meeting and reported the following: There is a planned increase of 10% in the Ed fee and 4.2% in the Reg fee for the 2009-2010 academic year. Stephen Beckwith, UC vice president for research and graduate studies, indicated there will be an additional $10 million in funds to support graduate education at all of the UC campuses. CCGA discussion focused on how these funds may be distributed and members were asked to discuss this issue with members of their local graduate council. There was no indication that these funds would actually be distributed to the campuses in the coming year. CCGA discussed student access to self-supporting graduate programs. Some members thought the high fees charged by these programs would exclude qualified students who could not afford to pay out of pocket. The issue of certificate programs was discussed and it was decided that local Graduate Councils will review all professional program certificates in the future with dual review by CCGA for all stand-alone certificates that have an independent admissions process. The UCSF master’s program in Science and Technology Studies proposal was assigned external reviewers.

Vice Chair’s Report – Elizabeth Watkins

No report

Dean’s Report – Pat Calarco

Lani Proctor Pettersen, Director of Student Financial Support, will be leaving the Graduate Division to accept a position as Financial Manager of CTSI.
Graduate Student Association Report

No report

Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report

Sam Pleasure and Donna Ferriero were selected for the Postdoc Mentorship Award. Upcoming Practice of Science seminar will be “Green Chemistry in the Lab.”

Old Business

Discussion of the Biological Informatics Track within the Ph.D. Program in Biological and Medical Informatics – 3:00 pm  Attachment
Tom Ferrin

Graduate Program Director, Tom Ferrin, is requesting an emphasis in Biological Informatics within the Ph.D. program in Biological and Medical Informatics. He provided background information on the history of the program and how it has evolved. The program was reactivated in 1997 with funds from the School of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, and Chancellor. The program now includes two pathways – Clinical and Translational Informatics and Biological Informatics. The Biological pathway has a training grant that was renewed last year. It now partners with Biophysics through the iPQB program and currently has 32 students in the program and 30 faculty members. Adding an emphasis would recognize two distinct programs within the degree and highlight expertise in a specialized area.

The Council agreed in concept to the designation of two emphases within the program. Since the UCSF campus does not currently have officially recognized emphases on diplomas, the Council will work to develop such a mechanism. The Council will re-visit the BMI request when this issue has been resolved before the Coordinating Committee of the Academic Senate.

Response from Chemistry and Chemical Biology on their Academic Program Review Attachment

The Council agreed that the CCB program response to the Academic Program Review was excellent. The curriculum revisions addressed important concerns about training in biological sciences for students with a chemistry background; collaborations across the campus are strong; the program is doing extremely well in the area of diversity; and the CCB Grant Writing course will help increase the number of students with independent fellowships and allow student enrollment to increase given limited fellowship slots.

Council will write a letter to the program to close the review and acknowledge the improvements made by the directors of the CCB program. The review and letters will be forwarded to the Dean of Pharmacy with a copy to the EVC.

Discussion of Formal Guidelines for Payment to Interdepartmental Graduate Programs by Associated Institutes and Departments
Jeff Lansman

Chair Lansman will draft a position paper to be placed on the agenda of the February 2009 meeting of the Academic Senate Coordinating Committee meeting.
Discussion of Course Fees for Enrolled Students Taking Courses in Self-Supporting Programs

Jeff Lansman

Chair Lansman indicated that this is a problem for the campus, which has both self-supporting and state-supported course offerings. Nursing students and others, who wish to take clinical research courses, need to pay additional fees in order to enroll. The deliberations focused on requiring self-supporting programs that derive profit from operations providing financial aid to outside applicants who may not be able to pay the program fees but are otherwise qualified. In addition, for current UCSF students enrolled full-time in other graduate programs, a fee base that reflects the cost of instruction minus administrative and other expenses that might be duplicated could be developed. This issue has been discussed with the Deans and at the Chancellor’s Executive Committee. Chair Lansman will raise this issue as a discussion item for the Senate Executive Committee to discuss.

Unionization of Postdoctoral Scholars Update

Chris Des Jarlais

Chris Des Jarlais reported that all UCSF postdocs are now part of the UAW. Contract negotiations are expected in late February and early March 2009. Bargaining teams will consist of UCOP Labor Relations and Academic Advancement staff, in addition to faculty representatives from some of the campuses. We are currently in a period of “dynamic status quo,” which means that we can follow standard practices and the APM, but cannot make agreements outside of this. UCOP is putting together an FAQ to be distributed to the campuses.

New Business

Proposal for the Designation of Specializations/Parenthetical Degree Notations on UCSF Ph.D. Degrees

Attachment

Karen Nelson presented a proposal regarding adding emphases/specializations to the diplomas of graduate degree programs. Discussion occurred about the appropriate name of the new concept. Doug Carlson will check with other campuses to see how the Registrar’s handle this issue. Council unanimously agreed with concept and the process and plan to present a proposal to the Coordinating Committee once it is finalized.