The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Watkins on April 22, 2010 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of March 11, 2010 were approved.

**Chair’s Report – Elizabeth Watkins**

The Task Force on Investments and Retirement (TFIR) recommendation to assure adequate funding for the UC retirement program will be reviewed by APB and faculty welfare.

The Senate office asked for a volunteer from the Graduate Council to sit on the UCSF divisional task force to review the Commission on the Future recommendations; Ed Yellin has volunteered to serve as our representative.

**Vice Chair’s Report – Michael Beattie**

One of the questions that arose is whether the campus Graduate Councils have reviewed the Commission on the Future and whether they were going to forward recommendations back. We are in the midst of that.

The WASC Chair came and talked about their group reviewing new graduate programs; this will impact UC Merced more than the other campus. The idea is that learning objections have to be established for every program. We have assumed that this might be an onerous process and there was a considerable amount of hostility toward the WASC representative, but he explained that all student aid, federal money, etc. requires the accreditation of the WASC. We discussed ways of making the current process of reviewing UC programs concurrent with the WASC process. UC Merced has to pay a fee associated with the accreditation process; they do not have the staff to help with the review process.
There is considerable discussion on professional degrees; when can you charge this fee and what qualifies as a professional degree? Included in this discussion is the Doctor of Physical Therapy, Doctor of Physical Therapy Science. Accrediting agencies are asking their professional organizations to move their master’s programs into doctoral programs and that raises the question of what is truly a doctoral program for the purposes of charging this fee; this is an ongoing discussion. Professional fees for master's engineering programs are also being discussed; some of the engineering schools are identifying themselves as offering “professional” degrees and asserting their right to charge something on the order of $40k for a master’s in mechanical engineering, for example. We already see this sort of thing happening at Stanford and other private schools.

Dean’s Report – Patricia Calarco

Commencement will be on May 7th at 10:00am in Robertson Auditorium; our speaker is Jackie Speier, but so far this year we have fewer students whom have signed up to participate in the processional. Our rule is if a student is graduating within a year, or if s/he is here as a post-doc and graduated in the last year s/he is welcome to participate in the processional. We do not have a “Class of 2009” or a “Class of 2010.” Students effectively “graduate” once the signature page is signed and the dissertation is uploaded to UMI. Many basic science programs now have a “thesis talk” and they are becoming celebrations, parents come, there are receptions, and some students do not come to commencement; they do the thesis talk instead.

Graduate Research day will be on Wednesday May 12th. We will journey to Sacramento with two of our students and join our counterparts from the other campuses to meet with legislators.

The Central Budget

As some of you may know, the campus is embarking on a plan to realize a $28-40 million budget cut or savings. The $28 million is to make up for the lack of state funding. This is being coupled with a regionalization model for improving operations across campus. The services subject to regionalization are human resources, finance, pre/post award, & information technology. This will be phased in over three years, but there will be layoffs of approximately 280-400 layoffs across the campus. Numerically this works out to roughly 2% of employees on campus.

On April 15th all the EVCP direct reports had to file revised budgets modeling a 25% cut. The Graduate Division was reestablished as an independent entity less than 2.5 years ago. The cuts we have realized combined with this new cut would amount to a 42% cut in less than 2.5 years. We have been asked to identify and articulate how these cuts will impact the institution and the constituents we serve: students, programs, faculty/PI, etc. The potential impact (still to be determined) may include:
-- termination of student research & travel awards
-- termination of post-doc research & travel awards
-- we may terminate Commencement
-- there will be no fall orientation
-- we may terminate academic program reviews and the associated supported of Dean Farid Chehab
-- termination of the biannual Graduate Division newsletter
-- termination of all administrator support and services for post-docs and the post-doc administration network

The prospect of these losses has been shared with the program directors and with program administrators. Compared to the other campuses, we have a higher trainee load per staff member, we also have a lower cost per staff member considering that load.

Incidentally, our commencement costs are related to the facility rental of Robertson Hall in the Rutter Center. The rental and small reception last year costs $18k; this year we have bargained them down to $15k. We have never paid any funds to a commencement speaker. The SF Chronicle has recently made the inquiry of our campus regarding the source of our funds and what we pay our commencement speakers.
The elimination of program reviews is a policy breach with Academic Senate bylaws, which mandate the reviews, but suspending reviews for a year or two to accommodate the current budget crisis may be possible if there is a guarantee they will resume when the crisis is abated. The Graduate Division receives no central funding for program reviews. We pay for it with state funds any small amounts of discretionary funds.

The elimination of post-doc services is a breach of UC services since that was delegated to the Graduate Deans by UCOP.

If you combine our students and post-doc populations, we are the fifth largest Graduate Division within the ten campus systems; both the Chancellor and EVCP know this.

**Senate Analyst’s Report**

On Tuesday May 11, 2010, Systemwide Academic Senate Chair Henry Powell (UCSD) and Daniel Simmons (UCD) will discuss faculty reactions to and request feedback from faculty on the proposed Post-Employment Benefits plans. The meeting will take place from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in HSW 300 on the Parnassus Campus.

This meeting is envisioned as an opportunity for faculty to address anything that arises out of today's much-publicized Post-Employment Benefits Listening Session happening in Cole Hall 11:30 to 1:30 (Parnassus Campus) and simulcast to all campuses plus recorded for future viewing via a link.

For more information, please follow this link: http://senate.ucsf.edu/0-currentissues/ucpostemploymentbenefits.html. This page will be updated as more information becomes available.

**Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais**

None.

**Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Julie Hunkapiller, GSA Representative**

None.

**Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Vuk Uskokovic, PSA Representative**

None.

**New & Ongoing Business**

**Reinstatement of the MS degree in Bioengineering vis-à-vis MS in Biomedical Imaging**

With regard to the Reinstatement of the MS degree in Bioengineering and the proposed MS in Biomedical Imaging, one of the questions the Council has is how the program directors see the relationship between these two programs.

Historically there has been a joint graduate group in bioengineering; many of the faculty in Radiology have been members of the join graduate group. Most of the imaging courses provided and certainly any courses which have clinical application have been taught by faculty in radiology. In many ways, our proposal falls neatly into place with the development of the new department of bioengineering and therapeutic sciences. The way that has been structured is to cover the range that is bioengineering but to leave imaging in the radiology department. We are proposing to continue teaching all the imaging courses, but have them come out of Radiology and available to bioengineering students. Students in our program might, of course, want to take advantage of course offerings in bioengineering. We would have reciprocity and allow the students to take courses between programs without cost.
CCGA will find this arrangement potentially problematic. The scenario of one student in the classroom having paid a certain dollar amount to be there while the student sitting next to her has paid a very different amount to be in the same classroom is understandably unwelcome. CCGA will also have concerns about whether or not the MS in Biomedical Imaging is using state supported facilities. Ostensibly that would not be the case here as the new imaging program would operate from China Basin, which is not state supported. Tuition for the MS in Biomedical Imaging will be $31k.

**Physical Therapy Program Review**
The noteworthy suggestions include that the program
--try to streamline, where possible to identify within campus overlap
--choose between the DPT and the PhD
--consider increasing the number of students in the self supporting program
--increase diversity of core faculty
--increase travel support for faculty
--increase number of FTE in the program
--clarify whether or not the faculty practice is a positive revenue generator or not
The range of recommendations are detailed in the report.

**TETRAD Program Review Response**
The response effectively addressed the concerns raised in the review. However several issues mentioned (funding, health care benefit for students, rewarding teaching, prohibitive cost of living in the Bay Area, and safety of commuting to/from Mission Bay) resonate across several programs we have reviewed recently. Some of these issues are beyond the purview of this committee or even the Dean of the School of Medicine. With that in mind, we will propose several dates to the EVCP and the Dean of the School of Medicine, and Dean of the School of Pharmacy inviting them to a future meeting to discuss these issues as they affect all programs.

**The Compendium**
We will discuss the Compendium at our May meeting.

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

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