The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Watkins on November 5, 2009 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of October 8, 2009 were approved.

Chair’s Report – Elizabeth Watkins
The UC Commission on the future will come to campus on Dec. 1st from 11-1:30 in Cole Hall.

The Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Planning spoke on the 10-year capital financial plan outlining the buildings that they wanted to build, the buildings they actually had resources to build, and the buildings that they wanted to retrofit vs. the ones they had money to retrofit.

The vice chair of the library committee, Richard Schneider, underscored that there is inadequate library/study space at Mission Bay. The Famri library at Mission Bay is essentially a small room and it closes early in the evening. The “library” that formerly existed in Genentech Hall was converted into classroom space. Students at Mission Bay need a place to study that is safe and open all night. The Library Committee expects to put forward a proposal to create or set aside library space for students at Mission Bay. Following a review of that proposal, the Graduate Council will co-sign the proposal to support the creation of a suitable, secure library/study space on that campus.

The Senate chair, Elena Fuentes-Afflick, approved our motion to amend the Graduate Council bylaws on GC membership; the proposal now moves to the Rules and Jurisdiction committee.

Vice Chair’s Report – Michael Beattie
CCGA sent a letter, written by Farid Chehab, to Academic Council Chair Powell concerning the proposed increase in graduate student fees. The letter articulates opposition to the fee increases because they will
have a negative impact on graduate education not only in the sciences but particularly in the humanities and arts across the system.

One suggested possibility was to establish a fund at UCOP that the medical centers would contribute to in order to support graduate academic students.

When the next Regents meeting occurs, President Yudof is expected to propose that the midyear increase for graduate students will be relatively small; it will amount to $111 increase split between our Winter and Spring quarters. We are expected to get the full 30% increase effective fall 2010.

Most of the CCGA meeting was spent on a roundtable discussion on graduate education and its role in the university. This was initiated by a request for a companion mission statement on graduate education from CCGA to accompany one that is being developed for undergraduate education. The committee felt that at a school like UC, it was inappropriate to separate the two because undergraduate and graduate education are integrated and any mission statement should reflect this.

A graduate student dependent healthcare committee is examining graduate student healthcare across the system. The cost of graduate student healthcare across the system is radically different. This cost apparently depends on how much the student health services is involved in the primary care vs. advanced care, etc. The committee, led by Dean Gibeling of UC Davis, is examining how this system is put together and whether we could extract savings across the system if all graduate student healthcare were pooled or otherwise reconfigured.

The proposed program in Epidemiology is under review. Whether or not there will be funding or this program is, so far, unknown.

Dean’s Report – Patricia Calarco
On November 12th at 5:30pm we are going to host our first Alumni outreach event. This will include a panel discussion on research anchored by our Chancellor. A member of the California Assembly will attend, G. Steven Burrell (venture capitalist), Corey Goodman (biotech entrepreneur), and Sandy Johnson (Tetrad program director). This event will take place in Byers auditorium and the atrium in Genentech.

Sara Nelson, Lou Reichardt, and Dina Halme, and Pat Calarco presented to the Directors and Chairs meeting a new policy for the support of graduate students. This policy proposal was based on extensive data gathered in two parts, one of which demonstrated that the operating cost for an average graduate student who is in a laboratory is about $4000. The second piece was to cover the cost of first and second year students who are not yet in a lab but then prorating those costs. This is the period of time when most programs use the allocation from the graduate division and their training grant slots. We collected information on the gap costs, that is to say what is collected vs. what is needed. When amortized that amounts to approximately $2000 per first and second year students, so the cost is about $6000. When graduate studies began at UCSF it was localized (save for nursing) in the basic science departments. These costs were the responsibility of the departments. As we became interdisciplinary, we lost the connection to departments and they became lack in helping to pick up those costs. Clinical departments, for the most part, pay zero dollars toward these costs. As costs have gone up over the years, our training grant money has gone down.

Dina’s analysis showed that 75% of our students work with faculty who have their FTE in clinical departments.

Dean Calarco is also planning to meet with the Chancellor to talk about her willingness to come up with a more transparent base for all graduate student funding—e.g. social science and humanities programs.
One of the concerns that the Chairs have is what happens to departments who cannot come up with the money.

Our strategic goal is to not pass these costs on to the faculty who have students in their lab; we hope to have it done centrally.

Going forward this subject will be addressed by a central steering committee which will be composed of half department chairs and half graduate program directors. We do not want graduate programs simply to dictate to the department “this is what you’re going to have to pay.” We want them to be part of the dialogue. Essentially, we are asking for a combination of contributions from the departments and the dean’s offices (pharmacy, medicine).

**Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais**
Discussions are ongoing; nothing new to report at this time.

**Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Julie Hunkapiller, GSA Representative**
At the last GSA meeting a policeman from campus police came to talk to students about security. Lately we have seen a rise in suspicious persons on campus, stolen laptops, bags, etc. Initially security at Mission Bay was related to transportation and parking. We are trying to remind students of the need to be mindful of security.

Lauren Booth is our Women in Life Sciences (WILS) leader at UCSF. They recently sponsored a wine and cheese for students. Many alumni attended representing science writing, biotech, academia, and policy.

We also recently sponsored “Lets Have an Awesome Time Doing Science” which also went very well.

Joe Castro’s office is funding a leadership skills training program for students. It is a four-course program that awards a certificate at the end. The first course was offered on 11/4/09. It teaches students who are already in leadership positions how to motivate, handle conflicts, run meetings, how to motivate, etc. It has been very well attended (50 students).

**Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Vuk Uskokovic, PSA Representative**
We are organizing a lot of socializing events:
- We just approved the funds or the Christmas party that will take place on December 1.
- One month ago we had a BBQ for the National PostDoc appreciation day.
- We host a regular coffee hour for postdocs
  - We are planning a series of mentoring dinners that will be divided into two classes 1) for industry and 2) for academia
  - We are attracting external sponsors for some of our events. ProMab will sponsor one of the mentoring dinners and possibly the Christmas party as well.

The PSA began as a grassroots organization and grew into a social outlet; the mission of the current executive council of the PSA is to bring some balance by offering more intellectual events. The Practice of Science Lecture is an example of restoring that balance. These lectures are held between January and June.

We are concerned about unionization. Many of us feel that there is not enough feedback between postdoc opinions and the priorities being discussed between the university and the union. One idea recently proposed was to appoint a special officer to liaise with the union representatives to improve dialogue.
**New Business**
The Bioengineering program has submitted its letter in response to the Graduate Program Review 5/4-5/2006 and Council letter of 9/12/2006. The letter successfully addresses all the (minor) concerns raised in the program review and council letter. The program review is now considered closed.

**Designated Emphasis in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics**
This is a solid and complete proposal that goes above and beyond what is required according to the Designated Emphasis policy guidelines. There are two parts of BMI (Computational Biology & Bioinformatics and Medical Informatics) and in lieu of creating two separate graduate programs this emphasis is a solution to a reasonable problem. The Council voted to approve this Designated Emphasis.

**Imaging Sciences M.S. degree proposal**
The proposal indicates several strengths: outstanding environment, excellent faculty, great courses, wonderful research opportunities, however, in its present form the proposal has several serious shortcomings.
-- Given the heavy course load, there appears to be very little time for the students to do actual research.
-- The title of this proposal could easily be confused with a physics or optics dept. that does imaging.
-- One required course is Research Methods, but not all students are required to do research. So why would they be required to take this course?
-- No mention of the qualification for mentorship.
-- No mention of thesis committee? Do students need a thesis committee?
-- Discussion opportunities for placement needs to be more robust.
-- Discussion of the demand for this program is inadequate.
-- Letters of support from internal and external constituents are missing.
-- The e–portfolio is insufficiently described.
-- No timetable for CCGA approval is listed in the timeline provided and much more . . .

We will detail our concerns in a letter, ask the authors to address them and resubmit the proposal at a later date.

**Old Business**
None.

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

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