The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Watkins on December 10, 2009 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was not present.

The minutes of November 5, 2009 were approved (by absent members via email)

Chair’s Report – Elizabeth Watkins
None.

Vice Chair’s Report – Michael Beattie (delivered via email)
No critical CCGA issues for Graduate Council immediate action were noted, but there was continued discussion of providing convenient documents (e.g. a white paper) for UCOP and others that emphasizes the importance of graduate education to UC and the state.

Discussions continue between UC and UAW regarding the unionization of postdoc students.

Several UC campuses have raised the issue that WASC (The accreditation body overseeing UC and all other western colleges and universities) is expressing interest in reviewing UC graduate programs with respect to measures of educational outcomes and learning experiences. Many CCGA members reported some consternation on their campuses that a separate WASC review of graduate programs might intrude on GCs and CCGA responsibilities.

The Gould Commission is in progress and it is imperative that graduate education be an important consideration. Input will be given by CCGA to the work groups that include grad education (curriculum and education, research, and access and affordability.) Workgroup co-chairs will be invited to meet with CCGA; President Yudof will be invited to hear CCGA concerns at the February meeting.
Dean’s Report – Patricia Calarco
None.

Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais
None.

Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Julie Hunkapiller, GSA Representative
The GSA co president spoke to the UC Commission on the future during their recent visit to campus.

The GSA is preparing for its major event of the year: Career & Research Day. It will take place in February. It will consist of a keynote speaker, a judged poster session, a student alumni dinner, several panels, etc.

Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Vuk Uskokovic, PSA Representative
The PSA is currently drafting their funding proposal; they are usually funded for 3-4 years and need to reapply to all the departments and the Graduate Division. Funding is represented as a divided cost based on the number of post-docs in each department. As an alternative to generating proposals every few years, the PSA is considering asking for a permanent allocation from the Graduate Division. The PSA at UCB ($10K) and UCLA ($8K) are permanently funded.

The PSA held a contest to generate a new, more sophisticated logo for the organization.

New Business
The Library
Karen Butter reports that The Collaborative Learning Environment (CLE) has replaced the WebCT platform on campus. The CLE is a virtual environment used by faculty and students in the professional schools; it is not simply a way to share PowerPoint slides; rather it is a community that advances learning and knowledge creation. There are many potential applications. The CLE is a web-based platform that links the physical and virtual environment. Faculty often use the CLE to share content with students and ask them to study it prior to class, administer quizzes, etc.

The core CLE module employs standards solutions. This means that it interfaces with other applications such as Electronic Portfolio, interfacing with the Registrar to capture student information, Learning Objections Repository, Podcasts/Lectures, etc.

Today we have approximately 800 CLE courses; As of September all courses have migrated from WebCT into the CLE. The library is working with Student Information Systems to try to automate the enrollment process. 4890 users have logged into the CLE since its launch; 2910 total users have logged in since November. The system is being utilized throughout the professional schools; a staff of three work with faculty to offer training, support, and development. News of the CLE should be shared specifically with program directors going forward.

The second floor of the library will be repurposed into a Teaching and Learning Centers; the floor will close and construction will begin in mid February and reopen in November 2010. The floor will house three functions 1) Clinical simulation 2) Small group classroom 3) Student computing lab.

In recent months, the library has had to make significant cuts to online journal subscriptions. Most of our access to online materials occurs via consortia licenses with the other 10 UC libraries. We purchase a variety of journal “packages.” This year we are focusing on five packages for cuts:
1) InformalHealthCare (25 titles currently identified)
2) Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (20 titles currently identified)
3) Mary Ann Liebert (30 titles currently identified)
4) Taylor & Francis (90 titles currently identified)
5) Wiley/Blackwell (65 titles currently identified)
The attached document provided by the ‘Online Journal Cancellation Project Committee’ identifies the specific journal titles slated for cancellation that are most relevant to subject areas at UCSF.

In 2006 the library and the Graduate Division began a process that would eliminate the need for the submission of paper theses and dissertations. As of 2008 we only handle electronic submissions.

**BMS Program Review**

The external reviewers came away very impressed with the BMS program. The faculty and students received high marks, but the program is short on resources and this shortage is evident in a variety of ways.

-- the program has had to enroll smaller number of students than the programs obvious capacity would suggest; the student population falls short of a critical mass.
-- many faculty do not have graduate students.
-- more faculty will be hired to fill labs a Mission Bay; this will add to the unwelcome faculty/student ratio.
-- the administrative support for the program is insufficient.
-- IT support is almost non-existent.

One of the questions raised by the reviewers is how BMS decided on thematic areas in the program. One of the reviewers noted the absence of metabolism as a thematic area. The program lacks a formal process for developing thematic areas.

The level of interaction between BMS students and students in other programs (TETRAD, Neuroscience, etc.) was felt to be low. While this (or the perception of this) may be true at Parnassus, it is not true at Mission Bay.

Five years ago, the stipend for BMS students was at the top of the competitive field; today that is no longer true. Current students have been vocal about this and observed that prospective students have elected to go elsewhere because the stipend here is no longer considered competitive; Rockefeller pays $30K, UCSD is $28.5K.

A range of recommendations are indicated in the report.

**Revising the Medical Student’s Requirements for the Master’s Degree**

Chair Watkins, Dean Calarco met with Helen Loeser, Dan Lowenstein, and David Irby in crafting the new (ambiguous) language of the revised option/requirements.

Question: who decides to accept double coursework or the transfer of credit?
Answer: the Master’s program; it does not need to go to Graduate Division. In any case the decision is not made by the Medical School.

The language of this option will be revised and share with Council members via email for approval; once that approval is secured the revision will be forwarded to the Deans.

**Old Business**

None.

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

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