The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Beattie on January 13, 2011 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of November 4, 2010 were approved.

Chair’s Report – Michael Beattie
The Academic Senate Coordinating Committee approved the proposal for a self supporting Master’s in Translational Medicine.

A new UC-HBCU Initiative will encourage scholars from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to enroll in UC academic doctoral programs. UC faculty grants are available to support HBCU students conducting summer research with UC faculty at a UC campus. Funds are also available to support departmental efforts to facilitate increased applications from HBCU scholars to UC graduate programs.

The results of a 2010 Graduate Student Support Survey reveal that UC offers of financial support deteriorate relative to offers from top-choice non-UC institutions between 2007 and 2010. Weakness in the competitiveness of UC offers was magnified by the cost of living differential between UC campuses and top-choice non-UC institutions. Among prospective graduate students, UC rates highly and comparably to competing institutions with respect to academic reputation and diversity, but rates lower in terms of financial support and cost of living.

CCGA is currently reviewing the self-supporting Biomedical Imaging proposal we previously submitted.

Vice Chair’s Report
None.
**Dean’s Report – Patricia Calarco**
The three year accreditation of our campus is effectively complete and the final Report will be presented on February 17 to the WASC group. If the Report is accepted we will not undergo accreditation for another ten years. One of the recommendations from the report is that we include in our review of academic programs wording that speaks to student learning outcomes.

We have a robust Summer Research Training Program (SRTP); this competitive program trains approximately 70 students who are primarily under-represented minorities. This program is in addition the newly announced UC-HBCU initiative.

Entering graduate students in the basic sciences are fully supported; because of our competitive nature and because our class science in basic sciences has decreased 34% over the past five years, our Provost has proposed that if Central funds can be found, our campus is poised to offer Central support for one year for all entering basic science students. This will take pressure off the RO1 grants and contracts that currently support students and allow training grant funds to be used for the second year and part of the third year. Of course any new funds for basic science students frees up additional money for use in humanities and social science programs.

A centralized admissions process has been discussed over the years in several venues. Our applicants can only apply to one program, but a program may refer an applicant to a sister program if they feel the applicant would be a better match for that program.

**Senate Analyst’s Report**
None.

**Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais**
None.

**Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Rebecca Kaplan, GSA Representative**
The GSA is planning Careers and Research Days which will take place at the end of February. The keynote speaker will be the head of public outreach for Wikipedia. He will be speaking on Wikipedia in the academic setting.

The GSA will host an alumni dinner in the near future.

**Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – PSA Representative**
None.

**New & Ongoing Business**
CCGA has noted some trends of which we should be aware
• recently there has been a sharp increase in the number of self-supporting degree program proposals.

• professional programs, in addition to asking for tuition, may also demand a professional degree fee. The amount of this fee can vary depending on the area or profession. The purpose of this fee is to reimburse the department or program for any special needs or costs associated with educating the student (computer access, instrumentation, etc.). Other programs are starting to move into this realm of professional degree (for example a professional Master of Fine Arts degree) and the concern is that the rise of such programs is another march toward the privatization of the university. Ph.D. programs have historically been state supported by the state but if they move toward reconfiguring themselves as “professional” they may substantially raise the cost of obtaining the degree and in doing so cut off access to students of modest means. What will this move toward “professional” mean for academic standards.
• the imminent rise of online education within the system raises similar questions about academic rigor and quality.

Biological and Medical Informatics (BMI)
The academic program review response submitted to the Graduate Council addresses the Computational Biology and Bioinformatics track of the BMI program. The Clinical and Translational Informatics track will be addressed later as the CTI track has been suspended until further notice. We will invite Russ Cucina to attend a future meeting to discuss the future of the CTI track.

The CB&B portion of the review was largely positive; some minor issues were raised but they have been satisfactorily addressed by the program director Dr. Thomas Ferrin. The Council votes to accept the program response and will draft a letter to that effect.

Information Item
According to our campus Audit Department if a student or post-doc is supported 100% on an NIH grant they are prohibited from writing a grant for other sources of support. This is worth noting because historically, we have considered the (student) authoring of grants to be part of their training but doing so falls afool of Circular A21 and will not be allowed in the future; this news will be shared with campus faculty and will be the subject of discussion among campus leadership in the weeks and months ahead.

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