Minutes


Absent: T. Desai, R. Kaplan (GSA)

The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Beattie on March 10, 2011 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of February 10, 2010 were approved.

Chair’s Report – Michael Beattie
Recent CCGA discussions have centered on, among other things, the fact that research funds from UCOP, allocated on a competitive basis, are facing steep cuts.

The UCSF proposal for a self supporting MS Biomedical Imaging has been approved.

At the most recent Academic Senate Coordinating Committee meeting we learned that there is a Dependent Care program being put together by the Committee of Faculty Welfare to address compelling needs. For example, there are 176 openings for dependent child care at UCSF, but the waiting list for this service is 1300! This Dependent Care program will be available to all faculty, students, and staff. In addition, a back up Dependent Care offering is in the works; at the start of the year, for a fixed price, one could have access to a guaranteed week or two of care—in home or at a facility—to look after you, a dependent child, or dependent adult.

Vice Chair’s Report
None.

Dean’s Report – Patricia Calarco
Dean Calarco shared with the Council a spreadsheet summery of how all PhD students are supported annually on our campus. This includes central support, need based grants (from Student Financial Services), Training Grants, RO1, T32, Endowment & Gift Funds, School funds (from professional school Deans). We are heavily leveraged on the NIH, which is cause for concern because we expect substantial reductions in NIH funding in the near term.
In the upcoming fiscal year, UCOP is changing the manner by which fee income is returned to the campuses. Rather than taking all campus funds, retaining a portion, and then redistributing back to each campus, UCOP will allow all fee income to remain on each campus.

Projections show that if we returned from 100 students to 150 students in our graduate programs entering class, we would have a total of approximately $3 million that would be net “new” fee money/income.

**Senate Analyst’s Report**
None.

**Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais**
None.

**Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Rebecca Kaplan, GSA Representative**
None.

**Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Sandya Venugopal, PSA Representative**
None.

**New & Ongoing Business**
There is ongoing discussion about reducing the time to degree; as an institution and in individual labs we are wrestling with the tension between the efficiency of students finishing the degree and doing high quality work; here, as elsewhere, graduate students are often most productive in their last year or two in the graduate the program. Accordingly, there is an impulse on the part of some faculty to hold onto their very productive students. When multiplied across all programs this dynamic gives us an average time to degree of more than six years... a figure that we need to reduce.

In the competition for students we now find ourselves in an environment where talented students are being wooed by competitors with what are, in effect, signing bonuses of as much as $5000; some institutions are offered admitted students moving expenses, etc.

We are also concerned that some programs at UCSF are losing in the competition for the best students because students may only apply to one degree program at a time. A student not admitted to one program may be ideally suited to another program at UCSF (due to overlapping faculty interests), but because they may only apply to one program if they are not admitted to that program they are forced to go elsewhere. Historically, programs have tried to address this issue by working behind the scenes, as it were, to steer the application file of a student they might otherwise decline toward another UCSF graduate program that might be a better match for the student.

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