MINUTES


ABSENT: Patricia Babbitt, Mark Courey, Joseph Guydish

The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Beattie on October 14, 2010 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of September 9, 2010 were approved.

Chair’s Report – Michael Beattie
At the October 5th meeting of the CCGA the issue of post-employment benefits was discussed; this impacts graduate education to the extent that it is a retention issue for the faculty that train students. Changes are coming to our retirement plans; faculty will be asked to contribute more into the system. Similarly, UC itself will have to pay more into the system and this will represent funds that are not allocated in current budgets. Arguably this represents resources, some of which, might otherwise have gone into graduate education.

Committee members also noted that faculty reductions are taking place on some campuses through attrition; the number of ladder rank faculty across the system has actually declined for the first time in history. Of course, the question behind all of this is, how are we going to handle these reductions and maintain our quality?

CCGA and our own academic program reviews historically have focused on academic quality, but there is increasing conversation about looking at the budgetary and financial implications of new degree programs—even those labeled self-supporting. The “self-supporting” designation is potentially misleading as those programs also require university resources (space, etc.).

Vice Chair’s Report
None.

Dean’s Report – Patricia Calarco
Our campus is currently undergoing WASC accreditation, a process that we have been anticipating for the past three years. This has been an expensive and time consuming set of activities. WASC has accrued
to itself many more responsibilities than any other accrediting body in the nation, especially with respect to review of graduate programs. The head of WASC met with the head of the UC system and agreed that for strong performing Research 1 schools, the level of review that we have undergone is not needed; the review could be reduced to a single on-site visit and a series of reports.

This review focused on three goals: 1) Student learning Outcomes, 2) Diversity, and 3) The Learning Environment. The latter focuses on the Teaching and Learning Center on the second floor of the library, which will accommodate, among other things, Inter-Professional Education.

The NRC ratings have been revealed and UCSF did very well. Ten out of our twelve graduate programs touched the top six in the nation and three of them (Bioengineering, School of Nursing, and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) were clearly number one across the nation. This data is, of course, five years old.

Five representatives from the largest of our graduate programs (Tetrad, BMS, Bioengineering, Neuroscience, CCB) recently concluded a meeting with the Chancellor and the Provost. This meeting concluded with a commitment of funds to support the first year for students entering the basic science programs. This will leave training grants and central resources to support the second year and, as usual, by the third year students would go on to the RO1 for the sponsoring faculty member. The details are still to be determined, but this is good news for these programs and also good news for our social and behavioral programs; the infusion of new money into our support budgets means that existing money is better able to meet greater needs in other programs.

Our UDAR liaison recently reported the first Chancellor’s fellowship in the amount of $1 million! A second Chancellor’s fellowship is pending at $550,000! There has also been a commitment of money for the Physical Therapy program in the form of a challenge grant.

We have now published our first alumni directory.

Beginning January 1, 2011 the Graduate Division will resume funding of the Graduate Student Research Award and the Graduate Student Travel Award.

**Senate Analyst’s Report**
Committee on Committee is seeking two new additional members for the Graduate Council.

**Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais**
In light of the new union contract, in partnership with Employee and Labor Relations we are conducting training sessions for post-doc administrators at Mission Bay and Parnassus; we are also open to training with smaller groups if faculty and departments would like an overview of the implementation of the contract.

**Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Rebecca Kaplan, GSA Representative**
At the most recent GSA meeting students heard about a potential increase in professional fees for Nursing and Physical Therapy.

In an effort to improve communication among students, the GSA has set up a Twitter page, a Facebook page, and revised the GSA website.

Graduate students remain eager and available to work with faculty and UDAR to help with any fundraising efforts.

**Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Vuk Uskokovic, PSA Representative**
200-300 people turned out for the main event during post-doc appreciation week.
Post-docs are now unionized.

**New & Ongoing Business**
The Fellowship Subcommittee will consist of M. Beattie, T. Desai, R. Raffai, J. Saxe, and S. Baranzini

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