The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Raffai on January 12, 2012 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of November 10, 2011 were approved.

Chair’s Report – Robert Raffai
CCGA has not yet issued a clarifying policy on the issue of Self-supporting programs and whether or not students in a state-supported program may take a course that is offered in a self-supporting program. An policy is expected in the near future.

Discussions at CCGA about the evolution of online degree offerings at UC are ongoing. Issues of concern surrounding online degree offerings include: target audience, cost (infrastructure, tuition), admission standards, competition among UC campuses potentially offering the same online degree, etc.

Vice Chair’s Report
None.

Dean’s Report – Joseph Castro
The Graduate Dean search is in its final stages. A new Dean will be named forthwith.

Senate Analyst’s Report – Kate Dargan
A Faculty Research Lecture in basic science will take place on February 15, 2012 in Rock Hall from 3:30-5:30 followed by a reception.

Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais
None.
Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Report – Jason Tien, GSA Representative
None.

Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Lixian Zhong, PSA Representative
None.

New & Ongoing Business
Academic Review, Online Education, and Self-Supporting Programs
The Academic Senate is contemplating expanding the way we conduct Academic Program Reviews. The current process is essentially an exercise in how the program is performing; it rarely results in a negative review. Programs may use information in the review for training grant submissions, etc. It has proven to be a useful document for the Program. The Graduate Council and the Graduate Division have historically led the Academic Program Reviews. The Senate is proposing to involve other committees in the review process, specifically the Committee on Education Policy (CEP) and the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCOI).

For example, COCOI would look at proposed courses in a new program. CEP can look at a variety of issues such as how well the program is serving the State... How well is the program targeting the right students? What are the employment prospects for students in the program? For Self-supporting programs, the committee on Academic Planning and Budget (APB) can look at the fee structure. These other committees can examine aspects of the Program that are traditionally beyond the purview of the Graduate Council.

We expect that many more Self-supporting programs will be coming forward in the years ahead and some of them may be quite expensive. Sometimes it will be appropriate for a program to be expensive; if the program is targeting a population where cost is not a major concern (an executive MBA degree for example may be sponsored by a corporate employer who can readily afford the cost of the program). But some new programs may target an underserved population; when that happens, costs must be kept modest and/or a significant aid component needs to be part of the program. APB will examine these types of issues. In essence the Program Reviews will expand to include COCOI, APB, and CEP with Graduate Council leading the reviews.

We are moving in this direction because we expect a significant wave of new Self-supporting programs in the future and many of these programs will have an online component. Online education is obviously gaining momentum throughout the System. Thus far, talk of online education has focused on undergraduate education, but clearly graduate education will move into this realm as well.

Retroactive Change of Nursing DNS to PhD with Dean Vlahov
The attached proposal makes the case for retroactively changing the DNS to a PhD. This change was sparked by our DNS alumni many of whom are asking for this change. It appears that a number of our alumni find themselves in educational environments and are facing challenges from colleagues who do not understand the requirements for the DNS vs. the PhD. The Nursing profession has changed such that now there is a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). The existence of the DNS is now being viewed as a practice degree rather than the research degree it originally was.

Nursing did not start with a PhD in 1964 because the academic world, at that time did not think that Nursing as a discipline was ready for a PhD. Something similar has happened in the field of Public Health. If we now look at the requirements for a DNS vs. the requirements for a PhD they are effectively the same. Because they are the same, our Nursing DNS alumni are telling us that they are in environments where the PhD is simply better understood and the profession as a whole has changed such that we need a more streamlined treatment of our degrees. UCSF would not be the first institution to
make this kind of retroactive change. This has happened in other disciplines as well. Many schools of Social Work for example, have converted the DSW to the PhD.

Following deliberation, the Council declined to approve the proposal for a retroactive change and will ask for more information. Specifically, the Council would like to know:

• The academic difference between the DNS and the PhD; what were the qualifications for the DNS? What were the qualifications for the PhD?

• During the 10-20 year period when both degrees were offered what choices were provided to students to inform their decision-making about which degree they would pursue? How many chose to change from DNS to PhD when they had the option?

Master in Translational Medicine Proposal
The Council voted to approve the revised proposal for a Master in Translational Medicine, a joint degree between UCSF and UC Berkeley.

PI/Post-Doc HMO Premium policy
In 2008 a comprehensive policy was written to govern the status of post-docs and their benefits. Now that we have a union contract the policy guidelines have been rewritten. Post-docs are now required to contribute to their HMO medical plan, something they were not required to do prior to the union contract. At UCSF our past practice was to require the PI to cover the benefits for dependents as well; that will continue.

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