Graduate Council
Robert Raffai, PhD, Chair

Thursday, March 8, 2012
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Room U506

MINUTES


ABSENT: Chris Des Jarlais, Sergio Baranzini, Daniel Fried, Pamela England

GUESTS: Dean Vlahof, Robert Newcomer, Farid Chehab, Heather Alden

The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Raffai on March 8, 2012 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of February 9, 2012 were approved.

Chair’s Report – Robert Raffai
This month’s CCGA meeting was rather light and there were several new proposed Master’s programs Systemwide that received approval from the committee.

Discussions at the CCGA included the proposal for the unionization of Graduate students TA’s. UCOP is not favorable to this idea.

Vice Chair’s Report
None.

Dean’s Report – Joseph Castro
None.

Senate Analyst’s Report – Kate Dargan
On April 17 in Cole Hall, Allan Basbaum will receive the Academic Senate Faculty Research Lecture award for translation science for his work on the neurological basis of pain and pain control.

On April 27 the Distinction in Teaching and Distinction in Mentoring award will be given to faculty with a reception to follow.

Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine Des Jarlais
Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Jason Tien, GSA Representative
At the most recent GSA meeting the UCSF Ombuds made a presentation and detailed the resources of his office.

The GSA will host the Career and Research Day Alumni dinner next week. This is our annual opportunity to visit with alumni, network, and connect GSA members with recent graduates.

Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Lixian Zhong, PSA Representative
The PSA has only $6000 remaining in its account. The PSA is specifically asking all departments that host post-docs to donate $20 per post-doc but thus far only five departments have contributed which has generated $6300 for a three-year period.

New & Ongoing Business
Retroactive Change of Nursing DNS to PhD with Dean Vlahov
Concerns raised in our January 2012 deliberations prompted the Graduate Council to request additional information from the School of Nursing surrounding the proposed retroactive change of the Doctor of Nursing Science to a PhD for our Nursing alumni. The attached response from the School of Nursing addresses those questions. Following a questions and answers with Dean Vlahov a majority of the Council voted to approve (1 No vote and 1 Abstention) the retroactive conversation for those alumni who petition for a retroactive degree change.

“Future of UCSF" working group
As a follow up to the Chancellor’s presentation to the Regents in January 2012, Chair of the Academic Senate, Robert Newcomer, and Vice Chair Farid Chehab briefed the Council on the work of the Future of UCSF Working Group. The Group is meeting monthly with the expectation of producing recommendations for the Chancellor by the end of May. Within the Group, one track will deal with Governance; a second track will deal with Finance. The Group consists of UCLA Chancellor Gene Block, three officers from UCOP (N. Brostrom, J. Stobo, P. Taylor), Regent William De La Pena, Regent Leslie Schilling, UCSF Foundation member Bill Oberndorf, Dean Sam Hawgood, Senior Vice Chancellor, John Plotts, Medical Center CEO Mark Laret, Dean Koda-Kimble, and Lloyd Smith, former chair, professor and chair emeritus, UCSF Department of Medicine.

Without knowing what a change in governance would look like, the Group is asking the Council to weigh in on aspects of our relationship with the Senate or CCGA that we would want pull back from, be excluded from, or find detrimental. Similarly, what are some of the principles that we have as a faculty that we want to make visible when proposals and options begin to come forward from the Group? Obviously, academic freedom would be foremost first among them. Issues not being discussed by the Group include:
• privatization of UCSF
• separation from the UC System
• changing our participation in the UC Retirement System

The Group is looking at examples or case studies (both positive and negative) of other institutions that have modified their governance structures including University of Oregon, University of Florida, etc.