The Graduate Council was called to order by Chair Raffai on September 8, 2011 at 2:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of June 9, 2011 were approved.

**Chair’s Report – Robert Raffai**

None.

**Vice Chair’s Report**

None.

**Dean’s Report – Patricia Calarco**

Dean Calarco will step down as Dean on October 1st. Vice Chancellor, Joseph Castro will serve as Interim Dean until a permanent Dean is named.

Last year the Graduate Council voted on a proposal for a new joint Master of Translational Medicine degree with UC Berkeley. Because UCB has some differences in how it wants to award this degree (professional vs. academic MS) the joint proposal has been held in abeyance and revised so that it will better meet the requirements of both campuses. Details surrounding the budget, how fees are distributed, etc. are currently being revisited and resolved.

A First Year Funding Plan was proffered by the EVC-P and the Chancellor to bring in enough new sources of funding so that if funding for the basic sciences is reconfigured, we would be able to centrally support all first year students in basic sciences. This commitment of funds would likely be for three years. One benefit would be that training grants, which currently support first and second year students, could support second and third year students. This will enable us to reconfigure existing sources of support that will play out as providing relief to those PIs who are supporting students on their RO1s. The EVC-P has indicated a desire for funding to be front-loaded. This will enable our campus to say that we have Central
support of graduate education. In exchange for this support our programs will be expected to move downward from a 6.3 time-to-degree toward the 5-year mark recognizing that the practicality of this will vary from program to program. Meeting this goal will require a change in perception and priorities for both faculty and students. This funding model for students will be implemented in Fall 2012.

Our online application system has implemented a new option suggested by Christian Vaisse; students seeking to apply to our basic sciences programs now have an option to review how to choose the right Ph.D. program at UCSF. The option was suggested due to a perceived web based bias for applicants to some programs. For example, applicants to BMS were mostly interested in immunology, virology, cancer, etc. but how students came to the program via web referrals were predisposing them to certain areas.

Another issue is the unification of recruitment of students for basic sciences. If students are not accepted into one of the bigger programs, they may still be considered for one of the smaller programs or vice versa. Applying to UCSF means applying to only one program, and in the past, we have tried to redirect some students (who have been rejected by their choice program) toward a suitable program. The future goal is to allow students to apply to one program but also rank two additional programs they might be interested in if their first choice is unavailable. There remains some debate among program directors about the suitability of this, and given the time constraints we were facing, coding the online system to implement this approach was not possible, but we do have an agreement among all the program directors to share their “select list” with one another.

**Senate Analyst’s Report – Kate Dargan**
On October 24th the Faculty Research Lecture will be presented by Eric J. Small, MD.

**Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais**
In January of 2012 post-doctoral scholars will have to begin making small contributions for their benefits plan.

**Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Jason Tien, GSA Representative**
The GSA has drafted a letter to the Chancellor asking her to prioritize the creation of library/study space for students at Mission Bay; the current “library” in the Rutter Center is not suitable for studying.

The GSA would like to work with the new Graduate Dean to establish a mechanism to inform students about the payroll withholding that will take place during the summer months. When students are no longer on training grants (third year and above) during the school year they have no withholdings, but during the summer they are considered employees and subject to withholding (7.5%) which is deposited into the UC retirement plan. Because most students enter the system two years before this occurs most of them are not aware of how to access or administer their retirement plan.

One or more students have reported that the program they are enrolled in may not be able to deliver the level of funding promised to the student. And students already in the program might lose the support they currently have. The GSA would like to work with the new Graduate Dean to establish an emergency fund to address this kind of shortfall in the future.

The GSA is also concerned about conference travel. Last year when the Graduate Division cut back on supporting conference travel for students, the GSA was able to use its own resources to assist students. The GSA is hoping to build a stable funding stream to support student travel.

**Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Sandya Venugopal, PSA Representative**
None.
New & Ongoing Business
The Graduate Students Bill of Rights document was developed by the UC Students Association. Eventually the UCSA would like to bring some version of this document before the Regents. We are asking the Graduate Council to weigh in on whether or not the terms outlined in this document are consistent with the policies at UCSF.

The Council provides provisional support for the student's Bill of Rights but may likely not provide formal endorsement and approval of the document as it is unclear whether this falls within the mission of the Council.

Biophysics Program Review
The Council is satisfied that the response from Biophysics satisfactorily addresses the issues raised in the review and that the Biophysics Program remains excellent in its academic and training mission.

Oral & Oral & Craniofacial Sciences Academic Program Review
The program is characterized by three tracks: Cell and Mesenchymal Biology (CMB), Biomaterial and Bioengineering Sciences (BBS), and Clinical and Translational Science (CTS). And by three types of learners: PhD, PhD/DDS, and postdoctoral trainees who already have a DDS . . . Review of this program will continue in November.

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