Graduate Council
Robert Raffai, PhD, Chair

Thursday, November 10, 2011
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Room S-936

MINUTES


ABSENT: Mark Courey, Sergio Baranzini, Pamela England, JoAnne Saxe

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

The minutes of October 13, 2011 were approved.

Chair’s Report – Robert Raffai
Steve Beckwith, the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at UCOP is heading a taskforce to address the economic impact on graduate education within UC. In addition to raising tuition fees for undergraduate and professional school students the Regents, at a meeting in March, are considering the possibility of raising fees for graduate students. This poses a problem because tuition and fees for graduate students in the basic sciences are often picked up by faculty. It is becoming more difficult for faculty to justify taking on additional students and the fees that accompany them. This taskforce will seek to educate the Regents about the implications of raising fees for graduate education. Understandably, the Regents want to be fair so their impulse may be to raise fees for everyone, as necessary, but many of them have not necessarily gone through the graduate education pipeline and may not appreciate the ripple effect of raising fees for graduate students—particularly in the sciences.

Beckwith has suggested that UC may want to consider the model of funding graduate education at other institutions. At Stanford, for example, there is no distinction drawn between resident and nonresident students where tuition is concerned. At UC nonresident students must pay a great deal more which makes it more difficult to recruit nonresident students and more difficult to accept them.

Vice Chair’s Report
None.

Dean’s Report – Joseph Castro
The Dean met with UC Provost Larry Pitts on 11/3/2011 to discuss a wide range of issues including graduate fellowship support. Pitts was given a letter by students in our sociology program outlining their
concerns about inadequate funding. Accordingly, the Dean in considering some strategies to provide additional support for this important program.

Student research and travel award applications are now being accepted. This includes Graduate Student Research Award (a one time research grant of up to $3000) and the Earl C. Anthony Travel Award, which provides up to $1000 for travel expenses.

The Graduate Division Commencement is scheduled for May 18, at 10:00am

A “hybrid” online master’s degree is under consideration by the School of Nursing. The degree would focus on Leadership and Change with a target audience of mid-level and high-level leaders. The target date for this degree is Fall 2013. Dean Vlahov and his team have been encouraged to come to the Graduate Council at the earliest possible date to outline the program so that the Council will have a clear sense of what this degree offering is trying to accomplish before it is formally reviewed.

**Senate Analyst’s Report**
We have lost our priority access for use of the Chancellor’s conference rooms. Accordingly, future meetings of the Council will be held in U506.

**Postdoctoral Scholars – Christine DesJarlais**
A speed-mentoring event will take place on January 26 to help individual post-docs for quick sessions of mentoring.

**Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Report – Jason Tien, GSA Representative**
The twenty student associations at UC (Grad and Undergrad) are asking the Regents for an additional two positions occupied by students on the Board of Regents. Students now pay more in tuition to support the University than the state of California does.

Wikipedia has been trying to collaborate with universities to improve articles on a number of (scientific) topics. They are partnering with teachers and faculty to have graduate students bring their expertise to the activity of editing pages (on a molecule for example). The GSA has been in dialogue with Wikipedia about this.

**Postdoctoral Scholars Association Report – Lixian Zhong, PSA Representative**
The new PSA representative is Lixian Zhong.
The PSA recently hosted a booth at the Bay Area Science Festival that was well received. The PSA is coordinating the upcoming national post-doctoral association conference that will be held here in San Francisco in March of 2012.

**New & Ongoing Business**

**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. Strengths of the program include physical facilities, space, faculty, student morale.

At the time of the program review the T-90 training grant received a low score and was not renewed. The grant is being revised and prepared for resubmission.

**Fellowship Sub-Committee**
The subcommittee discusses and reviews nominations for those competing for funds from the Graduate Dean. The subcommittee will consist of Dorothy Porter, Ed Murphy, Pam England, Mark Seielstad, and Susan Miller.
Course Review Subcommittee
Rather than appoint a course review subcommittee from members of the Graduate Council, the Council has decided to partner with the COCOI Chair, Anthony Hunt, in recruiting faculty from the various programs to serve as reviewers for new and emended courses.

Peter Taylor, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division
peter.taylor@ucsf.edu; 415-502-3224

Senate Analyst: Kathleen Dargan
alison.cleaver@ucsf.edu; 415-476-3808