

**Graduate Council
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023
220 University Office Building**

Present:

Christiane Weirauch, Chair, Entomology
Tanya Nieri, Vice Chair and CCGA Representative, Sociology
Djurdjica Coss, School of Medicine
Todd Fiacco, MCSB
Long Gao, School of Business
Wee Liang Gan, Mathematics
Thomas Girke, Botany & Plant Sciences
Anthonia Kalu, Comparative Literature & Languages
Tae Hwy Lee, Economics
David Oglesby, Earth Sciences
Jonathan Ritter, Music
Hideaki Tsutsui, Mechanical Engineering
Nanpeng Yu, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Graduate Dean Bowler, ex officio
Ivett Gabriella, GSA President, guest
Marina Murillo, GSA Vice President, guest

Absent:

Hai-Bo Yu, Physics & Astronomy
Weiwei Zhang, Psychology

Graduate Council approved the February 16, 2023 minutes as written.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Weirauch reported that at the February PhD Funding Work Group meeting, Provost Watkins asked Senate colleagues to voice their perception about what is going on at the moment. They all agreed there is a lot of anxiety among faculty and the expectation is that faculty will need to carry most of the burden without having any input. The effect of contracts on graduate student/mentor relationships was discussed. Provost Watkins' offer of funding was a nice gesture, but it may not be enough. Some members of the work group stressed that they felt endowments are a viable way forward. Some Deans pointed to lack of understanding regarding advocacy to legislature, faculty are extremely naive. There was a question about the ideal PI/student ratio and some felt there should be no more than 2 students per faculty at any given time, but there was not much follow up with this question. April 5th is the next working group meeting.

Chair Weirauch reported on the February 27th Executive Council (EC) meeting in which there was an executive session regarding the VPDGS search. The decision was made to write a memo to Provost Watkins voicing EC's opinion, FECs were also going to write memos. Provost Watkins came to the EC meeting to talk about PhD funding and what the Senate can do. There may need to be a review of TA workload, it's not equitable across disciplines. Reshaping PhD programs into the future – how are we doing with graduation rates & placement? From the EC roundtable – the P&B Chair reported back from systemwide – the union is negotiating permanent top-ups (anything

that can be interpreted as wages). Regarding the Beacon situation with the Business school, P&B drafted a memo that EC will co-sign and send on to campus administration.

Chair Weirauch gave an update from the VPDGS search committee – only about 1% of faculty responded to the faculty survey about the two candidates which was interpreted as faculty do not care. Chair Weirauch argued that faculty do not feel like they are being heard which is why the response rate is so low. A decision will be made is all that Provost Watkins said.

CCGA Representative Announcements

Vice Chair Nieri reported that CCGA announced Prof. Newman is releasing a comprehensive report on the aftermath of the strike (due in mid-April). UCR's Microbiology 4+1 proposal was approved. 299 courses were discussed – draft guidelines (not policy) on what to do is available. Clarifying at UC level terms about hybrid, online, etc. was discussed as was distinguishing online programs vs online courses. New Senate regulations 610 & 630 that the Senate endorsed having to do with online and campus experience were discussed.

GSA Representative(s) Announcements

GSA representatives reported that GSA completed the Bill of Rights draft; they are soliciting feedback from GSA now and then it will move forward to Assoc. Dean Sweeny. Grad Bash is today at 5:30pm at the Getaway Café. GSA members are going to Washington DC in March where student housing, DACA students, and student disability issues will be discussed. GSA will also be in Sacramento in April. GSA is opening applications for elections for GSA offices next year.

Graduate Dean Announcements

Graduate Dean Bowler reported that this has been a cool term, a challenge, thanks to all faculty, staff, and students. Dean Bowler reported that housing is a real issue; the campus does not have a plan other than building buildings for undergraduates. There has not been a big enough increase in family housing. UCR does not do top-ups, they are something the richer campuses do. Top-ups are payments to TAs on top of the TA salary. The ratio of students to faculty varies a lot by college. Applications – Graduate Division is still behind where they hoped to be, about 6 weeks delayed. Over 950 funded offers have been sent out. Graduate Division is aiming to admit about 400 students. CHASS has been hit hard by turnover and staffing issues. Timesheets for GSRs are being discussed. Emma Wilson and Kate Sweeny have both agreed to stay on as Assoc. Deans of the Graduate Division. Grad Slam last week was great! UC Irvine Graduate Dean Gillian Hayes will be on campus April 20th to visit and is happy to meet anyone in person.

Courses & Programs

- A. Music – *approved.*
- B. BA/MPP – *approved.*
- C. MPP – *approved.*

Graduate Program Reviews

- A. **History F&R** – approved as written.

Finalize memo to Ethnic Studies regarding PhD committee exceptions

The Council discussed the draft memo and made revisions. The Council approved the revised draft to forward on to the program, Prof. Rodriguez, and the Graduate Division.

PhD funding & the future of PhD education

The Council discussed PhD funding and the future of PhD education and added notes to the Council's draft document.