

[Graduate Council (GC)]

LAUC-I Academic Senate Representative: Matthew Roberts

2016-2017 Report

Submitted to General Membership: 22 August 2016

Submitted by: Matthew Roberts (Term Ending Summer 2018)

Council/Committee Name (acronym): GC

Council/Committee Charge:

1. Responsibilities:

Graduate Council Bylaw: Irvine Bylaw 100

Formulate for submission to the Divisional Senate Assembly rules and regulations governing graduate education and advise the Chancellor on all matters relating to graduate work on the Irvine campus.

Maintain liaison with the University Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs.

Monitor and ensure quality and diversity in graduate programs.

Assume the responsibilities enumerated in Senate Bylaw 330.

Link to Council/Committee Website: <http://senate.uci.edu/committees/councils/graduate-council-gc/>

Frequency of Meetings: Monthly, 3 hour meeting

Major Activities:

Graduate Council is a committee of the Academic Senate comprised of faculty participating in shared governance. Under the leadership of the GC Chair the Council oversees all academic matters related to graduate education at UC Irvine. Graduate Council is staffed by Principal Policy Analyst, Adriana Collins who can be reached at ajcollin@uci.edu. Non-voting members include three Graduate Student representatives appointed by AGS, and select Consultants from the Library and Graduate Division.

Graduate Council's major activities include:

- Reviewing proposals for new grad degree programs
- Reviewing modification requests for existing grad degree programs
- Reviewing changes to graduate policies
- Reviewing new and revised graduate courses
- Conducting periodic reviews of all existing graduate programs

Issues of Concern to the Libraries:

1. Graduate Student Enrollment Projections.

A. During the course of the next 5 years, UCI expects to increase its graduate student enrollment. This raises a bit of a concern for many programs, particularly those in the sciences, which require grant funding to sustain their respective graduate programs. However, plans are in the work to supplement potential funding gaps, and UCI is currently investigating measures to sustain the growth of graduate programs.

B. Graduate Student Enrollment Growth per Campus/Program (Change in Ph.D. student population, from 2015-2022).

Art: Increase of 113%

Biological Sciences: Increase of 48%

Business: Increase of 39%

Education: Increase of 39%

Humanities: Decrease of 30%

ICS: Increase of 45%

Physical Sciences: Increase of 39%

Social Ecology: Increase of 39%

Social Sciences: Increase of 45%

Networked Systems: Increase of 67%

Pharmacological Sciences: Increase of 129%

Medicine: Increase of 43%

Nursing Science: Increase of 43%

2. Interdisciplinary Research

Report of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Research and Training Committee.

Graduate students' research is often inter-disciplinary. However, discipline based departments often do not have the structure to support this research, while inter-disciplinary programs often

lack the cohesiveness of an academic department. A graduate student in Culture and Theory represents this issue: on the one hand, the Culture and Theory program provides them with access to faculty from a wide variety of departments so as to reflect the nature of the students' work. Yet, the student believed that graduate students in discipline based humanities' departments possess greater access to the theoretical training that would help the student to better formulate the implications of her research.

Potential solutions include:

Develop Innovative Structures
Allocate Resources at the Program Level
Pursue Interdisciplinary Funding Opportunities
Award Mini-grants to Incubate Interdisciplinary Initiatives
Incentivize Faculty Participation and Leadership
Facilitate Individualized Student Training
Address Faculty and Student Workload

3. Mentor Program

GC approval pending for Graduate Mentoring Guidelines. UC system looking to facilitate faculty mentor program. Faculty mentor has duties that are distinct from the advisor. They include

- Mentors provide constructive advice and guide the professional development of students.
- Mentors affirm students' pursuit of health and wellness, as well as professional skills beyond research which are necessary to career success.
- Mentors encourage students' participation in appropriate professional meetings of national and regional groups and societies.
- Mentors share their resources and connections to facilitate interaction with other scholars, both on campus and in the wider professional community.
- Mentors assist with applications for research funding, fellowship applications, and other applications specific to the program or discipline.
- Mentors provide career guidance, assistance in the preparation of a CV and/or resume, coaching for job interviews, and writing letters of recommendation in a timely manner.
- Mentors direct graduate students to various career resources available at the Graduate Resource Center (GRC) and UCI Career Center (workshops, career fairs, etc.)
- Mentors recognize that there are a variety of career options available to their students and encourage students to explore multiple career paths.

Recommendations for New Reps/New Year:

I determined the recommendations due to the issues that are of most relevant to the UCI Libraries.

1. The UCI Libraries should assess which services and resources will contribute to, and reflect the interests of, graduate student enrollment projections for 2022.
2. Interdisciplinary work continues to grow, while individual research librarians have varying strategies for collection development and public service. The development of library resources and services should, however, reflect the interdisciplinary work of both graduate students and faculty, and PODS should continue to discuss best practices to support this scholarly trend.
3. The Graduate Student Mentoring Program provides many suggestions for how faculty can better support graduate students. If these guidelines are approved and left to the individual departments to implement, the program provides a useful structure for liaison librarians who seek opportunities to demonstrate the important of the UCI Libraries research and teaching resources. In other words, the Mentoring Program could provide research librarians with a platform to develop stronger connections with members of the departments to which they liaise.