I. COUNCIL OPERATIONS
The Council met 9 times during the 2015-16 academic year and was led by Chair, David Brownstone. Susan Charles served as the Vice Chair and UCI representative to the University wide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) and attended monthly CCGA meetings up at the UC Office of the President.

II. GRADUATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Senate Members (voting)
Jaymi Lee Smith, Arts
Jennifer Martiny, Biological Sciences
Mireille Jacobson, Business
Carol Booth Olson, Education
Lizhi Sun, Engineering
Lorraine Evangelista, Health Sciences
Bonnie Kent, Humanities
Rina Dechter, ICS
David Min, Law
Qing Nie, Physical Sciences
Susan Charles, Social Ecology
David Brownstone, Social Sciences (*Chair)

Principal Policy Analyst (non-voting)
Adriana Collins, UC Irvine Academic Senate

Ex-Officio (non-voting)
Frances Leslie, Dean, Graduate Division
Gopi Meenakshisundaram, Chair of the Academic Program Review Board
Frank Wilderson, Chair, Subcommittee on International Education

Associated Graduate Students (AGS) Representatives (non-voting)
Sifat Reazi, Jake Yocham, Aaron Freidman

Consultants (non-voting)
Aliya Hassan, University Editor, Registrar
Barbara Richmond, Systems and Communications Analyst
Matthew Roberts, Librarians Association
Susan Coutin, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Graduate Division
Ruth Quinnan, Director, Admissions & Enrolled Student Services, Graduate Division
Kate Triglia, Graduate Academic Program Director, Graduate Division
*Andrea Bannigan, Senior Enrolled Services Analyst, Graduate Division
*Consultant for the Subcommittee for Graduate Courses and Program Modifications
II. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEWS

The Academic Program Review Board is made up of a Chair and two representatives from both Graduate Council and the Council on Educational Policy. This year’s board included: Gopi Meenakshisundaram (Chair), Rina Dechter, Qing Nie, Christopher Schwarz, and Zuzana Bic.

A. One Year follow up on the Paul Merage School of Business 2014-15 External Review

a. At the June 11, 2015 Graduate Council meeting, members reviewed the External Review Committee’s Report as well as the School’s response to it. Graduate Council was impressed overall with the review but highlighted one area of concern which was the development of new Self-Supporting graduate degree programs. It was hard to envision, with existing faculty numbers, how new cohorts of students from these master’s programs would be adequately taught. The Council inquired if the School planned to further augment their pool of lecturers in order to staff these new programs and, if not, how this would affect existing undergraduate and graduate programs in the School. Additionally, the Council wondered how this would affect accreditation. Lastly, the Council asked the School for their plans to reduce the TA load of Ph.D. students. The School of Business was asked to provide a response to Graduate Council by January 15, 2016.

b. The School of Business provided their response to Graduate Council by the January 15, 2016 deadline and addressed Council concerns regarding faculty coverage and increased teaching loads brought on by additional Self-Supporting graduate degree programs (*2 were submitted during the 2015-16 academic year; the Master of Finance and the Master of Business Analytics). The School of Business also provided information on how they prepare for accreditation and address what is required by the accreditation body, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Regarding the inquiry of TA load for Ph.D. students, the School of Business reported that there is no short-term solution but one option is to grow the doctoral program. This will be possible with the increase of faculty and as they obtain more resources. The School stated that concerns raised by the Graduate Council are shared by their own faculty and are part of their internal discussions as they seek to continually improve the quality of their academic programs.

B. Henry Samueli School of Engineering (2015-16 Review)

a. The External Review Committee, consisting of 13 faculty members from other institutions, took part in a three-day review during April 6-8, 2016, of the departments and programs in the Henry Samueli School of Engineering at UC Irvine. Self-study reports written by the departments and school were provided in advance to inform the review team. The External Review Committee report consists of five departmental reviews, two reviews of schoolwide master’s degree programs, and an overall review of the school.
b. The report was submitted by the External Review Committee on May 19, 2016 and immediately transmitted to the School of Engineering for review and a formal response to be reviewed by the Senate. The School of Engineering submitted their response June 30, 2016. Both documents will be reviewed by the Graduate Council, along with the Council on Educational Policy, at the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year. The final packet will be sent to the Senate Cabinet, EVC & Provost and Deans of the Division of Undergraduate Education and Graduate Division once Graduate Council and the Council on Educational Policy has had time to review and respond to both reports.

C. The 2016-17 Academic Review will be on the School of Physical Sciences
a. In May 2016 the School was notified about their upcoming scheduled review. In June the APRB Chair and Analyst met with the Dean and Associate Deans to give an overview of the process and timeline. Following the meeting, the School provided APRB with a list of suggested external reviewers for each department, potential dates for the 3 day review and the staff contact person to help coordinate the review. The Dean also notified faculty, students and staff about the upcoming review and encouraged participation in the forthcoming surveys from the Senate.
b. As of August 30, 2016:
   i. The 3 day external review date has been set for March 8-10, 2016; with March 1-3, 2016 as a back-up option.
   ii. Both the graduate and faculty surveys have been sent out and several reminders have accompanied them. At this point the response rates for both surveys are too low to produce results that would be useful so additional reminder emails are being sent to non-respondents. The surveys will close on September 30th.
c. Still to come:
   i. This Fall, APRB will begin recruiting the external review committee, the survey reports will be received and the School of Physical Sciences will submit their Self-Study report by December 16, 2016.

III. PROPOSALS FOR NEW GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

A. Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP)
   1. Master of Conservation and Restoration Science – Proposed by the School of Biological Sciences
      i. Graduate Council (Initial review): November 12, 2015
      ii. Council on Planning and Budget (approval): April 21, 2016
      iii. Graduate Council (approval): May 2, 2016
      iv. Senate Cabinet (endorsement): June 7, 2016
      vii. Sent to UC Provost and CCGA for review: August 12, 2016
2. Master of Finance – Proposed by the Paul Merage School of Business
   i. Graduate Council (Initial review): November 12, 2015
   ii. Council on Planning and Budget (approval): November 20, 2015
   iii. Graduate Council (approval): February 11, 2016
   iv. Senate Cabinet (endorsement): February 16, 2016
   vi. Sent to UC Provost and CCGA for review: March 3, 2016
*Reviewed by CCGA in Spring 2016. Review will continue in Fall 2016

3. Master of Business Analytics - Proposed by the Paul Merage School of Business.
   i. Graduate Council (Initial review): April 14, 2016
   iii. Graduate Council (approval): May 12, 2016
   iv. Senate Cabinet (endorsement): June 7, 2016
   vii. Sent to UC Provost and CCGA for review: August 10, 2016

B. State-Supported Degree Programs
   1. Joint Doctoral degree program in Computational Science with UCI and San Diego State University
      i. Reviewed at April 14th and May 12th 2016 meeting. The Council conducted its 3rd review at the June 9th meeting. Council members appreciated the School’s thorough response to their concerns and made it clear that they are in favor of supporting this program. However a few remaining items were requested. The Council will continue its review of this proposal in the 2016-17 academic year.

C. 4+1 Bachelors/Master’s Degrees
   1. 4+1 BA/MA degree in European Thought and Culture
      i. At the January 14, 2016 meeting Graduate Council reviewed, for the second time, the proposal for a 4+1 BA/MA European Thought and Culture degree. This proposal was originally submitted for review at the November 6, 2014 Graduate Council meeting. The Council did not find the changes made to the proposal sufficient enough to warrant campus or CCGA approval. Therefore the Council decided to provide additional questions and feedback in hopes that a stronger, revised proposal be submitted. A third review was conducted at the May 12, 2016 meeting as well as a follow-up meeting with the GC Chair, Chair Elect, Principal Policy Analyst and the two lead faculty members on this proposal to help address concerns and create a proposal strong enough to warrant divisional and systemwide approval. The Graduate Council expects to receive a revised proposal for review in Fall 2016.

D. Concurrent Degree Programs
   1. JD/Masters of Urban and Regional Planning degree
      i. Approved at November 12, 2015 meeting
IV. PROPOSALS FOR NEW DEPARTMENT(S) AND SCHOOL(S)

A. African American Studies Department
   i. The Graduate Council reviewed the proposal for an African American Studies department at the October 8, 2015 meeting. The main question posed was, ‘What is the impact on graduate training and education?’ However, the proposal included no graduate existing programs to review. While the African American Studies program indicated they would create a graduate emphasis and 4+1 BA/MA program, those items were not in the department proposal so the Council could only comment on the existing Culture and Theory Ph.D. program, of which the African American Studies program was affiliated with.
   ii. The proposal was also reviewed by the Councils on Planning & Budget (CPB), Educational Policy (CEP), and Research Computing and Libraries (CORCL). It was approved at the November 17, 2015 Senate Cabinet meeting.

B. Bill and Sue Gross School of Nursing Science Proposal
   i. The Graduate Council reviewed the proposal at the May 12, 2016 meeting and voted to endorse it, with one recusal, subject to unit amending the proposal to explicitly state that the School and its programs will be subject to regular review by the Senate’s Academic Program Review Board (APRB).
   ii. The proposal was also reviewed by the Councils on Planning & Budget (CPB), Educational Policy (CEP), Research Computing and Libraries (CORCL), and Academic Personnel (CAP). It was approved at the August 30, 2016 Senate Cabinet meeting.

V. PROPOSALS FOR NEW GRADUATE EMPHASES OR CONCENTRATIONS

A. MFA in Drama – Proposal for an emphasis in Music Direction
   i. Approved at the October 8, 2015 meeting

B. Proposal from the School of Social Sciences for an emphasis in International and Global Analysis
   i. Approved at the March 10, 2016 meeting

C. Proposal from the School of Social Sciences for a concentration in Monetary Banking for the Ph.D. in Economics
   i. Approved at the March 10, 2016 meeting

D. Proposal from Nursing Science for a concentration in Community and Population Health for the M.S. in Nursing degree
   i. Approved at the March 10, 2016 meeting

E. Proposal for an emphasis in Race and Justice Studies
   i. Approved at the May 12, 2016 meeting
   ii. *This is an interdisciplinary emphasis housed in the Department of Criminology, Law and offered to graduate students in state-supported programs from the Schools of Social Ecology, Social Sciences, Humanities and Law.
VI. PROGRAM MODIFICATION REQUESTS FOR EXISTING GRAD PROGRAMS

1. Claire Trevor School of the Arts
   a. MFA in Drama, Acting (approved October 2015)
   b. MFA in Drama, Stage Management (approved May 2016)

2. School of Biological Sciences
   a. M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (approved October 2015)

3. Paul Merage School of Business
   a. JD/MBA (approved December 2015)
   b. Executive MBA & Health Care Executive MBA (approved December 2015)
   c. MD/MBA (approved April 2016)
   d. MPAc (approved May 2016)
   e. Ph.D. in Business (approved May 2016)
   f. MPAc (approved June 2016)

4. School of Education
   a. Master of Arts in Teaching (approved November 2015)

5. Henry Samueli School of Engineering
   a. M.S. and Ph.D. in Materials and Manufacturing Technology (approved Jan. 2016)
   b. Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (approved April 2016)

6. School of Humanities
   b. Ph.D. in German (approved November 2015)
   c. Ph.D. in German (approved December 2015)
   d. M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish (approved April 2016)
   e. Ph.D. in English (approved May 2016)

7. Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science
   a. M.S. and Ph.D. in Statistics (approved February 2016)
   b. M.S. and Ph.D. in Software Engineering (approved April 2016)
   c. Ph.D. in Informatics (approved April 2016)

8. School of Social Ecology
   a. Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Behavior (approved January 2016)

9. Nursing Science Program
   a. M.S. in Nursing degree - Community and Population Health concentration (approved June 2016)

10. Interdisciplinary Programs
    a. Mathematical and Computational Biology (MCB) gateway program – updated bylaws (approved May 2016)
VII. SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS
A. Tri-campus Classics Ph.D. program (effective 11/12/2015 - remains suspended)
B. Culture and Theory Ph.D. program (effective 6/11/2015- remains suspended)
   i. At the May 12, 2016 Graduate Council meeting, the Council reviewed materials regarding the Culture and Theory Ph.D. program. After the meeting the Dean of Humanities as well as the Interim Director of the Culture and Theory program reached out to share additional information not previously provided to the Council. The Graduate Council Chair and Chair Elect also met with the Dean and Associate Dean over the summer to see if the program was making enough progress for the Council to lift the admissions suspension. Based on the information provided both parties agreed that the program is not ready yet, but the Council hopes the program will be ready to welcome a Fall 2018 cohort. The Council looks forward to receiving a report in the 2016-17 academic year showing that enough progress has been made so that the suspension can be lifted.
C. Teaching Credential program (effective 6/11/2015- remains suspended)
   i. Graduate Council approved the School of Education’s request to temporarily suspend the Teacher Credential program effective Fall 2016 through 2017-18.

VIII. GRADUATE EDUCATION & POLICY UPDATES
A. Graduate Admissions & Placement Data for Ph.D. programs: In 2014-15 the Council did a thorough review of all Ph.D. programs looking at data on the past five years of admissions, selectivity, and doctoral placement. Memos were sent to each School’s Dean and Associate Dean summarizing Graduate Council questions and concerns. In the 2015-16 fall and winter quarters the Council reviewed the Dean’s responses. The Council found the following School/Program’s response to their review satisfactory and thus concluded their review:
   1. Claire Trevor School of the Arts
   2. Paul Merage School of Business
   3. School of Biological Sciences
   4. School of Education
   5. Henry Samueli School of Engineering
   6. School of ICS
   7. School of Medicine
   8. School of Social Sciences
   9. Networked Systems
   10. Nursing Science
   11. Pharmaceutical Sciences
   12. Public Health
   
   ii. The Council sent back further comments and concerns to the following:
   1. School of Social Ecology (re. Social Ecology Ph.D. program)
   2. School of Physical Sciences (re. graduate diversity and climate/culture of inclusivity in the department of Chemistry)
   3. School of Humanities (re. tri-campus Classics Ph.D. program)
B. **Graduate Admissions & Placement Data for Master’s programs:** During the spring quarter the Council did a thorough review of all master’s programs looking at data on the past five years of admissions, selectivity, and doctoral placement. Follow-ups were sent to programs with low application and enrollment numbers.

C. **Interdisciplinary Graduate Degree Programs:** The Graduate Council Chair discussed the administrative, academic and financial challenges of interdisciplinary graduate degree programs with the Provost at the Senate Cabinet Lunch on February 11, 2016; an issue that has also been raised in previous Cabinet meetings. The GC Chair advocated for different structural incentives if more interdisciplinary programs are in the University’s plan.

D. **Proposals for new graduate courses:** The Council discussed whether or not they would require a department vote for all new course proposals. It was decided this would not be a requirement and left to the decision of individual Schools. The Chair advised the Subcommittee on Graduate Courses and Program Modifications to keep an eye on this as well as work to develop a course guideline document.

E. **Unofficial transcripts now accepted for application review:** At the April 14, 2016 meeting Graduate Council approved a proposal from Graduate Division to accept unofficial transcripts for application review. Under this new rule, applicants would be allowed to submit unofficial transcripts for admission review purposes but are required to submit their official transcripts upon admission. There are a number of advantages here, but the main ones include greater efficiency and lower cost incurred for applicants. A number of other leading institutions, including Harvard, MIT, Cornell, U of Arizona, U. of Chicago, U. Illinois, U. Washington, Columbia, accept unofficial transcripts as well as most UC campuses. Measures to prevent fraud are include cross checking the unofficial and official transcripts, with any discrepancy resulting in the rescission of the offer of admission. In a survey of UCI grad programs: 28 programs/schools were OK w/ unofficial transcripts being accepted under these conditions and 6 programs/Schools preferred official transcripts.

F. The Academic Disqualification Policy for graduate students at UC Irvine was updated and approved at November 12, 2015 meeting. The document can be found online at: [http://senate.uci.edu/committees/councils/graduate-council-gc/policies-and-procedures/](http://senate.uci.edu/committees/councils/graduate-council-gc/policies-and-procedures/)

G. The Mentoring/Advising Policy for graduate students at UC Irvine was updated and approved at January 14, 2016 meeting. The document can be found online at: [http://senate.uci.edu/committees/councils/graduate-council-gc/policies-and-procedures/](http://senate.uci.edu/committees/councils/graduate-council-gc/policies-and-procedures/)

V. **DIVISIONAL & SYSTEMWIDE SENATE ISSUES**
A. Updated Graduate Council Bylaws were approved at the May 17, 2016 Cabinet meeting and later at the June 2, 2016 Assembly meeting. They can be found online at: http://senate.uci.edu/committees/councils/graduate-council-gc/

B. Support Services for graduate students in Self-Supporting Programs (SSPs): In the winter and spring quarters of 2016 Graduate Council discussed the issue of “Student Services fees” being added, perhaps even required, to all SSP budgets. Right now SSPs at UCI do not budget for or pay the Student Services fee, which is $1,020 per student annually. Therefore, those graduate students, technically, don’t have access to services provided by the Counseling Center, Disability Center, Veteran Services, Campus Assault and Resource Center, etc. This issue was brought to the Council on Planning and Budget as well as the Senate Cabinet. Both entities endorsed the idea of student services fees being charged to graduate students in self-supporting programs so that all students have access to critical campus resources. At the June 9, 2016 meeting the Council agreed on the following classification of charges:

a. **Level 1:** Graduate students enrolled in full-time, in-residence self-supporting programs at UC Irvine will be assessed the same charge all state supported students pay. The annual level will be based on an amount equal to the annual fee level of the Regentally-approved UC systemwide mandatory Student Services Fee, net of the required return-to-aid component.

b. **Level 2:** Graduate students enrolled in in-residence part-time self-supporting programs that take place in the evenings and/or on the weekends will be charged a modified fee which provides access to mental health services as well as the Career Center.

c. **Level 3:** Graduate students enrolled in online self-supporting programs will be charged a modified fee which provides access to services provided through the Career Center.

C. Graduate Student Mental Health: The Medical Director of UC Health, Gina Flemming, reported at the November 12, 2015 CCGA meeting that mental health continues to be an issue for graduate students and that graduate students usually have higher demands for mental health services than undergraduates. At UCSD 40% of students who requested mental health services cited it was because of stress related to finances. This statistic brought up the question of how much distress is driven by financial concerns and the cost of living in California.

The UC Graduate Student Mental Health survey had a very high completion rate, with about 40 percent systemwide, and 30-60 percent depending on the campus. Raw data indicate that students felt that the top three priorities for the University relative to graduate students should be student mental health, financial resources, and career development. Full results will be reported at the November 2016 Council of Graduate Deans meeting. It was requested that CCGA also receive a
report in Fall 2016 so that the committee has an opportunity to ask questions and get additional information.

D. System-wide final review on proposed revisions to the President’s UC Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence policy
   a. In November 2015 our CCGA rep, Susan Charles, updated the Council on the University of California’s Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment policy while it was still in the draft phase. She reported that CCGA discussed the lingering issues related to this policy, as reporting situations for graduate students were still unclear. Since the policy was ambiguous, faculty expressed a need for clarity on what a graduate student’s level of responsibility is and how this policy would affect them both as individuals and state mandated reporters. CCGA asked campuses to clarify what training was provided for graduate students at their respective UC. Following this report, Graduate Council had a discussion about the policy, specifically over ‘positive consent,’ and understanding the definition of that as well as wondering if all graduate students be mandated reporters. The Graduate Division consultants reported that graduate students will be required to complete training and that there will be a hold on their course registration if the training is not completed. Graduate Division agreed to keep Graduate Council apprised of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) training that the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (OEOD) is developing.

   b. After consultation with local campuses and their Senate divisions, the UC Office of the President released the University of California Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment policy on January 1, 2016 which can be found online at: http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000385/SVSH. This policy applies to all University employees as well as undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. The policy also applies at all University campuses, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Medical Centers, the Office of the President, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and to all University programs and activities.

E. Budget update: In November 2015 CCGA reported that the Governor approved a budget to increase UC’s enrollment of California students by 5,000. It was unclear at that time if those figures included the increase of graduate students. At the July 5, 2016 CCGA meeting it was reported that the $6M allocation for UC graduate education, approved by the state legislature, was vetoed by the Governor.

F. A revised UC Policy on Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP) was released July 12, 2016 by President Napolitano. It can be found online at: http://policy.ucop.edu

VI. GRADUATE COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITY
A. Subcommittee for Graduate Courses and Program Modifications (Lizhi Sun, Bonnie Kent & Jennifer Martiny): The Subcommittee reviews all graduate course modifications, new course proposals, and request for graduate degree program modifications.

B. Subcommittee on International Education (Qing Nie): The Subcommittee on International Education consists of one Division member from each Faculty offering an undergraduate and graduate degree, as well as one representative from GC and the Council on Educational Policy.

IX. GRADUATE COUNCIL GUEST SPEAKERS
A. The UCI Libraries are composing a new strategic plan. Graduate Council Library Rep, Matthew Roberts invited Librarian, Emilee Matthews, to discuss the details of this plan, to solicit Graduate Council feedback, and learn ways in which they can support the Council as they focus on the future.
   a. The Council offered the following suggestions:
      1. The Library can help support the Council by helping faculty with data acquisition and data archiving (perhaps providing a template to assist with this process), better addressing issues of copyright with regards to faculty research, answering questions related to the UC’s Open Access policy, increasing visual and media resources, and helping make storage for faculty research data more seamless.