

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:

The Graduate Council respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2021-22 academic year.

I. COUNCIL OPERATIONS

The Graduate Council provides recommendations to the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), according to procedures adopted by the Division concerning: a. qualifications of departments and groups of departments for initiating new programs leading to existing graduate degrees; and b. new graduate degrees. The Council reports and makes recommendations to the Academic Senate Cabinet and Divisional Senate Assembly on rules and regulations governing graduate education, graduate work, and bylaws. The Council also advises the Chancellor on all matters relating to graduate education, policies, and work on the Irvine campus. Its duties and membership are described in Irvine Bylaw 100.

The Graduate Council met nine times this year in person and remotely via Zoom videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Arvind Rajaraman, Department of Physics and Astronomy in the School of Physical Sciences, chaired the Council in 2021-22 and served as CCGA representative. The Chair also represented the Council on the Academic Senate Cabinet, Divisional Senate Assembly, Steering Committee on Reaffirmation, and International Student Workgroup. Professor Erik Sudderth, Department of Computer Science in the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, served as Vice Chair. The Vice Chair also served as the Chair of the Graduate Council/Council on Planning and Budget Subcommittee on Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs) Three-Year Review. Members are assigned to various subcommittees as detailed in section XIII. Graduate Council Subcommittee Activities. In addition, Professor John Middlebrooks, Department of Otolaryngology in the School of Medicine, served on the Committee on Alternative Digital Credentials on behalf of Graduate Council. Attending regular Graduate Council meetings were 12 appointed members, the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of Graduate Division (ex officio), the Graduate Division consultants, the University Editor, the representative for the Librarians Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I), and the representatives for the Associated Graduate Students (AGS).

II. NEW GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

A. State-Supported Graduate Degree Programs – None

B. Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs) – None

III. NEW GRADUATE CONCENTRATIONS/EMPHASES/SPECIALIZATIONS – None

IV. DISCONTINUANCE OF GRADUATE CONCENTRATIONS/EMPHASES/SPECIALIZATIONS

- Concentration in Embedded Systems, MS in Information and Computer Science, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences: approved 4/14/22.

V. NEW CONCURRENT PROGRAM IN LAW AND GRADUATE STUDIES – None

VI. SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS AND DISCONTINUANCE OF PROGRAMS

- PhD in Social Ecology Core, School of Social Ecology: continued one-year suspension for 2023-24 admissions cycle – approved 6/24/22.

VII. DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS

- Establishment – Pre-Proposal for School of Population and Public Health: endorsed 10/14/21 and 4/14/22.

VIII. PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS TO DEGREE REQUIREMENTS OF EXISTING GRADUATE PROGRAMS

A. Claire Trevor School of the Arts

1. MFA in Music: approved 3/10/22.
2. PhD in History and Theory of Music: approved 3/10/22.
3. PhD in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology: approved 3/10/22.

B. School of Biological Sciences

1. MS with Concentration in Biotechnology: approved 10/14/21.
2. MS/PhD in Mathematical, Computational and Systems Biology: change in reporting dean – approved 11/4/21.

C. Paul Merage School of Business – None

D. School of Education – None

E. Henry Samueli School of Engineering

1. See VII.O Interdisciplinary Programs
2. See VII.P Multi-campus Program

F. School of Humanities

1. PhD in Spanish: approved 12/9/21.
2. Master of English (SSGPDP): approved 1/13/22.
3. PhD in Culture and Theory: approved 3/10/22.

G. Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

1. Master of Computer Science (SSGPDP): approved 4/14/22.
2. Master of Software Engineering (SSGPDP): approved 4/14/22.
3. MS in Informatics: approved 4/14/22.
4. MS/PhD in Software Engineering: approved 4/14/22.
5. MS/PhD in Computer Science: approved 5/12/22.
6. See VII.O Interdisciplinary Programs
7. See VII.P Multi-campus Program

H. School of Law – None

I. Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing – None

J. School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

- Doctor of Pharmacy (PDST): approved 3/10/22.

K. School of Physical Sciences

1. PhD in Mathematics: approved 4/14/22.
2. PhD in Physics: approved 4/14/22.

L. Program in Public Health

- MS/PhD in Environmental Health Sciences: approved 4/14/22.

M. School of Social Ecology

1. PhD in Social Ecology Core: approved 10/14/21 and 12/9/21.
2. Master of Urban and Regional Planning: approved 3/10/22.
3. PhD in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy: approved 6/9/22.

N. School of Social Sciences

- PhD in Global Studies: approved 3/10/22.

O. Interdisciplinary Programs

1. MS/PhD in Mathematical, Computational and Systems Biology: approved 11/4/21.
2. Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems (SSGPDP), Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences: approved 4/14/22 pending further review in Fall 2022.

P. Multi-Campus Program

- Joint Doctoral Program in Computational Science, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences and Henry Samueli School of Engineering with San Diego State University: approved 4/14/22.

IX. SELF-SUPPORTING GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS (SSGPDPs)

A. SSGPDP Three-Year Review – Continued from 2020-21

Meeting date: 10/14/21

Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems, Henry Samueli School of Engineering Graduate Council voted to reopen admissions to the program. The Council requested that the program report back after a full re-admissions cycle.

B. SSGPDP Three-Year Review

Meeting date: 4/14/22

1. MS in Business Analytics, Paul Merage School of Business Graduate Council concurs with the Subcommittee's positive recommendation and urges the program to improve on some aspects.
2. Master of Finance, Paul Merage School of Business Graduate Council concurs with the Subcommittee's positive recommendation and urges the program to improve on some aspects.
3. Master of Computer Science, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences Graduate Council concurs with the Subcommittee's positive recommendation and urges the program to improve on some aspects.
4. Master in Conservation and Restoration Science, School of Biological Sciences Graduate Council, on the recommendation of the Subcommittee, voted unanimously to urge the program to improve its performance and to report back in three years.

X. GRADUATE EDUCATION POLICY/ISSUES

A. Repeat of Critical Examinations

Meeting date: 10/14/21

The Council approved updates to the Graduate Policies and Procedures to allow the Graduate Dean to authorize additional exam attempts for students who are recommended for academic disqualification.

B. Catalogue Rights Policy

Meeting date: 10/14/21

The Council approved updates to the Graduate Policies and Procedures to formalize current practices of Catalogue rights for graduate students.

C. En Route Master's Degrees

Meeting date: 11/4/21

The Council approved updates to the Catalogue descriptions for some programs that allow students to earn a master's degree en route to the PhD. The revisions are to better align the Catalogue language with the Graduate Policies and Procedures on Second Advanced Degrees.

D. Diploma for PhD in Biomedical Sciences

Meeting date: 12/9/21

The Council approved a change in the certifying body for the diploma of the PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the School of Medicine to Graduate Council in alignment with all other graduate degrees with the exception of JD and MD degrees.

E. TA Remote Teaching Requests

Meeting date: 2/10/22

The Council considered the systemwide request to recommend policies and procedures for responding to remote teaching requests from Teaching Assistants or Teaching Associates that prioritize pedagogy and prevent disparities across academic units. The Council did not recognize the need for campuswide policies procedures and trusts that Deans and Department Chairs will continue to effectively manage this issue by allowing discretion to individual faculty on what works best for their classes and students.

F. Blanket Exceptions for MBA Applicants with GPAs below 3.0

Meeting date: 2/10/22

The Council reviewed the existing blanket exceptions for Master of Business Administration (MBA) applicants with GPAs below 3.0. The blanket exceptions were put in place in 1995 for the MBA programs. The Council voted unanimously to discontinue the blanket exceptions. The Council requests that the School of Business submit a program modification to formally change the admission requirements for the MBA programs.

G. Admissions Policy for Master's Programs in the Paul Merage School of Business

Meeting date: 5/12/22

Following the Council's discontinuance of the blanket exceptions for MBA applicants with GPAs below 3.0 in February 2022, the School of Business requested a permanent change of admission requirements such that applicants with an undergraduate GPA between 2.5 and 3.0 can be admitted to their master's programs without requiring an exception request, using the current holistic admissions process. The Council voted unanimously to approve the revised admissions policy for all professional master's programs in the School of Business, pending positive review by the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB). The Council will discuss CPB comments in Fall 2022.

H. Posthumous Graduate Degrees

Meeting date: 2/10/22

The Council approved a new policy awarding posthumous degrees by the Graduate Division to graduate students who pass away near the completion of their degree. The Graduate Division may issue a certificate of attendance should the conditions for awarding a posthumous degree not be met. The proposed policy will be added to the Graduate Policies and Procedures.

I. Bylaw 100. Graduate Council

Assessment of Learning Outcomes for Graduate Programs and Courses

Meeting dates: 1/13/22, 2/10/22, 3/10/22

In response to WASC accreditation requirements, the Council considered assessing learning outcomes for graduate programs and courses. The Council voted unanimously to revise its bylaw to include periodic reviews and evaluations of all graduate programs of study under its purview in coordination with the Council on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Academic Program Review Board.

J. Remote Instruction Exception for an Approved Disability Management Services Accommodation

Meeting date: 3/10/22

The Council adopted CEP guidelines on remote instruction exceptions for an approved Disability Management Services accommodation, to be applicable for graduate courses. The Council offers a temporary, one quarter/semester exemption from an in-person mode of instruction as accommodation with specific guidance on the virtual/remote exception.

K. Automatic Disqualification

Meeting dates: 2/10/22, 3/10/22

The Council approved revisions to the current policy in the Graduate Policies and Procedures to allow graduate students to be given a warning and placed on Academic Conditional Status if their GPA is less than 2.0 for any term. The program

will allow the graduate student one quarter to improve the GPA to 2.0 or greater before becoming automatically disqualified from further registration.

L. English Proficiency Policies for Teaching Assistants/Associates and Graduate Admissions

Meeting date: 4/14/22

The Academic Senate has requested that Graduate Council reconsider whether there should be a campuswide English proficiency policy for TA appointments, and also whether the policy for graduate admissions should be modified to (a) waive the proficiency requirement for applicants who will have earned a master's degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction prior to matriculation and (b) to allow the Graduate Division to determine whether an applicant is required to demonstrate English proficiency when the institution is not listed or when the accuracy of the World Higher Education Database is in question.

The Council unanimously agreed that the campuswide English proficiency test should be eliminated. The Council felt that determinations of the teaching ability (including English proficiency) of TAs was best performed at the departmental level; instead of the campuswide proficiency requirement, departments should be urged to ensure the teaching ability of their TAs. The majority of the Council agreed to waive the proficiency requirement for applicants who will have earned a master's degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction prior to matriculation. Lastly, the Council unanimously voted to allow the Graduate Division the freedom to determine whether an applicant is required to demonstrate English proficiency when the institution is not listed or when the accuracy of the World Higher Education Database is in question.

M. Irvine Regulation 918. Candidacy Committee

Meeting date: 4/14/22

Candidacy committees at UCI are comprised of five faculty who are voting Senate members or with equivalent scholarly standing, by exception. Candidacy committee members need not necessarily be from the Irvine Division, but a majority and not all must hold primary or joint appointments in the student's department. The membership requirement often makes it challenging to identify eligible faculty members to serve due to conflicts with courtesy appointments.

After reviewing policies at other UC campuses and in an effort to allow for more flexibility, Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve revisions to IR 918. The revisions allow for candidacy committees of fewer than five faculty and relax the eligibility requirements of outside members. Revisions were sent to Associate Deans for feedback and were approved by the Cabinet in June 2022; they will be presented to the Assembly in Fall 2022.

N. SSGPDP Students Serving as TAs

Meeting date: 6/10/22

The Graduate Division reported on the implementation of the second year of a three-year pilot program that allows SSGPDP students to serve as TAs. The Paul Merage School of Business, the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences,

and the School of Social Ecology participated in the program. The implementation was deemed appropriate and in compliance with the Council's guidelines.

O. Graduate Sunset Courses

In December 2021, the Registrar asked that all academic units review lists of graduate courses which had not been taught in the last three or more years and take action to either delete or deactivate the courses, or justify why they should remain active. The Council approved all requests to maintain courses active.

P. GRE Removal as Graduate Application Requirements

Following the Graduate Division's notification to graduate programs in October 2021 to submit requests for temporary and permanent GRE requirement removals for the 2022-23 admissions cycle, the Council approved temporary and permanent removal of the GRE from the minimum graduate application requirements as requested by individual graduate programs.

XI. DIVISIONAL SENATE ISSUES/POLICIES

A. 2022-27 UCI Five-Year Perspectives

Meeting date: 5/12/22

The Council reviewed the *UCI 2022-2027 Five-Year Perspective Report* presented by the Office of Academic Planning. The Council recognized the emphasis in the development of new SSGPDPs across the campus as a continuing trend. The Council also recognized the growth of graduate programs that are being offered in an online format.

B. Subcommittee on International Education

Meeting date: 5/12/22

The Council considered the request to discontinue the Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE), a Subcommittee of the Graduate Council and CEP, after one year of dormancy. Action items would be routed to Graduate Council and/or CEP as appropriate. There might be some concern that, with the dissolution of SCIE, more work would fall to the Graduate Council and/or CEP. However, in the Council's experience, it is difficult to see that discontinuation of SCIE would add any appreciable burden to the two Councils. If there is such a burden, it should become evident in the proposed one year in which SCIE goes dormant. The Council voted unanimously to support the request.

XII. SYSTEMWIDE SENATE ISSUES/POLICIES

A. Report of the Negotiated Salary Trial Program Phase 2 Taskforce

Meeting date: 5/12/22

The Negotiated Salary Trial Program (NSTP) allows faculty to apply for a 1-2 year period in which they can supplement their salary above scale, using funds from external sources such as grants, gifts, and professional fees. It was instituted as a trial program in 2013-18 and then extended for four more years through 2022.

In previous reviews, concerns regarding the impact of graduate student funding, as well as funding for postdoctoral scholars, from the same sources as the NSTP funding have been persistent through the time period of the trials. In addition, there were concerns following the 2017 review that there was not sufficient data to confirm the lack of negative side effects, particularly reduced graduate student support with funding sources (such as grants and revenue from professional programs) instead going towards supplementing faculty salaries.

In the most recent report, the Taskforce found that student support and research group size had increased over time (comparing pre-NSTP to post-NSTP), the main evidence provided that graduate student support is not being negatively affected. The Taskforce concluded that “the increased research support incentivized by the NSTP does not solely benefit faculty salaries — it is having a significant positive impact consistent with the overall education and research mission of the University of California” and, by extension, is increasing funding for graduate research and support. There is, however, no empirical demonstration of this. Graduate Council found the Report disappointing due to the lack of a proper analysis to make a compelling case instead of high-level assumptions. An in-depth assessment would address any concerns about the potential impact on graduate student funding.

XIII. GRADUATE COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

A. Academic Program Review Board (APRB)

Graduate Council representation: Gregory Shaffer and Cascade Sorte

APRB is a joint board of CEP and the Graduate Council. The Board consists of two members from CEP and two members from the Graduate Council in addition to the Chair and the Vice Chair. APRB selected two external review committees to conduct the academic program reviews of the Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing on March 2-3, 2022 in a remote format using Zoom, and of the School of Social Ecology on April 20-22, 2022 in an in-person format.

In addition, APRB conducted the Year One Follow-up of the School of Social Sciences, Year Four Follow-up of the School of Biological Sciences, and Year Seven Follow-up of the Paul Merage School of Business. The Council reviewed the reports of Year Four Follow-up of the School of Physical Sciences review, and Year Seven Follow-up of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts review. APRB activities are described in its annual report.

B. Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE)

Graduate Council representation: John Middlebrooks and Susan Turner

SCIE consists of one Division member from each Faculty offering an undergraduate and graduate degree, as well as two representatives from the Graduate Council and CEP. SCIE activities are described in its annual report.

C. Subcommittee for Graduate Courses and Program Modifications

Members: Laura Kang, Ketu Katrak, Frithjof Kruggel, Tony Smith, Mark Warschauer

This year, the Subcommittee consisted of two members from the arts/humanities, one member from education, one member from social sciences, and one member

from the sciences. The Subcommittee reviews all new graduate courses, graduate course modifications, and graduate degree program modifications.

D. Graduate Council/Council on Planning and Budget Subcommittee on SSGPDP Three-Year Reviews

Graduate Council representation: Subcommittee Chair Erik Sudderth and Tonya Bradford
CPB representation: Andre van der Hoek and Farzin Zareian

The Graduate Council/CPB Subcommittee conducted the three-year review of four SSGPDPs as mandated by UC Policy on SSGPDPs. The review is under the purview of the Graduate Council with participation from CPB to assess financial feasibility and campus impact of the programs. The Subcommittee followed the Guidelines for Three-Year Review of New SSGPDPs.

1. MS in Business Analytics, Paul Merage School of Business
2. Master of Finance, Paul Merage School of Business
3. Master of Computer Science, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences
4. Master in Conservation and Restoration Science, School of Biological Sciences

The Subcommittee met five times this year and provided its recommendations to the Graduate Council and CPB on whether the programs have met the standards for a successful three-year review. The Council and CPB subsequently presented their recommendations to the Cabinet. The Council's recommendations are reported under section VIII.

XIV. CONTINUING BUSINESS TO 2022-23

- Program Modification to Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems (SSGPDP) – See VIII.O.2
- Admissions Policy for Master's Programs in Paul Merage School of Business – See X.G
- Irvine Regulation 918. Candidacy Committee – See X.M

XV. GRADUATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Members (voting): Arvind Rajaraman, Physical Sciences, Chair & CCGA representative
Ketu Katrak, Arts
Cascade Sorte, Biological Sciences
Tonya Bradford, Business
Mark Warschauer, Education
Frithjof Kruggel, Engineering
John Middlebrooks, Health Sciences
Laura Kang, Humanities
Erik Sudderth, ICS, Vice Chair and Chair, Graduate Council/CPB Subcommittee on SSGPDP Three-Year Review
Gregory Shaffer, Law (Fall 2021 semester)
Joshua Blank, Law (Spring 2022 semester)
Susan Turner, Social Ecology
Tony Smith, Social Sciences

Ex-Officio: Gillian Hayes, Vice Provost, Graduate Education & Dean, Graduate Division

Consultants: Ruth Quinnan, Assistant Dean, Graduate Academic & Student Affairs
Celina Mojica, Director, Academic Initiatives, Graduate Division
Aliya Thomas, University Editor

Library Representative: Melissa Beuoy, LAUC-I
Student Representatives: Jared Celniker, AGS
Hannah Gorback, AGS
Connor Strobel, AGS President
Council Analyst: Thao Nguyen