**GRADUATE COUNCIL
2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:
The Graduate Council respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2022-23 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 this year eight times in person and once remotely via Zoom videoconference. Professor Frithjof Kruggel, Department of Biomedical Engineering in The Henry Samueli School of Engineering, chaired the Council in 2022-23 and served as CCGA representative. The Chair also represented the Council on the Academic Senate Cabinet, Divisional Senate Assembly, and the Steering Committee on Reaffirmation. At CCGA, Chair Kruggel served as liaison to the University Committee on Research Policy on the review of the UC Institute of Transportation Studies. Professor Tonya Bradford of The Paul Merage School of Business 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. In addition, Professor Bradford served on the Task Force on Adjusting to New Labor Agreements. Members are assigned to various subcommittees as detailed in section XIII. Graduate Council Subcommittee Activities below. 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 the 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 representatives for the Associated Graduate Students (AGS).

II. **NEW GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**
   A. **State-Supported Graduate Degree Programs**
   - Addition of en route MA in Psychological Science to existing PhD in Psychological Science, School of Social Ecology: approved by Graduate Council 3/9/23 and by CCGA 5/12/23.

   B. **Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs)**
   - Master of Education Sciences with a Concentration in Learning Analytics, School of Education: approved 6/8/23 with contingency.

III.   SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS
1. PhD in Social Ecology Core, School of Social Ecology: indefinite suspension of admissions – approved 2/9/23.
2. Master of Biomedical and Translational Science (PDST), School of Medicine: pause in admissions for Fall 2023 – approved 5/11/23.

IV.   DISCONTINUANCE OF GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
1. MS in Engineering Management (PDST), The Paul Merage School of Business and The Henry Samueli School of Engineering: approved 3/9/23.
2. MS and PhD in Information and Computer Science, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences: approved 3/9/23.
3. PhD in Social Ecology Core, School of Social Ecology: approved 4/13/23.

V.   NEW GRADUATE CONCENTRATIONS/EMPHASES/SPECIALIZATIONS
1. Advanced Manufacturing Concentration, Master of Engineering (SSGPDP): approved 6/8/23.
2. Master of Engineering Concentration, Master of Engineering (SSGPDP): approved 6/8/23.

VI.   NEW CONCURRENT PROGRAM IN LAW AND GRADUATE STUDIES
- JD/PhD in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy: approved 11/10/22.

VII.   NEW DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS
- Proposal for School of Population and Public Health: endorsed 5/11/23.

VIII.   PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS TO DEGREE REQUIREMENTS OF EXISTING GRADUATE PROGRAMS

A. Claire Trevor School of the Arts
1. MFA in Drama, Music Direction: approved 12/8/22.
2. MFA in Drama, Acting Emphasis: approved 1/12/23.
3. MFA in Drama, Design Emphasis: approved 1/12/23.
4. PhD in Drama and Theatre: approved 1/12/23.

B. School of Biological Sciences
1. Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program: approved 3/9/23.
2. Master in Conservation and Restoration Science (SSGPDP): approved 6/8/23.

C. The Paul Merage School of Business
1. Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SSGPDP): approved 2/9/23.
2. Fully-Employed MBA (SSGPDP): approved 4/13/23

D. The Henry Samueli School of Engineering
1. MS/PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering: approved 3/9/23.
2. MS/PhD in Materials Science and Engineering: approved 3/9/23.
3. PhD in Biomedical Engineering: approved 3/9/23.
4. MS/PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering: approved 5/11/23.
5. Master of Engineering (SSGPDP): approved 6/8/23.
6. See IX.P Interdisciplinary Programs

E. School of Humanities
1. 4+1 BA/MA in Asian American Studies: approved 3/9/23.

2. MA/PhD in History: approved 4/13/23.

F. Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences
1. Master of Data Science (SSGPDP): approved 2/9/23.
2. MS/PhD in Statistics: approved 4/13/23.
3. See IX.P Interdisciplinary Programs

G. School of Law
- Master of Laws (SSGPDP): approved 3/9/23.

H. School of Medicine
- MS in Genetic Counseling (PDST): approved 12/8/22.

I. Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing
- PhD in Nursing Science: approved 12/8/22.

J. School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Doctor of Pharmacy (PDST): approved 6/8/23 pending positive review by CPB.

K. School of Physical Sciences
1. PhD in Earth System Science: approved 5/11/23.
2. PhD in Physics: approved 5/11/23.

L. Program in Public Health
1. Master of Public Health, Emphasis in Biostatistics (PDST): approved 6/8/23.
2. Master of Public Health, Emphases in Environmental, Epidemiology, and Sociocultural Diversity and Health (PDST): approved 6/8/23.

M. School of Social Ecology
1. PhD in Psychological Science: approved 1/12/23.
2. PhD in Psychological Science, Concentration in Clinical Psychology: approved 5/11/23.

N. School of Social Sciences
1. PhD in Language Science: approved 10/13/22.
2. PhD in Philosophy, Logic and Philosophy of Science Track: under review 6/8/23.

O. Interdisciplinary Programs
- Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems (SSGPDP), The Henry Samueli School of Engineering and the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences: approved 10/13/22.

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

A. SSGPDP Three-Year and Continuing Review
Meeting date: 4/13/23

The Council concurred with the Subcommittee's recommendations. See XIII.C. Graduate Council/Council on Planning and Budget Subcommittee on SSGPDP Three-Year Reviews for details.

X. GRADUATE EDUCATION POLICY/ISSUES

A. New Policy for Evaluation of Applicants
Meeting dates: 10/13/22 & 11/10/22

The Council approved a new policy to the Graduate Policies and Procedures for the evaluation of applicants using a transparent admissions process to assure that all applicants are reviewed equitably. The Council encourages programs to develop diverse communities of graduate scholars and endorses a holistic review process that takes into account all elements of the application packages.

B. Posthumous Doctoral Degree
Meeting date: 10/13/22

The Council awarded a posthumous PhD in Visual Studies in recognition of the outstanding work of a former student.

C. Unpublished Electives
Meeting date: 10/13/22

To ensure that all previously unpublished electives that satisfy program requirements are published in the General Catalogue, the Council requested graduate programs that were not in compliance to provide their unpublished electives.

D. Admissions Policy for Master's Programs in The Paul Merage School of Business
Meeting date: 11/10/22

The Paul Merage School of Business requested a permanent change of admission requirements to allow applicants with an undergraduate GPA between 2.5 and 3.0 to be admitted to its master's programs without requiring an exception request, using the current holistic admissions process. In May 2022, the Council voted unanimously to approve the revised admissions policy for all professional master's programs in the School, pending positive review by CPB. In October 2022, the Cabinet considered CPB's assessment and found the request acceptable. In November 2022, the Council reaffirmed its approval.

E. Conflict of Interest
Meeting dates: 12/8/22, 1/12/23, 2/9/23

The Council approved adding item 6. Other Types of Conflict of Interest to section VII.F. Conflict of Interest of the Graduate Policies and Procedures to reflect additional circumstances where conflict of interest may arise during required examinations (comprehensive or qualifying exams, advancement to candidacy, dissertation defense, etc.) and could potentially lead to a perception of bias. The Graduate Division recommends as a best practice that graduate programs have internal policies and procedures that address different types of conflict of interest, not financial in nature, to reduce the likelihood of perceived bias or harm to the student.

F. Graduate Independent Research Courses
Meeting dates: 12/8/22, 1/12/23, 2/9/23

The Council revisited its 5/9/19 policy statement on graduate individual study and research course practices. A subcommittee was formed to recommend policies and to provide guidance for syllabus development. The Council expanded its original guidance with separate recommendations for independent research courses and for teaching-related courses.

G. Academic Disqualification Appeals
Meeting dates: 1/12/23, 2/9/23, 5/11/23

The Council reviewed an academic disqualification appeal from the School of Social Sciences and an academic disqualification appeal from the School of Education.

H. Graduate Courses with Minimum Prerequisite Grade of D-
Meeting date: 3/9/23

The Registrar's Office brought to the Council's attention that due to a system default setting in the Course Inventory Management system, there were a large number of graduate courses with D- as the minimum prerequisite grade. This was out of alignment with the graduate standards for grading set in Irvine Regulation 420. To remedy the situation, the minimum prerequisite grade of D- was changed to B- effective May 1, 2023, unless requested otherwise by individual programs. The system default setting of D- will also be updated to B- effective Fall 2023.

I. Academic Disqualification Policy
Meeting date: 5/11/23

The Council approved revisions to the academic disqualification policy in the Graduate Policies and Procedures to reflect the signature of the Associate Dean on the recommendation for disqualification, in accordance with current practice and for clarity and consistency.

J. SSGPDP Students Serving as TAs
Meeting date: 6/8/23

The Graduate Division reported on the third-year implementation 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.

K. Time to Advancement and Time to Degree Data for MFA and PhD Programs
Meeting date: 6/8/23

The Council reviewed data on actual time to advancement and time to degree for MFA and doctoral programs and the percentage of students in each MFA and doctoral program that are beyond normative time to advancement and beyond time to degree. The Council will monitor the data on an annual basis to advise programs that may need to update their normative time to degree.

L. Process for Establishing Concentrations, Emphases, and Specializations
Meeting date: 6/8/23

The Council observed that there is no mechanism in place for new concentrations for SSGPDPs and that the existing process to establish concentrations should be amended and clearly defined for SSGPDPs. Per CCGA, the review and approval of concentrations remains at the campus level.

M. Graduate Sunset Courses

In January 2023, 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 either delete or deactivate the courses or justify why they should remain active. The Council approved all requests to maintain courses as active.

N. GRE Removal as Graduate Application Requirement

Following the Graduate Division's notification to graduate programs in September 2022 to submit requests for temporary and permanent GRE requirement removals for the 2023-24 admissions cycle, the Council approved temporary and permanent removals of the GRE from the minimum graduate application requirements as requested by individual graduate programs.

O. Impact of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Strike on Graduate Education

UC entered contract negotiations with the UAW for Academic Student Employees and Graduate Student Researchers. The bargaining unit members began a six-week strike across UC campuses on November 14, 2022. The strike ended on December 23, 2022 with the ratification of new three-year contracts in effect through May 31, 2025.

Throughout the academic year, the Council discussed the strike and its immediate and long-term impact on issues related to graduate admissions, enrollment, funding, research, cost of salary increases, rebuilding relationships post-strike, and the future of graduate education. The Senate formed the Task Force on Adjusting to New Labor Agreements with Vice Chair Bradford representing the Graduate Council. The Task Force's report and recommendations were presented to the Cabinet in June 2023.

P. WSCUC Reaffirmation of Accreditation

The WSCUC reaffirmation of accreditation site visit took place February 15-17, 2023. UCI received a 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation by the WSCUC Commission on July 14, 2023. Chair Kruggel served on the UCI Steering Committee on Reaffirmation and participated in selected sessions of the site visit.

XI. DIVISIONAL SENATE ISSUES/POLICIES

A. Disestablishment of Subcommittee on International Education
Meeting date: 4/13/23

The Council voted unanimously to approve the disestablishment of the Subcommittee on International Education, following one year of dormancy. Action items will be routed to Graduate Council and/or CEP as appropriate. Irvine Bylaw 100 was updated to reflect this change.

XII. SYSTEMWIDE SENATE ISSUES/POLICIES

A. **Systemwide Fee Policy for Graduate Student In-Absentia Registration**
   Meeting dates: 10/13/22, 11/10/22, 12/8/22

   Academic and professional graduate students who find it necessary to undertake coursework or research related to their degree program outside of the designated local campus region are eligible for a reduction in fees. The local campus region refers to an area beyond which students have access to substantially fewer campus resources, including instructional, laboratory and library resources, advising, and student services.

   The Council voted unanimously to recommend that the Graduate Division set the local region as the following Southern California counties: Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, and San Bernardino. In-absentia requests within these counties may be allowed by exception.

B. **Systemwide Standard Terminology for Distance Courses**
   Meeting dates: 5/11/23 & 6/8/23

   The Council adopted the systemwide standard terminology developed by CCGA and UCEP to serve as definitions and guidelines for new courses. Distance education is a mode of instruction in which some or all students are physically separated from the instructor. Federal regulations and WSCUC/WASC require distance education courses to offer faculty-initiated regular and substantive interaction between students and instructors.

XIII. **GRADUATE COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

A. **Academic Program Review Board (APRB)**
   Graduate Council representation: Laura Kang and Zhihong Lin

   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 an external review committee to conduct the academic program review of the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences on April 19-21, 2023. The Council provided comments on the school's self-study reports and charges to the External Review Committee.

   The Council reviewed the reports of the 2021-22 Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing review, 2021-22 School of Social Ecology review, Year One Follow-up of the School of Social Sciences review, Year Four Follow-up of the School of Biological Sciences review, and Year Seven Follow-up of The Paul Merage School of Business review.

B. **Subcommittee for Graduate Courses and Program Modifications**
   Members: Subcommittee Chair Mark Warschauer, Ali Mortazavi, Gene Tsudik, S. Ama Wray, Alyson Zalta
   The Subcommittee reviews all new graduate courses, graduate course modifications, and graduate degree program modifications.

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

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

The Graduate Council/CPB Subcommittee conducted the three-year review of three 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. Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, The Paul Merage School of Business
2. Master of Software Engineering, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences
3. Doctor of Nursing Practice, Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing

In addition, the Subcommittee conducted continuing reviews of the following SSGPDPs:

1. Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems, The Henry Samueli School of Engineering and the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences
2. Master of Laws, School of Law
3. Master of Science in Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
4. Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology, School of Social Ecology

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 or continuing review. The Council and CPB subsequently presented their recommendations to the Cabinet.

XIV. CONTINUING BUSINESS TO 2023-24
1. Master of Education Sciences with a Concentration in Learning Analytics (SSGPDP) – See II.B
2. Program Modification to PhD in Philosophy, Logic and Philosophy of Science track – See IX.O.2

XV. GRADUATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
Members (voting):   Frithjof Kruggel, Engineering, Chair & CCGA representative
S. Ama Wray, Arts
Syed Ali Mortazavi, Biological Sciences
Tonya Bradford, Business, Vice Chair and Chair, Graduate Council/CPB Subcommittee on SSGPDP Three-Year Review (on leave Fall 2022)
Ben Lourie, Business (Fall 2022)
Mark Warschauer, Education
John Middlebrooks, Health Sciences
Laura Kang, Humanities
Gene Tsudik, ICS
Joshua Blank, Law
Zhihong Lin, Physical Sciences
Alyson Zalta, Social Ecology
Charles 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
                               Paul Lampano, Deputy Registrar (May 2023 & June 2023 meetings)
Library Representative: Melissa Beuoy, LAUC-I
Student Representatives: Kamal Bookwala, AGS
                               Daniel Tracht, AGS
                               Cameron Wiley, AGS
Council Analyst: Thao Nguyen