



Chair's Report on CoRGE Activities for Fall 2011

CoRGE has been asked, in addition to CAB, to review the reorganization plans for CTAHR and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education. It has endorsed CAB's recommendations in both cases, although with a friendly amendment regarding the OVCRGE plan.

CoRGE, as well as CAB, has been asked to keep an eye on the VCRGE's plans to close down the Kewalo Marine Laboratory, and to try to ensure that faculty feedback is sought, at least, before any such decision to close the facility is acted upon. So far we have been unable to do anything significant on this issue, as Gary Ostrander has proven unavailable to meet with CAB and CoRGE to discuss this matter.

CoRGE has also been considering the plan to transfer to Hilo the Hawaii Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, and has brought forward a resolution asking that this move be cancelled.

CoRGE put forward a resolution asking that experience as a professor at UH be listed as a desirable qualification on the advertisement for the open chancellorship position, a resolution which the Senate rejected by a narrow margin.

CoRGE was asked by the SEC to consider whether there was a problem involved in Grad Division's willingness to have Ph.D. candidates participate in their graduation ceremonies *before* they had completed their dissertation defences. After some discussion, CoRGE decided this was an acceptable practice, and decided not to pursue the issue any further.

A problem, involving a particular doctoral student, was brought to CoRGE's attention early in the term. Grad Division's policy of stamping "probation" on the transcripts of all doctoral students who, for whatever reason, had not finished before the end of their seventh year in the program was jeopardizing the student's chances of successfully applying for a post doctoral fellowship. CoRGE's concern that this seemed to be an unnecessarily punitive policy was brought to Interim Dean Cooper's attention, and it seems now that the policy will come under review at Grad Division. (CoRGE's two liaison faculty members on Grad Council will be keeping an eye on this issue.)

CoRGE has begun work on formulating a "Graduate Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities." We have had some communication already with the GSO on this, but anticipate fuller discussions in January. We have discussed the matter with the Dean of Graduate Division, and plan to have our draft commented upon as well by Graduate Council, before bringing it to the GSO for a final round of revisions. We expect to have a resolution on this issue ready to bring before the Senate in March.

Grad Division has asked that CoRGE play a role in examining the graduate program annual reports that all departments have been asked to submit by the end of this semester. We will be looking, in particular, at the "problem cases" after these have been identified by Graduate



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Finally, it is one of CoRGE's responsibilities to vet for approval any new graduate programs introduced at Manoa. We have not yet received any such programs to consider, but several new graduate programs have already been approved by Graduate Council this fall, and CoRGE will presumably be looking at those programs as well in the spring term.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ron Bontekoe, Chair
Committee on Research and Graduate Education