I. Approval of the minutes from January 29, 2014
   - Greg Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Tao Xing.
   - Minutes approved unanimously.

II. Announcements and reports
A. COGS’s FY 15 Budget Request
   - Chen informed the group that COGS’ one budget request item was for increased in-state tuition support for TA’s.
B. Graduate Admissions
   - McMurtry reported that graduate applications are up 4% from this time last year.
   - Chen said the challenge is enrolling these students and reminded the members that we need to work hard to convert the applicants into enrolled students. He also reminded them to encourage their departments to get the application decisions back to Graduate Admissions as quickly as possible.
   - Murdoch said a big challenge is grant deadlines. They are not in line with applications/admissions deadlines.
   - Chen reported that he had a conversation with VP McIver about “bridge funds” to help with this issue.
C. Course Level Adjustment Form Follow-up
   - McMurtry reported that we are more liberal than our peers and need to rewrite the policies for transferring credits between undergrad and graduate transcripts. There will be 3 sections to the policy: 1. undergrad enrollment in graduate studies; 2-graduates transferring credits; 3-concurrent programs.
D. Deadlines from Cheri
   - McMurtry explained the new Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) process has increased COGS’ workload and, therefore, made it necessary to make submission deadlines earlier. He went through the new deadlines with Graduate Council.

III. Discussion
A. Report from task force about Law School request for changes to the COGS Bylaws
   - Reineke reported that the task force met. They broke the Law School request into two requests: 1- to allow J.D. degree holders to serve as major professors for Ph.D. students; 2- to allow College of Law a seat on Graduate Council.
   - Request #1 – to allow J.D. degree holders to serve as major professor for Ph.D. students
- Faculty and GPSA members who were surveyed by the task force are not in favor of request #1.
- They determined that Law failed to substantiate the necessity of Law faculty serving as committee chairs and recommended requesting additional rationale from the Law School.
- Minnick asked if there are law faculty with money to support grad students.
- Link said in some cases, the law faculty do have funding to support grad students. He reported that at universities where J.D.’s are allowed to chair Ph.D. committees, the faculty must have a record of on-going scholarship. He could not find an NSF programs that require a J.D. to chair a Ph.D. committee.
- It was reported that co-chairs are not practical. Too much legwork is required, and the student might get two different messages from the two different major professors.
- The task force decided that the burden of exploring other models should be placed on the Law School, rather than Graduate Council.
- Chen asked the task force to give the Law School feedback on how to strengthen their rationale to show the necessity for J.D.’s to serve as chairs of Ph.D. committees.
- Irizarry expressed GPSA’s concerns with necessity to ensure the quality of the research experience. They would like to see more language to address this.
- Johnson suggested that the granting agency should be assessing the quality of the research of the J.D. if they are giving them funding to support graduate students.
- Murdoch asked if the responsibility be on the student or on COGS to know if the J.D. is qualified to serve as chair.
- Conway expressed concern with their unwillingness to co-chair.
- Weiss suggested they get approval on an exception basis.
- Reineke said exception model is one that was considered.
- Link said another model is to require the J.D.’s to apply to be on Graduate Faculty, and their scholarly activity is reviewed before they are given Graduate Faculty status.

-- Chen will talk with the task force about their response to the Law School to request stronger arguments/rationale for this request #1.

- Request #2 – to give College of Law a seat on Graduate Council
  - Task force suggested the law faculty could be considered for an “at-large” seat or a seat as a University-wide Programs (UWP) representative, rather than create an additional seat for the College of Law.
  - Chen and McMurtry will meet with the task force about their response to College of Law.

Adjourned at 4:40pm

Future Meetings:
March 26
April 30
All meetings are at 3:30pm Pacific in the Commons Panorama Room.