March 8, 2016

To: Leobardo Estrada, Chair
   Academic Senate

From: Ioanna Kakoulli, Chair
      Graduate Council

Re: Response to Report from the Joint Committee of the Administration and Academic Senate on Disciplinary Processes for Faculty related to Sexual Violence, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Harassment

At its meeting on March 4, 2016, the Graduate Council reviewed and briefly discussed the Report from the Joint Committee of the Administration and Academic Senate on disciplinary processes for faculty related to sexual violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. Members found the report informative and appreciate efforts made to clearly identify and assess policies and procedures related to the handling of future cases of sexual violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. Members agree with recommendations made by the Joint Committee to increase transparency throughout the process including, but not limited to, reporting, investigation, adjudication, and discipline in cases involving faculty. Members echo the sentiment that proper and timely notice of sanctions will lead to greater transparency and trust in the disciplinary process.

Members are of the same opinion that an increase in targeted education for faculty and graduate students, specifically, regarding policies and procedures is crucial for encouraging the reporting of incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Members question whether the “three-year rule” contained in APM - 015 and in Senate Bylaw 336 is too lengthy, but appreciate the clarification made that it is a time limit by which the Administration must initiate disciplinary action once it becomes aware of an allegation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

cc: Estrella Arciba, Principal Committee Analyst, Graduate Council
    Linda Mohr, CAO, Academic Senate