

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)****Wednesday, December 9, 2015****4:00 – 5:30 pm****KL 397****Documents available at: UCM Box "[GC AY 15-16](#)"****I. Chair's Report – *Michael Dawson*****A. December 2 CCGA meeting**

- i. Openness in Research
- ii. UC Mexus
- iii. Senate committee on Ag & Natural Resources (ANR)

**B. November 30 Division Council meeting**

- i. Space for graduate students
- ii. Impact of 2020 Project on the community
- iii. Endowed chairs

**C. December 2 Meeting of the Division**

- i. Updates from the Provost on 2020 Project and SAF
- ii. Reports from all Senate standing committees

**II. Consent Calendar****A. November 19, 2015 meeting minutes****Pg. 1-4****B. December 09, 2015 meeting agenda****III. CRFs**

- [CHEM/PHYS/BEST/ME 285](#)

Revised syllabi have been submitted in response to [GC's memo of November 20](#).

**Action requested:** GC to vote to approve or request additional modifications to the CRF.

**IV. Awards Subcommittee – *Nancy Burke (& Mike Dawson/VPDGE Zatz)***

**Background:** The awards subcommittee has completed its rankings of the first round of graduate fellowship applications. Recommendations forwarded to Graduate Division. Some "lessons learned" from this round.

**Action requested:** [1] GC to approve, post hoc in this instance, the subcommittee's rankings. [2] To take 'lessons learned' to discussion of in prep Awards 'white paper'.

**V. Revised GASP Major Proposal**

**Pg. 5-32**

Originally submitted in AY 14-15, the proposal to establish a major in Global Arts Studies in SSHA was revised in response to Senate committee comments (GC's memo available [here](#)). GC re-requested clarification regarding impact of GASP teaching plan on existing obligations of GASP faculty to IH curriculum. Since recommended by UGC.

**Action requested:** GC to review the revised proposal and vote to approve or request additional modifications to the proposal. Deadline for comments is December 21.

**VI. Concentrations & Designated Emphases – Mike Dawson**

**Background:** Comments received from UGC and a SSHA faculty member on GC approved draft. GC Policy Review subcommittee has revised CDE policy accordingly.

**Action:** Adopt, or revise-and-adopt, policy.

**VII. Grade Appeals Policy – Mike Dawson**

**Premise:** The grade appeals policy was revised to explicitly address routing of appeals for graduate students. This will be the third time at GC. At close of the deadline for comments, we received the following remarks: UGC no comment.

**Recommendation:** Discuss draft policy.

**Action:** Vote to adopt.

**VIII. Graduate Council Standing Consultations – Mike Dawson Pg. 33-38**

**Background:** We interact with many units on campus, some more than others, some de jure, some de facto, some ad hoc (oftentimes post hoc). We already regularly schedule some meetings, e.g. with Provost/EVC. Could GC benefit from scheduling regular invitations with additional units, e.g. Registrar, Development & Alumni Relations, Planning & Budget, Student Affairs, who else?

**Action:** Suggest units, put on calendar for January/Spring. Development & Alumni Relations is invited to the January 19 meeting. Registrar is invited to the February 2 meeting (see attached document).

- IX. MS thesis committee composition – Mike Dawson**  
*Background:* Draft memo (two versions: to ES, to all GGs) that devolves decision-making & responsibility in respect of rewarding good governance consistent with UC and UC Merced aspirations, policy, and practice. Ultimate authority remains vested in GC, consistent with UC and UC Merced policy and practice. Changes to Graduate Advisors Handbook and Period Review suggested.  
*Action:* Adopt, or revise-and-adopt, memo/practice.
- X. Masters re-admission protocols – Mike Dawson & VPDGE Zatz (5 min)**  
*Background:* Re-enrolled student with a complex history of graduate group membership, wishes to graduate with MS from old program. Revealed shortcomings in awareness of P&P regulations, cracks in P&P review at GC, and various other issues.  
*Action:* Reaffirms need for updated P&P at start of Spring 2016. Need to decide how to handle ensure does not happen again (e.g. centralize official documents on Grad Division website). This has knock-on implications, in that need Grad Advisor’s Handbook ready to make sure GG P&Ps consistent with Handbook.
- XI. Attached (but not conjoined) Courses – Mike Dawson Pg. 39-41**  
*Background:* Office of the Registrar has listed all undergraduate and graduate courses that have been co-taught but are not formally conjoined, i.e. “attached” in the adapted lingo (see data provided).  
*Action:* Adopt, or revise-and-adopt memo/practice.
- XII. Teaching as Scholarship – Mike Dawson Pg. 42-46**  
*Premise:* Teaching is a key aspect of a research career in academia. The benefits of teaching to the research endeavor are easily under-valued. Emphasizing scholarship can enhance teaching and research.  
*Action:* Adopt, or revise-and-adopt memo/practice.
- XIII. Awards White Paper - Mike Dawson**  
*Premise:* Awards reward and encourage improved scholastic performance. Managing awards on GC has become overly burdensome, requiring rethinking of the current model.  
*Recommendation:* Discuss draft policy, add ideas, attached.  
*Action:* Adopt, or revise-and-adopt memo/practice.  
*Upcoming:* DAR’s approach and criteria for generating philanthropic gifts to UCM for graduate education/research. What does DAR currently do in this regard, what can the Graduate Council do to help, and what is

needed in graduate scholarship? January 19: Consultation with Development & Alumni Relations (DAR) -- Kyle Hoffman, VC of DAR and Jan Mendenhall, AVC of DAR.

#### **XIV. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz**

- Visitation weekend – graduate group chairs have reconsidered the date for visitation and moved it to Feb 19-20, providing more time for planning.
- The Graduate Division will be proposing courses and/or certificates, ideally beginning Fall 2016.
- Recruitment and admissions – Graduate Division has been working with some of the graduate groups to send out targeted email blasts to prospective students, as well as students whose applications are not yet complete.
- Graduate Division recently received funding from the Chancellor for a Strategic Communication Plan for Diversity.
- Expansion of Graduate Dean’s Incentive Award to include a \$200 award for graduate student submission of a grant proposal (it may or may not specify dissertation focus) with a budget of \$12,000 or more. Limited to one \$200 submission award per year and does not include postdoctoral fellowship proposals.
- Get the word out that faculty must conduct annual reviews of all graduate students.
- Status of Graduate Advisor’s Handbook revisions

#### **XV. Upcoming business**

- CCGA proposals – EECS (December 15), BEST.
- Graduate Advisor’s Handbook revisions
- Online CRF system for graduate courses
- Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST)
- Guidelines for TA Supervision, complement to Graduate Handbook guidance on choosing grads for TAships

#### **XVI. Other Business**

#### **XVII. Executive Session (voting members only)**