

Graduate Council (GC)
Minutes of Meeting
November 18, 2015

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 4:00 pm on November 18, 2015 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael N. Dawson presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Dawson updated GC members on the following:

- November 4 CCGA meeting. UCM's Economics PhD proposal has been assigned reviewers and is on schedule to be discussed by CCGA in December. Other topics of discussion included President Napolitano's advocacy for research innovation, which will have a dedicated administrative position in the President's office. There will be a commensurate position in the Senate. Ensuring an appropriate balance between (graduate) education, research, and innovation/commercialization is key.
- Division Council meeting November 9.
Chair Dawson updated Council members on GC business including the honors task force, the emphases and concentrations policy, and updates on CCGA proposals.

II. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Balasubramaniam reported that the ES graduate program review site visit was successful. The external review team spent two days meeting with various campus constituencies and is now writing its final report. Vice Chair Balasubramaniam also mentioned that GC's previously-submitted guidelines were helpful in that they aided the review team in asking the appropriate questions during the program review process.

III. Consent Calendar

ACTION: Today's agenda and the October 26 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV. CRFs

- CHEM/PHYS/ME/BEST 285. GC members expressed appreciation for the expected workload in relation to the number of units, however, they noted that the CRF does not specify the definition of a passing grade, the grade distribution, or how grades are assigned to individual members for team projects.

ACTION: GC Chair will send a memo to CHEM/PHYS/ME/BEST stating that GC approves the CRF pending the addition of language addressing these three matters.

V. Composition of Masters Committees

Prior to this meeting, GC Chair distributed a draft memo for discussion to Council members based on his discussions with VPDGE Zatz and ES graduate group chair, Professor Peggy O'Day. GC's memo proposes that, for graduate groups with a record of nominating appropriate non-UC committee members, many such requests will be automatically endorsed by the Graduate Dean, effectively delegating authority for committee composition to the graduate group. However, the Graduate Division retains the right to grant or decline exceptions and this new approach will be reviewed periodically by Graduate Division with GC.

GC members discussed the model of other graduate groups, including those whose bylaws include stipulations of affiliate and core faculty members serving on Masters committees. Some GC members favored requesting that all graduate groups include specific instructions in their bylaws. Further discussion centered on the final authority resting with the Graduate Dean or graduate groups.

ACTION: GC Chair will revise the memo to include points made in today's discussion and will circulate the revised memo to GC members for review and approval.

VI. Revised Undergraduate Program Review Policy

Comments from UGC have not yet been received. GC members agreed with the review procedure in general.

ACTION: GC Chair will draft a memo stating that GC agrees with the undergraduate program review policy, including the appointing of a site visit liaison from among the PROC membership and the seven-year review timeline which provides consistency and regularity.

VII. VPDGE Updates

VPDGE Zatz was absent from today's meeting but submitted updates via email. Regarding visitation weekend, some faculty members mentioned that the date is too early for some disciplines who are still reviewing applications. GC Chair Dawson suggested that the Council ask VPDGE Zatz at the next meeting whether it is feasible to conduct more than one visitation weekend.

VIII. Other Business

At the last meeting, the issue was raised by VPDGE Zatz that some countries require students to obtain a Masters degree enroute to receiving their PhDs

GC members discussed a concrete example and raised the following concerns:

--MS without thesis has an exam, failing which how can the student continue for PhD?

--PhD advisers fear that they may lose their graduate students to other recruiters if the graduate students earn MS so early during PhD.

--MS with thesis is an extra workload as the MS thesis will have to be different from PhD thesis.

Proposed idea: For continuing PhD students, qualifying or thesis proposal exam shall be counted as the exam for MS without thesis.

GC member Burke provided an update from the review subcommittee which has nearly concluded its reviews of the first round of fellowships from the Graduate Division. The Graduate Division will compile the scores and send

back to the review subcommittee for a check of any inconsistencies or issues. At the December meeting, GC as a whole will approve the subcommittee's rankings.

Member Burke reported that some applications were incomplete, compelling the subcommittee members to seek clarification, thereby delaying the review process. GC will discuss these issues with the VPDGE at the December meeting.

IX. Executive Session

Voting members only. No minutes taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Attest:

Michael N Dawson, GC Chair