

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)
Minutes of Meeting
Sept 18, 2017

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 3:00 P.M. in Room 397 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Teamrat Ghezzehei presiding.

Present: Teamrat Ghezzehei, Leroy Westerling, Maria DePrano, Sholeh Quinn, Hrant Hratchian, and Marjorie Zatz. Andy LiWang participated by phone. Laurie Herbrand, the Registrar and consultant to the committee, was also present.

I. Executive Session

Members met in executive session from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. No minutes were recorded.

II. Chair's Report

A. Academic Governance Cabinet

At its inaugural meeting on September 18, 2017, the Academic Governance Cabinet discussed the formation of three working groups that emerged from the August 13-14 Governance Retreat: (1) Academic Planning; (2) School Restructuring; and (3) Budget Policy Development. Communication among the three groups and with the larger campus community will be critical to the success of these initiatives. Each work group will include a representative from Graduate Council.

III. Enrollment Management Committee (EMC)

The Enrollment Management Committee's current major project is to draft a Comprehensive Enrollment Management Plan. The work of drafting the plan has been delegated to four work groups comprised of EMC members: (1) Enrollment and Management Philosophy; (2) Admissions Goals and Targets; (3) Undergraduate Retention and Completion Targets; and (4) Graduate Retention and Completion Targets. Each work group's draft report is due November 15, 2017. The goal is to have the enrollment management plan implemented, with an initial review of the plans success assessed, within eighteen months.

IV. Consent Calendar

The agenda, Minutes of the September 7, 2017 meeting, and Physics Policies and Procedures were approved as presented.

V. BEST Policies and Procedures

Members discussed the [revised Policies and Procedures](#) (P&P) for the Biological Engineering and Small Scale Technologies (BEST) graduate program and will be requesting revisions. Revisions will focus on ensuring alignment of terminology and admissions requirements with campus policy. GC will also request a transmittal letter with faculty vote.

ACTION: The GC Chair will request a revised document from BEST.

VI. BEST 299: Cells as a Machine

ACTION: This item will be rescheduled for discussion at the October 16, 2017 meeting.

VII. Campus Review Item**A. [UC Merced Sustainability Strategic Plan](#)**

ACTION: This item will be completed by email, with GC transmitting its response to the Senate Chair by October 2, 2017.

VIII. Fellowship Funding and Access to Services / Benefits

This topic was tabled for discussion at the October 2, 2017 meeting. In addition to discussion, GC will request from the VPDGE a written report summarizing the full range of services affected, the steps undertaken to address student concerns and the associated timeline, and preventative measures undertaken to avoid reoccurrence. Members also noted that it may be useful for fellowship letters to include an explanation of employment status and any restrictions this imposes. Graduate students fully funded by fellowships are removed from the UC payroll system and are not considered employees. As a result, graduate students on fellowship funding lose access to services and benefits available to employees.

ACTION: GC will request a written report from the VPDGE.

IX. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz

This item was tabled for discussion at the October 2, 2017 meeting.