

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**  
**December 8, 2016**  
**10:00-11:30 AM KL 362**  
**Documents available at: [UCM BOX](#)**

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 10:08 AM on December 8, 2016 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ramesh Balasubramaniam presiding.

**I. Chair’s Report – Ramesh Balasubramaniam**

Chair Balasubramaniam reported that the faculty recruitment plan ([SAFI](#)) was a primary discussion topic at the November 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Division, specifically the concept of balancing cluster hires with foundational hires. Professor Michael Colvin has developed a need-based document showing graduate courses that need to be offered and where faculty will need to be placed. A concern was raised that recommendations of needed positions have been made for SSHA in the past, but the School Executive Committee would vote them down with no communication. This was noted as happening in other schools, and points out the lack of transparency on how positions get allocated, and on what basis they are considered foundational. The Provost acknowledged that this was a problem. Additionally, if there are foundational or programmatic needs, faculty should be more directly responsible, and not Senate committees that would not otherwise be aware of the needs within different programs. Chair Balasubramaniam also noted that UC Riverside started a cluster hire process and found highly-qualified people, but there was no lab/office space, equipment was breaking down, and their campus has seen disastrous results, to the extent that classes have been cancelled. The UC Senate is very concerned about this, noting that this is a very important time for shared governance, where these kinds of issues can be avoided with more faculty participation, and actively keeping the ideas of the administration in check. A member raised a concern that funding that has been coming to UC Merced may go to Riverside. Chair Balasubramaniam responded that the funding should be secure through 2020, but noted that there was talk at the senate level of an eleventh campus, due to the number of high school graduates, international students, and what changes may occur at the federal level with student funding with the new presidential administration.

**II. Vice Chair’s Report – Teamrat Ghezzehei**

- a. The Vice Chair had nothing to report.

**III. Consent Calendar**

- a. The November 10, 2016 minutes were approved as presented.
- b. The December 8, 2016 agenda was approved as presented.

The [Grad Group Policies & Procedures](#) and the [Graduate Advisor’s Handbook](#) have been reviewed by the GC Policy Subcommittee. The GC Chair will provide his final review, with the Grad Groups being asked to provide “clean copies” of their documents as well as being notified of recommendations suggested by the GC reviewers.

**IV. Professional Development Course offered by Graduate Division (GradDiv)**

- a. A “short term” approach to offering a professional development course was provided by the Registrar, allowing for the use of “290” as a course code up to three times, with the number chosen to ensure consistency across all programs. The use of “290” will be presented as a place holder if the Grad Group does not otherwise plan to have a Topics course. If a Grad Group chooses not to participate, they are able to do so. A memo will be sent to GradDiv requesting they contact the Grad Group Chairs and ask if they are interested in participating. The GC Chair will be attending the next Grad Group Chair meeting to clarify any issues that may arise from this suggested approach.

**V. Committee Review Item****a. New WSCUC Policy**

- i. Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed by GC via email.

**b. Proposed Revisions to UGC CRFs Policy**

- i. Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed by GC via email.

**c. Incentive Plan for Revenue Generating Master’s Degree Programs**

- i. After discussion about the proposed plan, GC agreed that they are open to the idea of an incentive plan, but require more information. A memo will be sent to the Senate Chair identifying a concern with the proposed distribution of funds, a request that student needs be addressed in the proposal, particularly with how students would be assisted in preparing for the workforce, and requesting that GC receive additional information about economic growth enabled by this proposal in the next few years.

A concern was raised that GC would not have otherwise been informed about this proposal, as it was presented to the Council of Deans and not presented to the Senate. The Chair requested that the GC Analyst research the lines of communication between the Council of Deans and the Senate, with the Analyst finding no established path of communication between the two groups. Any questions for the Council of Deans would go through Susan Sims.

**d. SOE EC Memo to GC Concerning Graduate Admissions Policies**

- i. The committee discussed the request by the School of Engineering to lower the TOEFL threshold for international students, and allow each program to have its own GRE admissions threshold. An overall agreement among the committee was that the number of students would go up, but there is no guarantee that the quality of students would go up. The Chair will draft and circulate a memo for full committee review that would not allow the requested change to lower the campus TOEFL score.

With regard to the request that GRE scores to be set on a program-by-program basis (the current GRE score scale can be found [here](#)), the Chair liked the idea that GRE scores not be weighed as heavily. After discussion the topic, members agreed that consultation with Graduate Division would be useful in responding to this request, and will request information on overall GRE scores, how many exceptions are made annually, and how many denials are made, if any.

**VI. Systemwide Review Items**

- a. [Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 182 - UCIE](#)
  - i. GC had no comments on this issue.
- b. [Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition \(PDST\) Policy](#)
  - i. GC had no comments on this issue.
- c. [Presidential Nondiscrimination Policy and APM 015](#)
  - i. GC had no comments on this issue.
- d. [Draft Definition of Student Success](#)
  - i. GC had no comments on this issue.

**VII. Other Business**

**VIII. Executive Session (Voting members only)**

There was no Executive Session during this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

Attest:

Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Chair