

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Pursuant the call, Graduate Council met at 9:00 A.M. in Room 317 of the Social Sciences and Management Building, Chair LeRoy Westerling presiding.

Present: LeRoy Westerling, Hrant Hratchian, Teamrat Ghezzehei, Maria DePrano, Fred Wolf, Christina Torres-Rouff, Chih-Wen Ni, and Marjorie Zatz. Rose Scott and Andy LiWang participated via Zoom. Consultant Erin Webb from the Registrar's Office was also present.

I. Executive Session

Members did not have an executive session on September 18, 2018.

II. Chair's Report

The Chair noted that this is the last GC meeting for Senate Analyst Brittany Conn as her last day at UC Merced is September 21, 2018. Executive Director Laura Martin will serve as the GC analyst until a replacement has been hired.

III. Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair notes that he must leave the GC meeting early due to a scheduling conflict. He will discuss the Vice Chair's Report and the campus review item at this time.

The Vice Chair reported on the September 11, 2018 Divisional Council meeting at which the Director of the Division of Management and Information, Paul Maglio, discussed the planning process for the new Gallo School of Management. CAPRA expressed its interest in being involved in the process as the UC system does not have a policy or set of procedures in place for establishing a new school. Senate Vice Chair, Anne Kelley, has volunteered to put together a cohort to draft such procedures. VC Hratchian notes that GC should be involved in the initial discussions and should be cognizant of the budget.

Divisional Council also discussed proposed guidelines for the conduct of Executive Session; the guidelines will go out for campus review in the near future.

IV. Campus review item**A. Recommended Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases**

Members unanimously endorsed CRE's revised *Recommended Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases* document and found the suggested models to be quite helpful. Members agree that former questions and issues raised by the standing committees have been sufficiently addressed. The VC reiterated this document is simply a set of recommendations and voting policies are ultimately up to the department to establish.

ACTION: The analyst, on behalf of the Chair, will transmit GC's endorsement and comments to the Senate Chair by October 16, 2018, after all member comments have been submitted and compiled.

V. PROC Update (9/12)

Maria DePrano reported on the September 12, 2018 Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) meeting in which members discussed goals for AY 2018-19. PROC hopes better to integrate itself in the program review process and has been given a charge to aid in meeting that goal. PROC also discussed *Psychological Sciences* and *Quantitative Systems Biology (QSB)*; both are groups undergoing program review. Thy Psychological Sciences review was led by Maria and VPDGE Zatz. The lead reviewers feel the review is on track and ready for external review.

GC expressed its interest in discussing the PROC liaison's opinion of the review process at the end of AY 2018-19. The council is also curious as to its main role and function on PROC. Members would like for GC to be able to provide

input on program reviews and have suggested that a liaison present the self-studies at future GC meetings so the Council can discuss and provide comments.

ACTION: Executive Director Martin will contact the Program Review Manager, Kerry Clifford, to discuss Graduate Council's role on PROC and how GC can be better integrated into the program review process.

VI. Consent Calendar

The agenda of the September 18, 2018 meeting and the GC memo for the campus review item, Extension to establish a new Non-Degree Certificate in Child Development and Care (CDC), were unanimously approved as presented.

ACTION: 1) The analyst will post the approved September 18, 2018 agenda on the Senate website; and 2) The analyst, on behalf of the Chair, will transmit GC's memo to the Senate Chair by September 18, 2018.

VII. Division Regulations, Master's Degree Requirements

Chair Westerling lead the discussion for the Merced Division Regulations related to the [Master's Degree Requirements](#), and raised the issue of the large disparity between the minimum number of units required under Plan I, the Thesis option, or Plan II, the Comprehensive Exam option. UCM requires a minimum of 24 units for Plan I and a minimum of 30 units for Plan II. The Chair noted that there does not seem to be a justification for the large difference in unit minimums and such a disparity can cause scheduling issues for students. As such, members are asked what a suitable resolution could be? One possible option would be to revise the regulations to close the gap. One member points out that these are minimums and programs can increase their required number of units for each plan.

Members discuss the requirements at other UC campuses. VPDGE raises the question of the nature of the comprehensive exam. Additional resolution options include 1) Establish guidelines for programs to follow when drafting the exam to ensure the quality of the exam is comparable to the thesis, or 2) Establish different unit minimums based on the extensiveness of the exam; the minimums would have to be justified by the graduate group chair and approved by GC. GC agrees that this decision lies with the faculty and prefers to solicit feedback from the graduate group chairs.

ACTION: The Chair will draft a memo for the VPDGE to solicit feedback from the Graduate Group Chairs regarding the unit disparity between Plan I and II of the Master's Degree Requirements as outlined in the UCM Division Regulations. The Graduate Group Chairs will be asked if GC should address this issue and, if so, how. VPDGE Zatz will compile the responses.

VIII. Graduate Funding Model

VPDGE Zatz informed GC that Graduate Division is in the process of examining graduate funding models at the other UC campuses. Due to increase number of students on our campus, the current funding model needs to be revised to account for the large amount of funds designated towards non-resident student tuition (NRST). Graduate Division hopes to bring different models to GC by the end of October with a goal of implementation in two years. VPDGE Zatz has advised that funding continues to go down per student. One member asked if a possible solution would be to charge the students and/or principal investigators a quarter of the tuition. The VPDGE advised against charging students so UCM can maintain a competitive incentives package to bring in high quality graduate students. Members look forward to reviewing the models and suggested that COR and CAPRA also be given a chance to opine.

The Chair expressed the opinion that the motivation for revising the Graduate funding model was misguided. Chair Westerling noted that the revisions being mooted would not save the campus money, because the resulting decline in Graduate enrollments and nonresident fees would cancel out any savings, and noted that the basic problem was not the funding model, but that the campus was violating its prior commitments and raiding the nonresident fee tuition for other uses. VPDGE expressed that the current situation was putting unsustainable pressure on the budget for Graduate programs at a time when the campus is committed to expanding Graduate enrollments.

IX. Consultation with VPDGE

The VPDGE provided GC with an enrollment update. As of September 18, 2018, the campus has two recruiters and a total of 663 graduate students: 169 new and 494 continuing.

X. New Business?

- Andy LiWang updated members on the NIH funded Bridges Program. UC Merced works with Fresno State for the goal of bringing in Master's students. This program gives Fresno State Master's students the opportunity to work with UCM faculty and gain experience working at a UC. During the summer, students in the program will work on rotation, experiencing different labs on campus. Following summer, the students will have the opportunity apply to UCM and work in one of those labs. These students are not restricted to applying at UCM, they are able to apply anywhere. The Fresno State Dean of Natural Sciences met with different graduate groups on campus who may be interested in opening up to accept students in this program.
- The VPDGE noted that UC was awarded the Mellon grant. This grant will fund six incoming Humanities and Sociology graduate students well as support junior faculty in Humanities.
- UCM also received a grant from UCOP to provide faculty development support in diversity in Natural Sciences and Engineering.