

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)****Minutes of Meeting****Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

Pursuant the call, Graduate Council met at 9:30 A.M. in Room 317 of the Social Sciences and Management Building, Chair LeRoy Westerling presiding.

Present: LeRoy Westerling, Hrant Hratchian, Maria DePrano, Teamrat Ghezzehei, Fred Wolf, Christina Torres-Rouff, Rose Scott, Chih-Wen Ni, and Marjorie Zatz. Andy LiWang participated via Zoom. The Registrar, Erin Webb, was present as a consultant.

**I. Executive Session**

Members did not have an executive session on October 2, 2018.

**II. Chair's Report**

The Chair informed members that Thaddeus Seyer is the new graduate student representative. However, due to a conflicting schedule, he will need to send a substitute to most GC meetings. Thaddeus arrived at 9:50 AM to briefly introduce himself.

The Chair reported on the September 26 Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) meeting in which members discussed the following.

- The National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) are considering encouraging institutions to move away from the single-advisor models and toward requiring multiple advisors for graduate students. There is concern that this model could be difficult for a small campus like UCM. VPDGE Zatz anticipates this will take several years to implement.
- The federal government's increasing desire to protect U.S. intellectual property is leading to concerns about protecting the ability of international students to conduct research in the U.S.
- In response to concerns expressed about the ineffectiveness of UC Merced's tools for diversifying the faculty through recruitment, staff member, Pamela Jennings, suggested hiring a graduate student to develop a list of institutions as potential recruiting locations.
- Bioengineering and the Materials and Biomaterials Science and Engineering CCGA proposals were approved by CCGA and are awaiting Presidential approval. GC would like to ensure that these groups begin the process of revising CRFs for fall 2019 implementation. VPDGE Zatz reported that she has alerted each group to this issue.

**III. Consent Calendar**

The consent calendar was approved as presented. This included the October 2 GC agenda; September 6 and 18 GC minutes; the Psychology 284 CRF; and the petition to appoint Jamin Shih as an instructor of record for CRES 102.

**IV. Campus review item****A. Proposed Revisions to Bylaws II.IV.4.A – LASC Membership**

Members discussed the proposed revisions to the Senate Bylaw II.IV.4.A addressing the membership of the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (LASC). Members recommended revising the opening sentence to state the committee consist of "up to" seven members, rather than "at least" seven members. This revision would make the opening phrase consistent the total membership count as outlined in the remainder of the bylaw. Members also recommended clarifying whether the chair counts in the membership total; it was noted that the committee chair is not mentioned in the bylaw, thus leaving ambiguous whether this position is included in the total committee member count, or if it would constitute a member beyond the stipulated minimum number of members.

**ACTION:** The Chair will transmit GC's comments to the Senate Chair by October 16, 2018.

**V. Consultation with VPDGE**

The VPDGE reported the following.

- 30% of respondents to the 2018 Graduate Student Survey agreed or somewhat agreed that tensions among the faculty in their program affects them. The results have been shared with graduate group chairs, and the VPDGE has been working with programs in which issues are concentrated. The VPDGE will review this information with each of the school deans. A member recommended the results be shared at a school level faculty meeting. A member noted that this is an important time in the campus's history to attend carefully to the development of a faculty culture that supports strong graduate education and positive, professional graduate student experiences. The VPDGE noted she has been focusing on the student-faculty mentoring relationship. The survey response rate was 66%.
- VPDGE and the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, James Zimmerman, are discussing enhancing TA training with the school deans, with a focus on students appointed as instructors of record.

**ACTION:** The VPDGE will share aggregate results with Graduate Council. Members will continue the graduate student survey results conversation at a future date.

**VI. GUEST: Maggie Saunders, Executive Director of Space Planning and Analysis**

Executive Director (ED) of Space Planning and Analysis, Maggie Saunders, discussed with membership the 2020 space plan, including backfill. Executive Director Saunders stated that the current 2020 space plan is a proposal that can be altered by campus leadership. The ED's goal is to gather faculty comments and concerns for consideration by administrative and Senate leadership as they develop a final recommendation to the Chancellor. With this in mind, the ED urged all faculty members to comment.

Members noted that some programs, for example, Interdisciplinary Humanities (IH) and Chemistry are distributed across multiple buildings, which can make it difficult for groups to provide a sense of community and function effectively. The ED responded she plans to meet with IH to better understand the issues. Regarding Chemistry, the intention is to provide a home office as a main base for students. Another member inquired about the source of funding for renovations necessitated by the moves. The ED reported she is working with the Chancellor and the Office of the President to secure funding. Members were also interested in who will be allocating work spaces for graduate students. The ED reported they are working toward a model in which department chairs will have authority for managing departmental space.

The Chair raised several additional questions regarding the lack of space in the SSM building for departmental growth and the administrations of what will eventually be two schools (Gallo and Public Health). The ED urged these concerns be submitted as comments on the plan for attention by leadership. She also noted that the SSM plan is only sufficient for two to three years; addressing the growth needs for management and the behavioral health sciences will be a priority for future capital projects. Finally, the Chair raised a question about funding for equipment for faculty who are not moving. The ED noted she is still working to determine funding for back fill.

**VII. New Business?**

There was no new business.