

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)
Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Pursuant to the call, Graduate Council met at 1:30 p.m. in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Vice Chair Hrant Hratchian presiding. Members present: Ahmed Arif, Alex Theodoridis, Chih-Wen Ni, Linda-Anne Rebhun, Maria DePrano (by Zoom), Shawn Newsam, Stephanie Woo, Marjorie Zatz, Brandon Batzloff. Consultants present: Erin Webb, Jerrold Shiroma. Member absent: Chair LeRoy Westerling. Eric Cannon represented Graduate Division during discussion of agenda item VII.

I. Executive Session

None was held.

II. Graduate Student Funding Model - APAPB Kurt Schnier

Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget Kurt Schnier introduced modifications to the [graduate student funding model](#). The APAPB has been working with VPDGE Zatz and Eric Cannon from the Graduate Division to create a dynamic model that can be used by individual graduate programs and departments to project enrollment-based projects costs and funding needs and to incentivize grant-funding of students. The model has been modified to address separately masters' and doctoral students. The APAPB emphasized the model is not being imposed on faculty by the administration. Rather the goal is to provide a resource to support faculty budget planning. Toward this end, the APAPB plans to encourage each program and department to try using the model to test its applicability. The Vice Chair agreed that faculty would benefit from budget planning exercises, and suggested that the model be made more responsive to funding, especially grants, as currently costs are the driver.

ACTION: GC members will evaluate the model's applicability to their own disciplines, and report back if there are any issues with the assumptions built in the model.

III. Vice Chair's Report - Vice Chair Hratchian

The Vice Chair reported he has been working on the fellowship application and review process. The results are reported under item VII below.

IV. Consent Calendar

- A. The agenda (10/23)
- B. Petitions for graduate students to teach upper division courses. All petitions have been approved by Chair Westerling, following review against [GC policy](#).
 - [Ae sil Woo](#), POLI 190, How to be a Dictator, Spring 2020.
 - [Alexandria Pabst](#), COGS 171, Memory and Cognition, Summer 2020.
 - [Ayme Tomson](#), COGS 180, Natural Language Processing, Summer 2020.
 - [Jackie Shay](#), BIO 120, Microbiology, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. (If approved the Graduate Group Chair will be notified of the need to approve appointments in advance of the semester of appointment.)
- C. The following requests for new courses or proposed modifications to existing courses were approved by the GC CRF Subcommittee:
 - [BIOE 245](#) - Marine Microgels and Dissolved Organic Matter
 - [BIOE 260](#) - Advanced Biomedical Imaging
 - [MBSE 290](#) - Special Topics in MBSE
 - [COGS 250](#) - Cognitive Science Graduate Seminar
- D. The following requests for course discontinuations have been approved by the GC CRF Subcommittee:
 - [BEST 210](#) - Structure and Properties of Materials
 - [BEST 221](#) - Mechanical Behavior of Materials

The consent calendar was approved with the revision in agenda that item VII be addressed immediately prior to item III.

V. Systemwide Review Items**A. [Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership](#)**

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried endorsing the proposed revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership. Members noted the revisions clarify the conditions under which copyright is not returned to students (including graduate students). Members also noted there are a number of policies that intersect with faculty and student responsibilities, including the Copyright Policy, Patent Policy, and Open Access Policy, and anticipate that faculty and student compliance with these policies might be aided by a workflow/decision guide that helps faculty and students identify the appropriate considerations and in turn action(s).

ACTION: Transmit GC's endorsement to the Senate Chair by 11/5.

VI. Campus Review Items**A. [Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability \(FACS\), Phase 2](#)**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried endorsing the proposed structure for Phase 2 of the FACS. Members suggested that the FACS might benefit from representation from the Committee on Diversity and Equity and the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom, given that the Phase 2 Charge includes the development of FACS's future goals and directions.

ACTION: Transmit GC's endorsement and comment to Senate Chair by 11/8.

VII. Graduate Student Fellowships - *Vice Chair Hratchian*

The Vice Chair summarized the fellowship process and noted concerns raised last year regarding the application and review process for recruitment fellowships. Of particular concern is that the review for these fellowships is based on the students' program application materials, which reflect disciplinary norms and as such are difficult to judge against a common standard. Variation in the strength and content of nominating letters put forward by graduate groups is also an issue. To address these concerns, the Fellowship Work Group proposes revisions to the application process that would 1) simplify the student application materials to make them more easily comparable, and 2) that would place a stronger emphasis on and standardize the graduate group's nomination. Regarding the latter, the Fellowship Work Group believes that graduate groups are significant beneficiaries of recruitment fellowships and therefore should be willing to make the case for why their nominees are deserving. Suggested revisions include removing the GRE, matching the content provided to reviewers to that required for the fellowship, developing a standard nomination form for departments (with word limits), and using 3-point rather than 5-point review scale (to more easily identify the top candidates). Members were amenable to receiving a proposal to this effect and suggested that the process might also benefit from instructions to reviewers that focus their efforts on the desired materials. The Vice Chair stated he would work with the Fellowship Work Group to develop a proposal for consideration by the graduate group chairs at their 11/4 Chair's Meeting and for GC at its 11/13 meeting.

ACTION: Vice Chair will bring a proposal to revise graduate student fellowship selection process and timeline to GC's meeting on 11/13, after its presentation at Graduate Group Chairs' Meeting on 11/4.

VII. Consultation with VPDGE

A. Updates. VPDGE Zatz reminded GC of Faculty Careers Day, November 8th. The VPDGE gave an update on seven grants she is PI or Co-PI on, which aim to help graduate students acquire skills necessary for careers in and beyond academia (e.g. computational skills, mentoring skills, community work, community colleges), to diversify the professoriate (including summer bridge programs).

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Meeting adjourned at 3:01.