

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

Pursuant to the call, Graduate Council met at 1:30 p.m. in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair LeRoy Westerling presiding. Members in attendance: Ahmed Arif, Alex Theodoridis, Chih-Wen Ni, Maria DePrano, Shawn Newsam, Stephanie Woo, Marjorie Zatz, Erin Webb, Brandon Batzloff, Jerrold Shiroma. Members absent: Hrant Hratchian, Linda-Anne Rebhun.

**I. Executive Session**

Executive session was entered at 1:33 p.m. and concluded at 1:45 p.m.

**ACTION:** The Chair will ask Cognitive and Information Sciences to respond to committee comments on its proposal for a Master's of Science in Cognitive and Information Sciences; the memo will note GC's approval of the proposal, pending response to committee comments.

**II. Chair's Report - Chair Westerling**

**A. CCGA Meeting (10/2)**

The Chair reported that CCGA discussed Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs). Anticipating that Graduate Council may eventually receive such a proposal, the Chair summarized the considerable impact of these programs on graduate student enrollment and faculty time and, in turn, state supported students and associated educational and research programs. The Chair noted that the popularity of SSGPDPs may become an issue with the state given the substantial enrollments in, and the time and resources devoted to, these programs. He also raised concerns about the financial consequences for campuses should programs not meet enrollment targets. The VPDGE noted she generally has not supported development of SSGPDPs at Merced because of the impacts on faculty time and the fact that SSGPDP students do not count toward total campus enrollment.

**ACTION:** Discuss SSGPDPs at a future Graduate Council meeting.

**B. CRF Policy Work Group Meeting (10/8)**

The Chair reported that staff and faculty are in agreement that the course request system needs modifications. This was the first meeting, in its exploratory stage. (See related item, Item VI.)

**C. New GC Analyst**

Welcome Naoko Kada.

**III. Consent Calendar**

**A. The agenda (10/9)**

**B. Revised IH Policies and Procedures have been reviewed by the GC Policy Subcommittee.**

**C. The following requests for modifications to existing courses have been approved by the GC CRF Subcommittee:**

- EECS 210 - Linear Multivariable Control
- MBSE 214 - Tissue Engineering Design
- ME 210 - Linear Multivariable Control
- MIST 206 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- MIST 210 - Integrated Capstone Project
- MIST 211 - Strategy: Regional and Global Perspectives
- MIST 253 - Coupled Natural Human Systems - Foundations II
- MIST 295 - Graduate Research
- QSB 214 - Tissue Engineering Design

**D. The following requests for course discontinuations have been approved by the GC CRF Subcommittee:**

- [BEST 231](#) - Imaging and Spectroscopy for Interdisciplinary Biophysical Sciences, Biomaterials and Biotechnology
- [BEST 220](#) - Introduction to Biomedical Engineering

The consent calendar was approved as presented.

#### IV. Campus Review Item

##### A. [Proposed Faculty IT Advisory Committee](#) - *Chair Westerling*

Members unanimously approved a motion to endorse formation of an advisory committee for faculty input on IT matters, while also recommending the charge be broadened to address establishing measurable objectives for software solutions, ensuring implementation planning addresses workload and workflow, and ensuring attention to data security for external vendor solutions. There is concern that vendors may be profiting from campus data.

**ACTION:** The Chair will transmit GC's support for the formation of a committee, and recommendations for modifications to the proposed charge, to the Senate Chair by October 22, 2019.

#### V. [APC Recommendations for Greater Support of Doctoral Education](#) - *VPDGE Zatz*

Members discussed how UC Merced might approach the Recommendations for Greater Support of Doctoral Education developed by the Academic Planning Council's Work Group on Doctoral Education (WG). VPDGE Zatz provided an overview of the four recommendations in the report (financial support, mental health, diversity, and professional development). It was noted that UCM had no representative on the WG, with the result that the report does not address the campus' unique circumstances, including the diverse demands on faculty time and the general lack of resources. VPDGE Zatz asked if there was any aspect of the report that GC would consider its purview. The Chair responded that it seems best to take a step away from the document, and consider what is feasible for UCM to do to support quality graduate education in ways that are sensitive to the campus's resource constraints.

#### VI. Discussion Item: [Curriculog System Review Report](#) - *Chair Westerling*

Last year at the Graduate Council Chair's request, a review of Curriculog and the CRF process was undertaken. Members discussed the [resulting report](#) with the goal of advising Graduate Council's representatives to the [CRF Policy Work Group](#) being established to address the report's recommendations. Chair shared the table of suggested changes from the report, and pointed out that many are technical changes to improve the software, and not about the workflow. The current design requires multiple layers of approval that is very cumbersome especially when a change has to be made. Chair would like to find a way to streamline the process, by asking the question: *what are the objectives of CRFs and Course Approval Processes that are relevant to GC goals? How important is it that GC is coordinating curriculum?*

**ACTION:** The Chair will solicit policy change ideas from the committee, to be sent to the CRF Policy Work Group, by end of semester.

#### VII. Consultation with VPDGE

##### A. Upcoming Strategic Planning

The campus has initiated a comprehensive, integrative academic planning activity that will engage the schools and administrative and academic divisions. With this in mind, the VPDGE reported she would like to engage Graduate Council and graduate group chairs in a systemic conversation about what a quality graduate education should look like and what support is needed to realize that vision. These conversations would inform the development of campus plans, including her own strategic plan for graduate education.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.