

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting of the Minutes**

Graduate Council met at 2:00 PM on Thursday, February 14, 2019, Chair LeRoy Westerling presiding. All members were present, with the exception of Andy LiWang. David Ardell was present via Zoom.

I. Executive Session

Members did not hold an executive session at this meeting.

II. Chair's Report – Chair Westerling**A. [DivCo 2/4](#) Meeting**

Chair Westerling reported on the recent Divisional Council meeting, where one of the main topics of discussion was the proposal from LASC to modify the committee's membership to establish an at-large model (appointed by CoC) rather than the current model of volunteers from four Senate standing committees. There was one dissenting voice on Divisional Council. Another discussion item at the meeting was the proposal for establishing new schools and colleges. Among other components, the proposal includes a suggested approval process whereby a proposal for a new school or college will first be transmitted to the administration, then to the Senate for review. The process also includes a faculty voting procedure at the school level. The question arose among Council members about whether the Senate should have veto power over a proposal. It was ultimately agreed that the process for establishing new schools and colleges should have faculty support throughout the stages of the proposal process.

B. [CCGA 2/5](#) Meeting

Chair Westerling reported on the February 5th CCGA meeting. The status of the UC-Elsevier negotiations were discussed. There was also discussion on revising the APM to require faculty to provide evidence, in their cases for advancement and promotion, of how their teaching reflects their effort to improve diversity and mentorship. A discussion ensued at CCGA as to whether mentorship of students and junior faculty should be included as part of the assessment of teaching. Specifically, faculty may need to address whether their students are advancing to candidacy and graduating in a timely manner, whether their students are publishing in reputable journals, and whether they are presenting their work at conferences. VPDGE Zatz stated that graduate deans also had suggestions on this topic, i.e. that faculty should perhaps include, in their self-statements, discussion on their mentorship efforts. Chair Westerling pointed out that the discussion at CCGA mainly entailed the diversity aspect. Finally, self-supporting programs were also discussed at the CCGA meeting. These programs are increasing across the UC campuses, and CCGA discussed the impact of these programs on the UC system. Twenty percent of the graduate students in the UC system are enrolled in self-supporting programs. A large fraction of proposals for new graduate programs that CCGA reviews are self-supporting. Many in the UC are attracted to the revenue-generating aspect of these types of programs and use it to justify faculty and staff FTE lines. However, when the revenue is gone, the campuses struggle to fund the FTE commitments they have made. VPDGE Zatz stated that students are not counted as state enrollment in self-supporting programs. In general, there appears to be a rapid privatization of graduate education. The campus five-year budget plan that UC Merced transmitted to UCOP includes self-supporting programs. CCGA, as well as the state Assembly, has expressed an interest in carefully looking at self-supporting programs.

III. Budget Work Group Report (2/13) – Vice Chair Hratchian

Vice Chair Hratchian reported on the two issues that the Budget Work Group (BWG) discussed at their meeting:

- A. Library funding. The BWG is considering a proposal for a 5% annual increase to try to get back up to projected budgetary needs for AY 2019-2020, as the Library is chronically underfunded. BWG members have suggested a 10% increase. The BWG also suggested that the Library needs to continue its long-range planning, not just in relation to an annual increase of funding.
- B. Summer Session funding. Currently, a portion of the funding goes to the deans, another portion goes to various services including IT, then the remaining amount is allocated to the Chancellor. The proposed

model takes the money from the Chancellor and allocates it to the departments and deans. The BWG is currently reviewing the models from Davis, Berkeley, and Riverside. The models vary in how much funding is allocated to departments. BWG also discussed other models that are used to support research and graduate studies.

IV. Academic Planning Work Group (2/6, 2/7) – Teamrat Ghezzehei

GC representative Ghezzehei reported on the two Academic Planning Work Group (APWG) meetings he attended. He reported that faculty town hall meetings have commenced for each school. The main topic of discussion at the town halls concerns R1 status, specifically, how to prioritize reaching R1 status, how quickly to reach that designation, and what things faculty are willing to sacrifice to attain R1 status. In the town halls, faculty discussed the Carnegie indices of success, and judged that two in particular are quite important: research & development expenditures in science and engineering and PhDs in STEM fields. Additional criteria that faculty deemed are important are per capita spending on research as well as total research spending. Professor Ghezzehei also reported the need to create messaging for the campus to focus on graduate education as well as undergraduate education. There was also discussion in the town halls on prioritizing based on themes, i.e. sustainability. After the town halls are completed, a report from the APWG will be sent to the Senate for review.

V. Consent Calendar

- A. The February 14 Meeting Agenda
- B. Approval of CRFs: [BioE 205](#), [BioE 240](#), [BioE 292](#), [MBSE 293](#), [MIST 231](#), [MIST 251](#), [MIST 252](#)
- C. Revised [Petition for Kay Kim](#)

Kay Kim will now teach PYS 120: Health Psychology during Summer Session 2019, and was previously approved by GC to teach PSY 156: Social Psychology at its January 31, 2019 meeting.

Action: The consent calendar was approved as presented.

VI. [Faculty Liaison Role in Academic Program Review](#) – PROC Representative Maria DePrano

Member DePrano summarized the PROC memo outlining changes to the faculty liaison role in the site visits for academic program reviews. GC members agreed that GC should transmit a memo to PROC requesting clarification on the role of the faculty liaison.

Action: GC will transmit a memo to the PROC co-chairs, requesting clarification on the role of the faculty liaison during academic program review site visits.

VII. Campus Review Items

- A. [SSM to EBM Name Change](#) – Vice Chair Hratchian

Vice Chair Hratchian summarized the proposal from the Social Sciences and Management department to “Economics and Business Management”. As per the proposal, the name change will better reflect the department’s educational programs and research foci.

GC members agreed that the name change is warranted. A motion was passed to approve this proposal, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Action: The GC chair will transmit GC’s endorsement to the Senate Chair by February 14, 2019.

- B. [Proposed Major in Economics B.S.](#) – Christina Torres-Rouff

Member Torres-Rouff summarized the proposal from Economics to create a B.S. degree. This proposed major would be distinct from the already-established B.A. in Economics, in that there would be a substantive focus on quantitative analysis and preparation for employment in the public and private sectors as well as for advanced graduate study.

GC members appreciated the quantitative emphasis of the proposed new major and its positive impacts on preparing undergraduate students for graduate research. However, GC members raised questions

about the use of resources and resource neutrality. In addition, GC members requested clarification on whether the existing courses will have to be taught more frequently and whether there will be an impact on faculty workload in the department. GC members were also concerned that the proposal lacks an explicit statement as to how this new major will or will not affect the implementation of the Master's and PhD graduate programs that were already approved at the systemwide level.

Action: GC will transmit a memo to the Senate Chair, stating: 1) GC requests clarification on how the implementation of this new major will potentially impact the SSM faculty's ability to implement the existing, but as yet unimplemented, Master's and PhD degree programs without negatively impacting the existing two undergraduate degrees; and 2) GC suggests the Senate request a five-year teaching plan outlining the group's ability to deliver the proposed and existing undergraduate degree programs as well as implementing the Master's and PhD degree programs.

C. [Draft Charge Enrollment Strategy Committee](#) – Chair Westerling

GC members discussed the draft charge to the Enrollment Strategy Committee. As proposed, the committee will set overall strategy in undergraduate admissions and retention and specifically work within campus and systemwide planning parameters and policy to recommend five-year goals and annual targets for undergraduate enrollment.

GC members suggested that research priorities and graduate student support implications be explicitly considered by the Enrollment Strategy Committee when creating policy for admitting undergraduates to UC Merced programs, specifically the impact on enrollment targets and support for incoming graduate students by discipline. GC members also suggested that this new committee's work be distributed in the form of biannual reports that discuss the effect of enrollment decisions on graduate students, perhaps using a Fall enrollment report to discuss the previous year's work and a Spring report to outline plans for enrollment targets for the upcoming academic school year.

A motion was made to endorse the draft charge for the Enrollment Strategy Committee, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Action: GC will transmit its memo to the Senate Chair by February 26, 2019.

VIII. Systemwide Review Items

A. [SVSH Frameworks for Adjudication and Investigation](#) - Rose Scott

Member Scott summarized the draft revisions to the [SVSH Investigation and Adjudication Framework for Senate and Non-Senate Faculty](#), and the [Investigation and Adjudication Framework for Staff and Non-Faculty Academic Personnel](#). Each documents outlines for a specific constituency the University's process for investigating and adjudicating alleged violations of the SVSH Policy. [The cover letter](#) provides critical context for the revisions.

GC members supported the draft revisions. A motion was made to endorse the draft revisions, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Action: GC's memo will transmit its endorsement to the Senate Chair by February 25, 2019.

B. [Proposed Revision to Senate Bylaw 336](#) – Rose Scott

Member Scott summarized the [proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 336](#). SB 336 outlines the process by which the Committee on Privilege and Tenure adjudicates disciplinary cases.

GC members supported the draft revisions. A motion was made to endorse the draft revisions, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Action: GC's memo will transmit its endorsement to the Senate Chair by February 25, 2019.

IX. Consultation with VPDGE

VPDGE Marjorie Zatz reported on the following items:

- She has external funding for 19 students for the summer bridge program this year. Six of the 19 students (from the IH and Sociology programs) will be funded through the Mellon grant. She also has funds from the systemwide Provost to support the other 13 students. In addition, VPDGE Zatz has funding for three continuing peer mentors. The students who will be funded by UCOP must come from California Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs). There will be almost \$1 million a year of funding available through the UC-HSI program. VPDGE Zatz is on the committee, and they are meeting next week.
- Admissions are going well. Graduate visitation weekend is next weekend. IH and Sociology are holding theirs a week later, and CIS will conduct theirs the week after that.
- Fellowship reviews. VPDGE Zatz told graduate group chairs that she will inform them if their students have been funded and will endeavor to issue the notification letters quickly.

A GC member asked the VPDGE about the declining admission numbers for the IH graduate program. VPDGE Zatz responded that the campus should make more intense recruitment efforts, such as increased networking and marketing of UC Merced by faculty. She emphasized that faculty need to be more proactive in recruitment, and her office is poised to help with this effort. She suggested that faculty include a slide about UC Merced in their research talks at other institutions.

X. Informational Items

Chair Westerling pointed out the informational items on the agenda:

- 1/29 – Academic Senate transmitted to the Vice President of Human Resources [a request from UCFW and its Task Force on Investment and Retirement \(TFIR\)](#) for the University to add Roth 403(b) and 457(b) plans as investment options for the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan in the UC Retirement Savings.
- 2/7 – Academic Council transmitted to President Napolitano [a letter](#) regarding faculty consultation on library space and removal of print materials.

Member DePrano – who is also the LASC chair – reported that the printed materials issue came from previous UCOLASC meeting discussion about UCSC's controversial removal of library material.