

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Minutes of the Meeting****Monday, April 8, 2019**

Pursuant to the call, Graduate Council met on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 9:00 A.M. in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair LeRoy Westerling presiding.

I. Proposed Graduate Funding Model - EVC/Provost Camfield, Senate Chair Schnier, and AVC Romi Kaur

In response to GC's memo urging increased graduate student funding, EVC/Provost Camfield and Budget Development Team representatives Kurt Schnier (Senate Chair) and Romi Kaur (AVC of Financial Planning & Analysis) attended today's GC meeting to present a proposed graduate funding model.

Senate Chair Schnier stated that the Budget Development Team has been discussing ways for the campus to provide additional funding to support PhD students. First, the team outlined current graduate student support and determined how the money is being allocated. Then, the team outlined future options for graduate funding allocation. One of the options is to develop an incentive model whereby additional funds come in with grant money. The slide presentation shared by Senate Chair Schnier and AVC Kaur contains information on current funding allocation.

Senate Chair Schnier explained the method by which graduate student funding is currently determined. All graduate students, both PhD and Master's, pay tuition. A portion of that tuition is allocated to return-to-aid. Currently, the return-to-aid rate is 50%. There are various sources through which additional funding can be provided for graduate student support, either by revising the return-to-aid formula, or through an incremental, central funding arrangement, or a grant incentive model, or a combination.

Senate Chair Schnier directed GC members to the spreadsheet in the slide presentation that contained the various model scenarios, and explained to GC members the various options and how they work together. As he did so, he requested that they collaboratively think about how to move the toggles of the model to provide more funding for graduate students. While discussing the grant incentive model, VPDGE Zatz noted that only 80 out of 597 of UC Merced's PhD students are funded on GSRs. She stated that this must change given that Merced is a research campus. As GC members debated the components of the model, EVC/Provost Camfield pointed out that central funds are not sufficient to fund additional graduate students, so it is important for the campus to find alternative ways to fund them. Senate Chair Schnier reiterated the option of pairing return-to-aid growth to grant growth. GC chair Westerling pointed out that trade offs will have to be made. A GC member asked how the grant incentive model will balance between grant fields and non-grant fields. How do we create incentives to foster higher levels of group identity and cooperation? Senate Chair Schnier acknowledged that the Budget Development Team is attempting to create a global model for the campus, but realizes that local decisions and local incentives also have to be developed. VPDGE Zatz added that in order to achieve R1 status, UC Merced needs to bring in more grants. A GC member stated that he faces a decision between hiring post docs or graduate students, which implies a prioritization between overhead or tuition. EVC/Provost Camfield encouraged GC members to manipulate the options in the model and determine the various incentives available.

VPDGE Zatz requested that this model, though not a policy, not be distributed by GC members yet, as graduate group chairs will be shown the model at the beginning of May.

II. Chair's Report – Chair WesterlingA. DivCo [4/1 Meeting](#)

Action: Due to time constraints, this item was tabled for the next GC meeting.

B. CCGA [4/3 Meeting](#)

Chair Westerling reported the following major topics of discussion:

- Incarcerated students policy. Discussion centered on what constitutes presence. There is a proposal to revise the policy to accommodate students who are political prisoners and cannot be physically present. The downside is that the revisions to the policy could be interpreted too widely, and could pave the way for additional distance education programming or lead to accommodation for students who cannot get a visa. Chair Westerling stated that he advocated for a narrow, exception-based policy.
- UCSF wants to create a consortium with Dignity Health, as the former does not have enough beds. The issue is that Dignity Health, as a faith-based organization, does not offer certain reproductive services or perform certain procedures which brings it into conflict with the UC as a public system.
- The state legislature is pushing for the UC to diversify its student body. The systemwide Senate Chair suggested that student files be redacted to remove identifying information with respect to ethnicity and gender so as not to bias application review committees. CCGA members objected, pointing out that this practice would not serve to enhance diversity.

III. Academic Planning Work Group – GC Representative Teamrat Ghezzehei

The work group's proposal has been circulated to the Senate and School Executive Committees for review. VPDGE Zatz stated that an important part of the proposal is that the graduate group chairs will have a role in budget planning. There will also be a small pot of money available for the VPDUE and the VPDGE for program growth.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Agenda

B. Graduate Student as IOR Petition:

- [Daniel Mello, Psychology 151, Summer 2019](#)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. OTA and Shadish Fellowship Review – Eric Cannon, Graduate Division

Graduate Division staff member Cannon attended today's GC meeting to ask GC members if they would be willing to review the 26 submitted applications for the Outstanding Teaching Award (OTA) and the Will Shadish Graduate Student Fellowship. The deadline for completion of the reviews is Wednesday, April 17 at noon. A GC member requested that they review applications that are relatively close to their own fields. The GC chair suggested that graduate groups chairs also be invited to review the applications which would help to balance the review workload.

Action: The Graduate Division will assign each GC member a set of applications to review, and will make a request to the graduate group chairs to assist in the review process. Assignments will be made in the next two days. Reviews are due by Wednesday, April 17 at noon.

VI. [Proposal for Distance Education Teacher Preparation Program](#) – GC Chair Westerling

On March 26, 2019, the Senate received [a memo from Extension](#) revising the number of units required to complete the *UC Merced Extension Teacher Preparation Program, Multiple Subject Credential and Single Subject Credential*. At its April 1 meeting, Divisional Council tasked GC with clarifying the rationale for the nature of and rationale for these revisions with Extension. Prior to this meeting, GC members reviewed

[Extension's response.](#)

Lynn Reimer, Director of Education Programs for University Extension, attended this portion of the GC meeting.

GC previously endorsed the proposal, but questions arose from a subsequent memo from Extension that changed the range of minimum units that have to be met in order to qualify for the certificate. The GC chair requested clarification on the units.

Director Reimer clarified the unit issue in the context of the complex learning process with respect to WSCUC requirements. She explained that the reduction in the number of units required to complete the program is the result of a mathematical error. The program has several courses in common with the UC Merced's Natural Sciences Education Minor (NSED). When offered by the NSED program, these courses are worth four units but when offered by the TPP, they are only valued at three units. The difference reflects the inclusion of one unit of field work in the NSED courses that is absent from TPP courses because the Commission on California Teacher Credentialing mandates that field work be conducted as a separate course. In the original TPP proposal, those courses common to the NSED and TPP programs were valued as four unit courses, when they should have been valued at three units. The reduction in units addresses this error.

A motion was made to approve the revised proposal, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Action: GC will transmit a memo to the Senate Chair clarifying the revised proposal from TPP with respect to the change in units.

VII. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz

- Grad Slam campus finals will be held at 1:00 pm on Thursday, April 18. (This conflicts with a GC meeting.) Twelve graduate students are competing.
- Interdisciplinary Small Grants Competition
The call for proposals has been submitted. These are \$3,000 grants for faculty working across graduate groups to conduct interdisciplinary planning. A GC member asked how the funds are spent and the VPDGE responded that money can be spent on activities such as organizing lunches for meetings, books for readings, developing training grants, or bringing in a speaker.
- Graduate student recruitment strategies – [faculty toolkit](#) on Graduate Division website
VPDGE Zatz is trying to encourage faculty to be more involved in graduate student recruitment. The toolkit provides information to faculty related to identifying, recruiting, and enrolling graduate students. Faculty are also encouraged to bring in a diversity of speakers to UC Merced to learn about our campus with the goal of enhancing graduate student recruitment.

VIII. New Business

GC chair Westerling raised a concern about the slow pace at which HR reviews requests for raises for research staff.

Action: This issue will be added to a future GC agenda.