

[GRADUATE COUNCIL \(GC\)](#)

Monday, October 12, 2020

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Zoom URL: <https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/2092009728>

Zoom Phone: 1 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 209 200 9728

Documents available in [Box](#)[Graduate Council Duties](#)

Pursuant to the call, the Graduate Council convened at 1:32PM, with Chair Hratchian presiding. All present (one arrived late, at 2PM).

I. **Executive Session** There was no executive session.

II. **Chair's Report (1:30-1:55) ---Chair Hratchian**

A. CCGA meeting (10/7/20)---This was an introductory meeting. About ½ members are new. The main discussion focused on SSGPDP, on how they should be structured, conducted, and assessed. CCGA is considering altering the policy so that SSGPDPs would be reviewed more frequently (every 2 or 3 years), as opposed to the regular 7 year review cycle, to ensure financial sustainability, and possibly phasing them out if not self-supporting. Chair observed that UCM seems to take a larger portion away from program—at other campuses, 55% goes directly back to programs. Also the percentage that goes to aid seemed lower at other campuses than UCM's. Chair wants UCM to be mindful that our proposed programs align with other campuses', especially given the discussion of a shorter review cycle, and ensure that proposals are received well by CCGA.

B. Divisional Council (10/9/20)— see item D.

C. New Diversity Fellowship (first meeting on 9/28/20)—A small working group convened to discuss how to offer Black scholarships using funds provided by the Chancellor. (See VI.D for more information.)

D. HyFlex Planning—Prior to DivCo meeting last Friday, a slightly modified version of ECC policy including the definition of HyFlex was circulated among GC members for comments. HyFlex is an opportunity to offer courses on campus in Spring 2021. The version discussed by DivCo stated that proposals for such courses must be initiated by instructors, and approved by department, school dean, and graduate/undergraduate dean, to ensure instructors' consent to dedicate the extra time and effort associated with this modality. As DivCo expressed concerns about the approval process that might create delay, GC Chair has redrafted the policy document, which is under review by GC and UGC's chairs and vice chairs, and the graduate/undergraduate deans. Chair would like GC members to review the document before it is resubmitted to DivCo.

ACTION: Analyst will circulate the revised ECC policy with GC members as prompted by GC Chair.

E. [Support Services for Undocumented Students Work Group](#) meets once a semester, and GC has a seat. Member Sandie Ha volunteered.

ACTION: Analyst will notify Senate Executive Director that Member Sandie Ha will serve as GC representative.

F. Additional item: Campus Climate and Culture Workgroup—Senate Chair DeLugan seeks volunteers to serve on this new workgroup that was approved as a part of DivCo Anti-Racism Workgroup's Action Plan. It was decided that GC requires more information before committing to nominating a representative.

ACTION: Analyst will obtain more information on the expectations for this position from Senate Chair and Executive Director.

G. Additional item: Proposed Curtailment Program—Chair received an alert from CCGA of a message from the President and the Academic Council. The Curtailment Program was proposed by a systemwide workgroup, and

comments must be received by UCOP by November 9th. CCGA requested comments by October 20th. In addition to the existing 5 days leading into New Year, the proposal is to add 5 more days. There is flexibility in implementation by campus. Faculty is included, but the proposal offers very little details (for example, 5 days out of the 9 months employment, or the yearly pay?), and it is unclear whether there is impact on pension plan. It envisions tiered system of 3 tiers but the tiers are not explicit. Also it is not clear if student employment is affected. Chair will ask CCGA to confirm this last point as part of its comments. (After the meeting, review request was sent to Senate committees, which led to the below action item):

ACTION: Members will provide comments on the proposed curtailment program by 10/20/20.

III. Vice Chair's Report (1:55-2:20) ---*Vice Chair Hestir*

A. Anti-Racism Workgroup [Action Plan](#)

Vice Chair would like to develop a GC action plan, without leaving the tasks to a subcommittee, for it is critical to have every member's input. The pressing task is to review Senate bylaws, regulations, and the manual of academic policies and procedures (MAPP). The chairs of the subcommittees were invited to opine. Suggestions included analysis of diverse needs that may not be being met by the current policies and procedures and campus support services, to have a data-driven approach to structural racism; creating a review schedule for the various documents to be incorporated in GC meeting agendas so members can plan ahead; highlighting the positive steps that have been or can be taken, such as the new diversity fellowship; educating ourselves on structural racism, via creation of a common ground of working definition and FAQs, drawing upon existing knowledge and best practices; and examining GC's review processes to check for implicit biases.

ACTION: Vice Chair will assign reviewers for the Senate Manual and the MAPP (if there are no volunteers), and will draft FAQ on structural racism.

IV. Consent Calendar (2:20-2:25)

A. The agenda (10/12)

B. [Minutes from the 9/28 meeting](#)

C. Course Proposals

NEW:

[ECON - 230B](#) - Econometrics II

[ES - 288](#) - Data Science (cross-listing from MIST 270)

[ES - 289](#) - Network Science (cross listing from MIST 271)

[MIST - 260](#) - Research Methods in Complex Systems

[MIST-270](#) - Data Science

[MIST - 271](#) - Network Science

[QSB - 274](#) - Stable Isotopes in Ecosystems (cross listing from ES 274)

MODIFY EXISTING:

[ES - 274](#) - Stable Isotopes in Ecosystems

Consent calendar was approved as presented.

ACTION: Analyst will process the course proposals and upload the approved documents on Senate website.

V. Discussion: 4+1 Programs Policies and Procedures (2:25-2:45) –*Guest: Professor Sarah Kurtz, MBSE Graduate Group Chair*

4+1 programs, which are called by various names at other campuses, have become increasingly common. In a 4+1 program, undergraduate students who meet the program standards for admission start taking graduate level courses while registered as undergraduate student, which allows them to complete Master's degree in one year enrolled as a graduate student.

4+1 programs that connect existing undergraduate and graduate programs and that do not require change in program requirements are reviewed at campus level only (see chart [here](#)). Most other campuses have developed campus policy for development and review of 4+1 programs (as summarized [here](#)). As UCM does not have established campus policies, Professor Kurtz has drafted a campus policy and guidelines.

GC Chair believes 4+1 programs would be an effective tool to recruit excellent undergraduate students, who would then become graduate students. Professor Kurtz's proposal is specifically for MBSE 4+1 program that can draw from various undergraduate education programs. Students must be of higher caliber to be able to accelerate their undergraduate studies. Students will be able to "double-count" 2 courses, justified by requiring extra-curricular activity (internship or leadership experience) that adds to the academic experience. SoE Dean Matsumoto was involved in developing a program of this nature at UC Riverside, and the MBSE proposal is based on the UCR program. Professor Kurtz would like GC to consider starting the program on a pilot basis, to move forward. There are questions about admissions, such as how many to accept as frosh, how transfer students can be accepted, how to coordinate with the Graduate Division, and she believes that it would be beneficial to implement the pilot program for a couple of years, and revise and implement a campus-wide program based on the experience and feedback from the pilot program.

GC Chair asked about the status of the proposal, whether it was brought to the admissions committee (AFAC). Professor Kurtz responded that she has consulted with all stakeholders she identified, and the "admissions people" were ready to start focus groups to get their input and move forward. At issue is the fact that it is not clear what the approval process is, given that 4+1 is a new program to the campus.

Chair Hratchian shared his understanding of the approval process, that it does not need to go to CCGA (he will confirm with CCGA), if the proposal is to link existing undergraduate and graduate programs. GC members demonstrated their strong support for 4+1 programs. One member commented that the documents look fine as the first draft, and initiating 4+1 programs with the proposed pilot program is reasonable. There are no current rules against undergraduate students taking graduate courses *per se*, and it would be advantageous for students to have a streamlined process for graduate course credits earned while enrolled in undergraduate programs to be counted in their graduate studies. Vice Chair added that GC would do its best to move the proposal along. Graduate Council needs to have a larger conversation (about graduate programs in general) about ensuring quality of the programs, as well as that academic planning and budget provide resources to make programs successful and competitive. Interim Graduate Dean Kello added that the academic planning document includes 4+1 programs as a priority for the Graduate Division.

Questions were raised about the admissions process for 4+1 programs, whether a student being admitted into an undergraduate program is simultaneously admitted into the master's program, and if so, how the graduate admissions would be involved. Professor Kurtz replied that this is part of the reasons why admissions (not AFAC but administrators) are in favor of a small cohort pilot program, as it is not clear how to make the admissions process go smoothly. Also on a year to year basis, if students' grades fall below what is required, they will be dropped. Further questions about resource implications were raised, and Vice Chair pointed out that at some other universities these programs have been very successful and grow quickly, which also means there is competition. UCM needs to think about how to be competitive and attract students while ensuring quality education.

A GC member mentioned that UCSB has a 5 year program in material science. The most popular among 5-year programs in UCs is computer science. Some campuses encourage undergraduate students to take graduate courses. Our graduate courses are not full so certainly can accommodate undergraduate students. The member inquired how the curriculum would be designed so that undergraduate students (who may not necessarily have the materials science backgrounds) would be trained as MBSE graduate students. Professor Kurtz responded that Master's requirements will be the same for 4+1 students.

ACTION: GC Chair will consult with the committee leadership on the next steps, and bring back this item to GC for further conversation.

VI. Consultation with VPDGE (2:45-3:00)

- A. Graduate Division Phase II Academic Planning (draft [document](#) and [worksheet](#) FYI) is currently in the phase for feedback and revision by graduate groups. At least two of the School plans include 4+1 programs as a goal/strategy.
- B. Graduate Student Wellness, Fall 2020—Interim Dean Kello was informed that graduate students have been using Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) more frequently than last AY. Graduate students prefer one-on-one counseling to group sessions (graduate students have their own group sessions separate from undergraduate students). CAPS does not have the resources to accommodate all requests. Graduate Division’s Academic Counselor, Maria Nishanian, provides one-on-one counseling, but Graduate Division is also looking into other ways to support students, such as peer mentoring, which has been well received. A member asked for more information on Graduate Division’s Academic Counselor, and Interim Dean Kello responded that his office is working to publicize her hiring and services more widely to the faculty.
- C. Proposed new federal rule regarding visa lengths of stay (members received an [email](#) from Dean Kello on October 9.) This item was FYI, no discussion was held.
- D. New Diversity Fellowships. The review period for the document is short (it was emailed just before the meeting started), but Interim Dean Kello would like input from GC.

ACTION: GC members to comment by 10/21, at which point GC Chair will determine whether this item should be discussed at GC’s 10/26 meeting.

Interim Dean Kello mentioned that almost all graduate courses will be remote for Spring 2020, with only 3 biology courses listed as Hyflex. Registrar added that the course schedule is live now, with 3 graduate and 5 undergraduate courses that are Hyflex.

VII. New Business? There were no new businesses.

VIII. Informational Items

[The Office of the Registrar 2019-20 Annual Report](#)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03PM.