

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

Monday, October 26, 2020

Meeting Minutes

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 call, the meeting was convened at 1:32PM. All members and consultants were present (minus GSA representative). Guests: Paul Maglio, David Noelle.

I. Presentation by Gallo School Initiative Core Team

Gallo School Initiative Core Team attended the meeting to answer questions from GC members on the school [pre-proposal](#), to give their perspective, and also seek feedback as this is the first “school” proposal for the campus. Faculty from three programs (CIS and EBM from SSHA, and MCS from SOE) came together to create the Gallo School of Management, with an endowment by the Gallos in the amount of \$18 million. The funds cannot be used because no Management School has been established. The hope is that, once the school is established, there will be more donations, as donors will see that UCM can actually deliver on its promise.

The Core Team explained the distinct features of the proposed management school, which builds on faculty’s common interest in complex systems and the interaction between people and technology. After some discussion on the timeline for school approval and planned enrollment, GC Chair commented that he is in favor of moving the proposal as promptly as possible, but with due diligence.

ACTION: GC members to email questions and comments to GC Chair, who will forward them to the Proposal Team.

II. Chair’s Report (1:50-2:10) ---Chair Hratchian**A. Divisional Council (10/23/20)**

Gallo School. If committees come back in favor of the proposal, the proposal team need not make presentation at DivCo. If committee reviews are thorough, questions should have been addressed prior to DivCo discussion. ECEC. FWAf has taken the lead in communicating with administration. Concern about lack of communication and importance of childcare for grad students and postdocs were raised, which were shared by GC members.

Medical Education. Chancellor has spoken of UCM “training doctors” without Senate consultation. DivCo issued a memo, with strong language that curriculum belongs to faculty. GC Chair commented to Provost the need for administration to consult GC on curriculum. Provost addressed some of DivCo members’ concerns, but campus role is not fully developed. Chair will keep GC apprised.

GSA Representative. The representative has been officially appointed by CoC but, due to conflict of schedule, the representative cannot attend GC meetings in person. GC Chair has met with the representative separately.

B. New Diversity Fellowship

Having had no comments by the requested deadline of 10/21/20, Chair asked members to use Zoom Chat if they had comments. No comments were provided.

C. MPH and MDSA proposals

Chair proposed that UCM review these programs according to CCGA guidelines, and if there are any issues that are not addressed by the CCGA guidelines, draft campus policy. Chair asked for comments and no comments were made, whereby chair’s proposal was considered endorsed.

D. MBSE-TA Funding Model

Chair discussed TA funding model with the MBSE graduate group chair, and with Kurt Schnier. The funding model is being used as enrollment management, and creates challenges for interdisciplinary graduate groups in particular, as they cannot predict how many TAs they would receive. Further discussion on how to address these challenges, with information from other campuses and universities, needs to take place.

ACTION: Invite AVPAPB Schnier to a future GC meeting.

III. Vice Chair's Report (2:10-2:25) ---Vice Chair Hestir

A. Graduate Group Chairs Meeting (10/21/20)

Enrollment management model was discussed with Kurt Schnier, which projects growth to be curtailed for the most part, based on projected TA allocations. Participants pointed out the importance of the role of faculty, as opposed to the administration, in deciding who is admitted. Questions were raised as to who makes resource allocation decisions, once department chairs become responsible for budget. How the Senate and administration work together at different levels of granularity is an important consideration.

B. PROC (10/26/20)

PROC discussed BIOE undergraduate program's Action Plan.

C. DivCo Anti-Racism Action Plan

Member Rebhun represents GC on the workgroup on campus culture and climate. GC needs to only review committee bylaws. Vice Chair solicited graduate group chairs to opine on whether there are hidden biases in Senate Regulations, and will share results with GC. Member Depaoli will review the bylaws as a lead reviewer. Vice Chair also shared URLs on structural racism and other items:

<https://diversity.ucmerced.edu/learn-more/anti-racism> and <https://diversity.ucmerced.edu/learn-more>

ACTION: All members to review the bylaws for the next meeting. Members interested in leading the bylaws review are to email Vice Chair.

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

A. The agenda (10/26)

B. [Minutes from the 10/12 meeting](#)

C. [MBSE Catalog Entry](#) for Ph.D. Program

D. Course Proposals

NEW:

[PHYS 274](#)- Advanced Quantum Computing

[ECON - 201B](#) - Microeconomic Theory II

[ECON - 210](#) - Advanced Applied Research Methods I

Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Systemwide Review Item (2:25-2:35)

A. [Report](#) of the Academic Council Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force (by 11/2/20) -**Member Woo** Member Woo's review is [here](#).

Member Woo noted that the task force rejected the proposal to have online degrees taught by a separate pool of faculty, which is usually done on adjunct basis at other universities. The task force was adamant that the same UC faculty must teach the online programs, based on analysis of programs that relied on adjunct faculty with large class sizes having poorer qualities. UCs do have fully online Master's program, but task force emphasized the outside the classroom experience for undergrads as valuable.

After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to endorse the report.

ACTION: Analyst will transmit a memo of endorsement based on Member Woo's review.

VI. Campus Review Items (2:35-2:45)

A. 4+1 program [policy](#) and proposal [format](#) -**Member Jennifer Lu**

Member Lu shared her findings that most 4+1 programs recruit Juniors, while UCM is proposing to recruit high school students. Also 5th year means more financial burden, if they are planning to be in school for 5 years. UCM's proposed required GPA is also lower than usual (3.5, or 3.25 at least). Information on projected need (where students may be applying from) and career trajectory (whether students may stay for doctoral degree), as well as the distinct features of the program, are needed to judge the financial sustainability of the program. The policy should also address resource needs and faculty workload.

ACTION: Chair will collaborate with Member Lu to revise the documents for GC members' review.

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

- A. PhD Admissions—Interim VPDGE recommended inviting APAPB Schnier.
- B. ANR Researchers as Advisors and Student Committee Chairs—there are at least 3 ANR researchers on campus. They do not teach but are engaged in graduate education and work with graduate students. Some have desired to chair student committees. This would require revision of campus Bylaws and/or Regulations. GC members briefly discussed different options, and Chair invited members to comment by email.

ACTION: GC members to email the Chair if they have a preference on how to make it possible for ANR researchers to be able to chair committees.

VIII. New Business? There were no new business.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03PM. Attested by GC Chair Hratchian.