

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)

Monday, November 23, 2020

1:30 – 3:00 PMZoom 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 meeting was convened at 1:33pm, with Chair Hratchian presiding.

I. Consultation with Interim VPDGE Kello—with guest Associate EVC/Provost Schnier**A. Ph.D. [Enrollment Management](#) and TA Allocation**

The model has been developed over the last 2 years. The latest version was announced without GC consultation. GC leadership met with AEVC/Provost and Interim VPDGE to address confusion among faculty about the intent of the model at this time. The group drafted FAQ based on feedback received from faculty. Members were invited to review the document in [box](#) but not distribute.

Interim VPDGE and AEVC/Provost clarified that the model is being presented as a tool, not a directive, to look at the financial situation and do more mindful planning of enrollment management, and that schools allocate TAs differently (and have been over-allocating). The speed at which fiscal balance is achieved can be adjusted by school, but it needs to be arrived. Campus has a \$1.5 million deficit in TA-ships. GC Vice Chair asked how flexible it is, to change the assumptions, as groups have criticized some of them. A member opined that GSR contributions (external funding) may not be being adequately counted in the model. AEVC/Provost responded that percentage of students supported by GSR, number of undergraduate students for which the GG supply TAs, retention rate, can all be adjusted.

Chair opined that there was significant confusion and miscommunication among faculty, especially in the first couple of weeks after the model's rollout. GC as a faculty committee has the responsibility to correct the misperceptions, which is why it is drafting the FAQ. Vice Chair voiced her concerns about including the Stop the Clock measure. Interim VPDGE responded he is open to revision/removal, but may need the measure as the last resort. He will consult with EVC/Provost and FWAf.

ACTIONS: Members will review the FAQ and comment by 10AM tomorrow (11/24).

Members will report anything that stands out as problematic in their Graduate Group meetings. GC and GD leadership will determine the mode of distribution and recipients of the FAQ.

II. Vice Chair's Report (2:15-2:20) ---Vice Chair Hestir

A. Graduate Group Chairs' Meeting—groups are updating the P&Ps but will need to re-revise the P&P to incorporate the conflict resolution task force's recommendations. There is no resolution yet about these two processes being out of sync. Also discussed fellowship, how to ensure there are no biases that favor certain disciplines over others, and top-off fellowships. Interim VPDGE commented that eliminating the top-offs and its trade-offs has been discussed in the past, and Graduate Division is considering trying with recruitment fellowship this year (without the top-offs). Vice Chair recommended there be a mechanism to top off the external funding that doesn't quite cover all expenses, to stay competitive with other schools.

III. Consent Calendar (2:20-2:20)**A. The agenda (11/23)****B. [Minutes from the 11/9 meeting](#)**

Consent calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Systemwide Review Item (2:20-2:20)--none**V. Campus Review Item (2:20-2:50) ---Vice Chair Hestir**

A. GC Bylaws (the document with additional suggested revisions is [here](#))

Members discussed some ideas to explore: graduate advisory council, participation in GC as leadership training for postdocs and grad students, as well as compensation for student and postdoc participants. While participation of postdocs would create a space for postdoc representation, of which there is little on campus, they are on campus for a short time, and selecting a postdoc representative can create an equity issue.

Interim VPDGE offered to ask the campus union representative, Brad Barker, about how GC may recruit a postdoc representative.

ACTION: Members to send comments to the Vice Chair by noon of 11/25; approval by consent calendar via email, by noon of December 1.

VI. Chair's Report ---Chair Hratchian

A. Divisional Council (11/13/20)—the GC/FWAF/CoR chairs' memo was forwarded to AVPF and VCR (whose content was verbally shared at the last GC meeting). There will be a meeting with Therma Hurd and SNS Dean Dumont about medical education, where the Chair intends to invite them to GC regarding graduate education. There was also an update on ECEC. GSA also sent statement to student affairs (uploaded to GC box folder).

B. Gallo School Preproposal—DivCo will discuss on 12/11. Chair met with Paul Maglio and shared the main thoughts from GC.

ACTION: Analyst to send a final draft memo to the Chair for review, put on consent calendar.

C. Proposed Revision to the Online Course [Supplementary Questionnaire](#)

Chair would like members to review and comment on it (deadline not set).

VII. Discussion Item: Review of Campus Policy on Extension Non-Degree Program Approval—Member Rebhun

On November 27, 2017, GC approved the campus policy on establishment of UCM Extension Non-Degree Programs, with the mandate that the policy be reviewed in 3 years, which is November 27, 2020. The policy and related documents are [here](#).

The policy covers extension programs that lead to certificates—must perform 120 hours of credit-bearing coursework with GPA of 2.0 or higher. Member Rebhun looked up what programs were being offered—professional development for teachers, veterans to earn credit, national park leadership, etc.--and didn't notice anything that is problematic per se. Member Rebhun recommended that it be approved as is again.

Chair gave background information—GC gave a sunset clause for the policy review. At some campuses GCs leave extension to its own—UCM wanted to be involved, as it was very forward-facing entity, and also it was under student affairs. Extension Director was not aware of the scheduled review, and does not have a report for GC. Member Rebhun concurred, as GC has no information on how the programs are working.

ACTION: Approve a 3-months extension of the policy and establish a timeline of proper review by GC during Spring 2021, and request Extension to provide a report. Motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously. Policy subcommittee (which includes Chair Hratchian) to consult with the Extension leadership, and invite Extension to present a report in February or March.

VIII. New Business? GSA representative spoke about the Graduate Student Rights & Responsibilities (R&R) document. GSA would like to distribute it to students to make them aware of their rights. Chair added that the hope is to draft a joint advisor/advisee R&R document.

IX. Informational Items: none

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59PM.