

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting Minutes****Monday, December 7, 2020**

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Via Zoom: <https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/2092009728>**Documents available in [Box](#)****[Graduate Council Duties](#)**

Pursuant to the call, the meeting was convened at 1:30PM, with Chair Hratchian presiding.

I. Chair's Report (1:30-1:40) ---Chair Hratchian

A. DivCo Special Meeting on Medical Education—DivCo members gained a better understanding of the administration's process. GC and UGC leadership will meet with SNS Dean and Medical Education Director for informal consultation (scheduled for this week), and they will attend a GC meeting in spring. The vision is to build a medical school in 5-10 years (more time is common), currently it is in the planning stage. Discussion with UCSF has begun. Accreditation can only happen in conjunction with existing programs and takes a long time (5-10 years if all goes well). A BS-MD pathway, similar to MBSE proposal, is under consideration.

B. CCGA-- UCM is the only campus that has not received grants from the UC-HBCU program. Program officers are available to discuss how to write successful proposals with UCM faculty. It was recommended that interested faculty contact Pamela Jennings. Payroll reduction—UCOP gave flexibility to campuses on how to achieve budget cuts, UCM's goal is \$900K. It was noted at CCGA that the state's economy might be performing better than expected, and the concern about budget cuts might be exaggerated.

II. [Report on Support Services for Undocumented Students Work Group \(1:40-1:45\)](#) ---Member Ha

Member Ha shared her report. There are 552 undergraduate and 11 graduate undocumented students (although the numbers appear underestimated). The group discussed what faculty could do, and students had suggestions (as noted in the report), such as including consideration of population who are not undocumented students but whose family is undocumented, and providing funding. A GC member noted that there is no COR or ORED representative in this group—it would facilitate engagement of undocumented students in campus research. She has encountered issues trying to include undocumented students in her research efforts. Interim Graduate Dean commented that it is very difficult to fund undocumented students.

III. Consent Calendar (1:45-1:45)

A. The agenda (12/7)

B. [Minutes from the 11/23 meeting](#)

C. Course Proposals---NEW:

[CHEM - 220](#) - Advanced Inorganic Chemistry

[BIOE - 246](#) - Aquatic Plastic Pollution

[QSB - 254](#) - Aquatic Plastic Pollution (cross-listed from BIOE)

D. IOR Petitions—Summer 2021

[Castillo, Anabel PSY 120 202120](#)

[Gavrilova, Larisa PSY 156 202120](#)

The consent calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Systemwide Review Item (1:45-1:50)

A. Innovative Learning Technology Initiative ([ILTI](#)) Review (due 1/8/21)

The ILTI report is out of date. Supplementary update is provided in the packet, but information is not as comprehensive as the original report. Chair asked for a volunteer to lead the review, if anyone had a chance to read already. There being no volunteer, Chair will ask by email.

ACTION: Chair will ask for a lead reviewer by email. All members to comment by 12/28/20.

V. Campus Review Item (1:50-2:00)

A. [Academic Planning Targets](#)

The proposed institutional-level targets were developed by the Academic Planning Work Group. As part of the review, to inform the development of the campus' strategic plan, the Senate is asked (EVC/Provost's letter is [here](#)) to advise on [the proposed targets](#), as well as the institutional support and infrastructure that need to be developed for the campus to reach the three, five and 10-year targets outlined in the document.

Chair asked members to pay particular attention to research expenditure (likely to go to GSRs), research staff (non-faculty; majority is postdocs in most R1 institutions); and doctoral conferrals, and provide feedback on whether these goals are off the mark. Chair considers other items to be as expected, but welcomes comments.

Interim Graduate Dean commented that the target doctoral conferral numbers are too high—even without budget cuts. A member commented that the research staff (especially postdocs) need to be increased, and asked the interim Graduate Dean to share information he has about enrollment/conferrals. Interim Graduate Dean responded that he does not have these numbers at hand, but the targets appear off the mark. Chair added that the number of faculty also needs adjustment. A member noted that UCM's graduate student to faculty ratio is much higher than other campuses'.

Vice Chair asked how closely UCOP held campuses to the academic planning targets. They are used to make sure there is no over-production of new programs across campuses. Thus, it is important to be as accurate as possible, but it is not likely for UCOP to "hold campuses to" them.

ACTION: Members to comment by 12/28/20 to meet the DivCo deadline of 1/12/21.

VI. Discussion Item: 4+1 program [policy](#) and [formatting guidelines](#) (2:00-2:10)

The draft policy and formatting guidelines presented by MBSE have been reviewed and revised for GC review and discussion. Once the policies are finalized, GC (and UGC) would review MBSE's proposal.

Chair reminded members that this may serve also as a policy for BS to MD program. Chair is satisfied with the proposed documents, and will share them with SNS Dean and Director Hurd for their review.

ACTION: Chair will share the policy and formatting guidelines with SNS Dean and Medical Education Director for their feedback, and report back to GC.

VII. Consultation with VPDGE (2:10-2:45)—*Interim VPDGE Kello*

A. Fellowship Review—there are two kinds of fellowships—full (covers tuition and pays stipend) and "top-off" (smaller amounts). After discussing [how best to utilize the top-off](#) with GC Fellowship Subcommittee, and GC leadership, and seeing that there are no restrictions about skipping a year to pool resources to offer a larger summer fellowship, this became the current proposal. (Health fellowship will be converted into full scholarship—there are 6 top-offs.) There will be three \$7000 fellowships for the summer after the first year, per year.

The subcommittee and the Graduate Division also discussed [the scoring practice](#). Last year, the scoring range was reduced from 5 to 3, but 3 has led to more ties. Members recommended creating rubrics, defining what each score means ("3" means definitely should receive funding; "2" means 'I would recommend this for funding in the absence of any 3s,' and "1" would be described without too negative of a description). Chair recommended the subcommittee draft the rubrics, and analyze data of reviewers' scoring practices (some might be consistently scoring lower than other reviewers). Chair also explained that GC does not only use the scores—distribution among programs is also taken into account. Randomness cannot be eliminated—if Subcommittee can propose ways to reduce it, it is very welcome.

[Applicant Statement](#) were read by chairs but not reviewers last year. This change was prompted by the observation that a couple of graduate programs' applicants had consistently scored better than others on their statements. Especially given that students are writing for program acceptance, not for fellowships, the idea was that having the chairs write would reduce the disproportionality. But the statements by graduate group chairs also had a great variance.

ACTION: GC to notify Graduate Division whether reviewers will evaluate applicant statements or graduate group chairs' statements.

Financial Commitment by Graduate Groups—Currently graduate students are promised 4-year funding. All schools used to give less than 4-year commitments. With some funding agencies (NSF), 4-year commitments are tenable, but not all funding sources allow for 4 years of student support at a time. Interim Graduate Dean is considering proposing a 2-year commitment to the School of Engineering. Chair clarified that Graduate Groups do not have control over resources, the Deans must make the commitment.

B. Enrollment Management Model—the joint GC-GD document was transmitted (FAQ and accompanying text). There has been a 42% growth in TA-ships in the last 5 years. Undergraduate enrollment growth was 20+%, compared to 47% growth in PhD enrollment. It is clear that a significant part of the PhD enrollment growth was supported by TA-ships, and this growth pattern is not sustainable. The TA allocation is decided at the school level, by deans. There is variability in how willing deans are to go into debt. Interim Graduate Dean would prefer to grow the enrollment numbers, but the campus needs to move towards responsible budgeting. A discussion ensued regarding the impact of reduced enrollment on new and junior/untentured faculty, and how tuition is charged, especially on start-up funds. If you put a student on GSR from your start-up, you have to pay student tuition at the full rate, when there is a 25% discount to grant-supported student tuition. A member pointed out this might be creating a perverse incentives not to use start-up to fund students. There has been a discussion about giving a discount to start-up-funded GSRs, and the Interim Graduate Dean will try to advocate for change with the Provost and the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget.

C. Academic Planning--Review of the part on Graduate Division is ongoing. It will be shared with GC as soon as it is back from CAPRA and Provost's reviews.

VIII. New Business?

IX. Executive Session (2:45-3:00)

A. [MPH Program Proposal](#) Lead Reviewer: Stephanie Woo (the review is [here](#) for GC members only)

It was decided to ask for clarification on staff and faculty line, and the teaching plan (how they will cover teaching if not all FTEs are filled due to COVID), and on the move to the new building, which has been delayed. GC will recommend adding a section on implications of COVID on budget and resources, as well as student enrollment numbers.

ACTION: Transmit memo requesting revision with the above clarification.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM. Att. by Chair Hratchian.