

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

1:30 – 3:00 PM

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](#)

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| I.    | <b><u>Chair’s Report</u></b> --- <i>Chair Westerling</i>  | <b>10 Min</b> |
| II.   | <b>Vice Chair’s Report</b> —Vice Chair Hratchian  | <b>5 Min</b>  |
| III.  | <b>Consent Calendar</b>   | <b>0 Min</b>  |
|       | A. The agenda (3/31)  |               |
|       | B. <a href="#">Minutes from the 3/17 meeting</a>  |               |
|       | C. CRFs   |               |
|       | New: <a href="#">PSY 215 Essential Mathematics for Quantitative Social Research</a>   |               |
|       | Modify existing: <a href="#">PH 211 Introduction to Statistical Methods in Public Health</a>  |               |
| IV.   | <b>Discussion Item: <a href="#">Grading Policy during Emergency Course Continuity</a></b> — <i>Chair Westerling</i>   | <b>20 Min</b> |
|       | University campuses across the nation, as well as other UC campuses, have instituted changes in grading policies which seek to mitigate the negative impact of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Graduate Council has been asked by the Senate Chair to coordinate with UGC and propose a grading policy during Emergency Course Continuity. |               |
|       | <b>Action Requested:</b> Discuss grading policy and strategies for consultation with stakeholders.  |               |
| V.    | <b>Campus Review: <a href="#">Revised Organized Research Unit (ORU) Policy</a></b> — <i>Member Arif</i>   | <b>10 Min</b> |
|       | Committee on Research developed new policies and procedures for the establishment, review and closure of ORUs in AY 18-19, and submitted for campus review towards the end of AY 18-19. The policy has been revised, with additional clarification of certain aspects provided in a list of FAQs.   |               |
|       | <b>Action Requested:</b> Transmit Graduate Council comments to Senate Chair by April 7, 2020.   |               |
| VI.   | <b>Systemwide Review: <a href="#">Revised Presidential Policy on Travel Regulations</a></b> — <i>Member Theodoridis</i>   | <b>10 Min</b> |
|       | The revision includes policy update based on new IRS business mileage reimbursement rate, use of gender-neutral language, a new section on sustainable travel, and clarification of foreign per diem.   |               |
|       | <b>Action Requested:</b> Transmit Graduate Council comments to Senate Chair by April 6, 2020.   |               |
| VII.  | <b>Discussion Item: <a href="#">CoR “LEAP” Proposals</a></b> — <i>Chair Westerling</i>  | <b>15 Min</b> |
|       | In an effort to enhance UC Merced’s research profile, CoR is proposing the restructuring of the Faculty Grants Program (proposal I), and the development of research workforce (proposal II) to maintain a healthy staffing level. The <a href="#">cover memo</a> provides useful context.  |               |
|       | <b>Action Requested:</b> Transmit Graduate Council comments to CoR by April 6, 2020.  |               |
| VIII. | <b>Consultation with VPDGE</b>  | <b>20 Min</b> |
|       | COVID-19 related updates (program changes/cancellations, enrollment projections, annual review of graduate student form)  |               |
| IX.   | <b>New Items?</b>   |               |