

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Minutes****Tuesday, November 2, 2021****1:30 – 2:45 PM****ADMIN Room 245**Zoom URL: <https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/2092009728?from=addon>

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

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

The meeting was convened at 1:33PM, with Chair Hestir presiding.

**I. Chair's Report (1:30-1:40)—Chair Hestir****A. A. Divisional Council (10/28)**

DivCo discussed the McKenzie Scott gift. The Chancellor is allocating a total of \$1 million for the next 3 years for campus to reach R1 status. Some proposals that came forward were EDI, climate sustainability, undergraduate research participation, and award supplements (for undergraduate researchers, seed grants, cross-campus education/mentorship, etc.). Chair Hestir proposed that GC discuss ideas at the next GC meeting. There was also a report on systemwide discussions, such as online cheating platforms (UCOP counsel advised against lawsuits due to low likelihood of success and likelihood that faculty copyrights will be contested); a new bond initiative that would include salary increase and deferred maintenance; varying standards for teaching online across campuses (at one campus, it appears that meeting once in person qualifies a course to be considered in-person); and up to \$6 million funding for student housing.

Chair Hestir stated that she reiterated at DivCO that GC approves courses, not instructors, for online modality; the latter is the business of department chairs and deans. The emergency remote teaching is not a decision for the councils, which only waived the requirement for courses to be reviewed for online/hybrid, because it is to be a temporary measure to expire at the end of this AY. Dean Kello commented that the UCM Hub is being built next to UCM, for grad students, delayed but no change otherwise (price, etc.). It is expected to open in 2 years, AY 23-24. Members discussed the financing of student housing, and Chair reminded that Vice Chancellor Nies will be invited to the first GC meeting in Spring 2022.

**ACTION:** Schedule a discussion of additional Senate funds for 11/16/21; schedule a consultation with VC Nies for the first GC meeting of Spring 2022.

**B. 10/29 CCGA meeting on Self-Supported Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs)**

Many expressed concerns about SSGPDP proliferation. UCM expects to have more. A joint workgroup of CCGA and UCPB identified as the main issues the lack of transparency about return to campus, and the concern that resources were being drained from state-supported programs. The quality of programs is another concern, with reports about programs rapidly changing course and modalities without oversight (systemwide approval). There is also the question of how to define/justify what programs should be SSGPDP and not state-supported. Workgroup urges to improve transparency and assessment.

Systemwide provost has been proposing to remove CCGA oversight. GC should be concerned about this given the inherent conflict of interest (campus provosts may support SSGPDPs for financial reasons, to the detriment of program quality); also being a new campus, UCM benefits from external reviewers with expertise in these programs. UCM does not have an SSGPDP—it has one PDST. Systemwide provost does not seem to have solid justification for his proposal. His argument that CCGA review takes too long is not supported by data. As some of the SSGPDPs are failing, it is unclear why they should be rushed for approval.

- C. A message to Graduate Group Chairs re: course proposals for Spring & Summer 2023 implementation. The draft message is in the box folder. The intention is to clarify to the campus that GC is planning to review course proposals with online components. GC should have its process established by early February.

**ACTION:** Members review the draft message, which is on consent calendar to close on 9AM, Thursday, 11/4/21.

## II. Vice Chair's Report (1:40-1:55)—*Vice Chair Ha*

- A. Graduate Chairs Meeting (10/25): discussed Master's Plan II exam committee (there were GC email communications about whether committees were needed). A couple of groups do not have committees, but their chairs agreed to having committees. Graduate Division is meeting with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to discuss challenges graduate students are facing. CAPS has organized sessions, but one for international students was canceled due to lack of participation. Chairs discussed professional development courses, and are in favor of having a single course offered through the Graduate Division (vs. offering it through individual graduate programs).
- B. PROC (10/28)—continued discussion of priorities for PROC, which are to advance anti-racism efforts; to ensure that periodic review supports academic planning under the new academic structures (unit shift from bylaws to departments, planning shift from school level to department level); and to adequately incorporate members' feedback into the interim report to WSCUC. PROC members reviewed the report extensively to ensure that the major points raised by previous review were sufficiently addressed.

## III. Consent Calendar (1:55-1:55)—*Chair Hestir*

- A. The agenda (11/2)
- B. Minutes from the 10/19 meeting
- C. Course Proposals  
NEW:  
[ES - 269](#) - Environmental Toxicology  
[ME - 263](#) - Electrochemical Energy: Theory and Analytical Methods  
[PSY - 226](#) - Health Interventions  
[PSY - 227](#) - Stress, Coping, and Health
- D. Petitions  
[Dueñas Garcia, Manuel 202210 ANTH/HS 140](#)

**ACTION:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

## IV. Systemwide Review Items (1:55-2:00)—*Chair Hestir*

- A. [Proposed Revised APM - 759, Leaves of Absence/Other Leaves Without Pay](#) (draft memo is [here](#))
- B. [Proposed Presidential Policy on Abusive Conduct/Bullying in the Workplace](#) This policy is separate from SVSH, and contains definitions of the conducts, compliance, procedures for reporting and resolution options including early resolution process. Chair would like someone to review in the context of the conflict resolution process. No reviewer was identified.

**ACTION:** Transmit GC comments to Senate Chair by 11/19/21.

## V. Discussion Item: Graduate Student Instructors (2:00-2:15)—*Policy Subcommittee Chair Ryavec*

GC continues its discussion from 10/9 regarding how to ensure that the employment of graduate student instructors (Teaching Fellows) is based on the benefit of the experience for the students, and not to address labor issues. Policy Subcommittee has reviewed GC's policy for TFs to teach upper division courses and associated form, and proposes revisions. To clarify the responsibilities of department and graduate group chairs, advisors, and course mentors (IORs), GC has drafted a memo, which has now been reviewed by the Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and the Policy Subcommittee.

Chair Hestir screen-shared the data from the Registrar that showed the number of graduate student instructors who were responsible for 100% of courses, broken down by school, and year, for the last five years. Policy Subcommittee (PS) Chair Ryavec added that the instructor record in the schedule is based on information sent by each school. If a student is teaching a course 100%, it seems reasonable to have the student listed on the schedule, so that students taking the course would not expect faculty to be teaching the course. He would like the data disaggregated at the graduate group level.

**ACTION:** Chair Hestir will circulate the data from the Registrar for members' consideration.

PS Chair Ryavec proposed that students with Master's degrees be allowed to teach, even if they have not advanced to candidacy. Having teaching experience as someone with Master's degree makes students more marketable. A member opined that it should be at the discretion of the department chair to recommend students to teach upper division courses. Members discussed how to incorporate this suggestion into the form. A member recommended that the policy and form use Teaching Fellow and not IOR as the title.

Dean Kello stated that some departments are giving TF appointments to students who advanced to candidacy, even when they do not have the right teaching experience. This creates a problem in equity, and quality of education. He suggested that all new TAs, and possibly Teaching Fellows (instructors), be mandated to attend teacher training offered by CETL. Currently it is optional but close to 100 have registered. Postdoctoral Representative Banwarth-Kuhn added that the training consists of one hour every other week, and every minute is valuable. GC members expressed their support for making the training mandatory.

**ACTION:** Policy Subcommittee will propose revised form and policy on graduate student instructors.

#### **VI. Consultation with Vice Provost/Dean of Graduate Education —*Interim VPDGE Chris Kello (2:15-2:45)***

- A. Master's Degree Plan II Committee—as discussed in Vice Chair's report.
- B. In absentia eligibility and geographical boundary for UC Merced—the boundary used to be CA borders, then was left to the discretion of the Graduate Dean. Now each campus is being asked to define the boundary. Only students who have advanced to candidacy are eligible. Students can still access UC resources at the campus they are close to, and can enroll in research units.
 

**ACTION:** Chair Hestir will make GIS maps that include roads, with possible radius as boundary.
- C. Visitation Weekend—it will likely be a hybrid, and local (Graduate Group level) programming that match with 2-3 days when Graduate Division is offering activities.
- D. Graduate Professional Development one-credit course (for each program, or one offered by Grad Div)—as discussed in Vice Chair's report. A question was raised about whether Graduate Division can offer a course.

**ACTION:** Dean Kello will consult with the Registrar, and provide GC with a list of professional development courses that are already being offered by graduate groups.

The following two items were tabled for next meeting.

- E. Normative times for all programs
- F. Policies and procedures for graduate group members to maintain membership

#### **VII. New Business?** There is a new review item on APM 025, Conflict of Commitment and Outside Activities of Faculty Members and Designated Other Academic Appointees. Review is due on 11/30/21.

**ACTION:** Member Hratchian will review this item.

GC entered EXECUTIVE SESSION at 2:45PM. Att. by Chair Hestir.