

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting Minutes****Thursday, February 18, 2021****2:00 – 3:30 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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The meeting was called to order at 2:02PM, with Chair Hratchian presiding.

**I. Executive Session—MEMBERS ONLY, 15 minutes****A. Graduate Recruitment Fellowships-*Guest Eric Cannon***

**ACTION:** Graduate Division will send the final list to GC.

Open session began at 2:26PM.

**II. Chair's Report (2:15-2:35) -Chair Hratchian**

A. DivCo 2/5 Meeting—DivCO heard the report on the highly problematic financial system transition. SOE executive committee presented a memo to the Senate leadership, pointing out its catastrophic effect on junior faculty. The Interim CFO will attend the next meeting to answer DivCo's questions.

B. Teacher Preparation Program (TPP) Workgroup—a related memo from Extension is [here](#). GC is expecting to discuss extension programs at its next (3/4) meeting with the Dean of Extension.

C. Cooperative Extension (ANR) Specialists on Student Committees—[CRE's response](#) recommends changing one word (from "of" to "from"). GC response accepting this suggestion has been prepared and will be transmitted upon approval by consent calendar (completed 2/19/21).

D. [Senate Award](#) Committee (3 members including a Chair, one from each school)—Chair Hratchian and Member Chen volunteered.

**ACTION:** Members interested in serving on this committee will contact the chair and the analyst.

E. Budget Planning and Policy Ideas (Update on a meeting with UGC and CAPRA Chairs)-the chairs discussed bringing resource consideration into CRFs (TA assignments, units), and providing guidance for leadership and planning capacity for department/graduate group chairs, to develop a budget model that is not susceptible to attempts to take advantage of the model's assumptions, such as by changing the units/instructional activity types.

**ACTION:** Chair Hratchian will draft a guidance/policy in collaboration with UGC and CAPRA chairs by May 2021.

**III. Vice Chair's Report (2:35-2:50) -Vice Chair Hestir**

A. PROC (2/8) Meeting. GC's draft response to PROC's questions is [here](#). Vice Chair asked for feedback on grant-writing part of the memo. Interim VPDGE responded that, while the Graduate Division provides some general support through a summer workshop and as a part of its professional development course, he is in favor of a hierarchical system where students take their proposals to their program faculty to add the discipline specific contents. There was general agreement that, given the resource implications, and the possibility that the offered courses do not provide the support needed by the students, it may be best to steer away from the current approach, where each graduate group establishes its own course. Recommendations included creating a workgroup in the same fashion as the workgroup on teaching training, and documentation of best practices to be available from the Graduate Division website. Vice Chair invited Interim Graduate Dean to collaborate on consulting graduate group chairs on training courses.

**IV. Report on [Faculty-Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure \(CRI\) Workgroup](#) (2:50-3:00)-  
*Member Chen and Interim Graduate Dean Kello, with guest Maria Nishanian (graduate academic advisor)***

Member Chen updated the Council on the CRI Workgroup's meeting on 2/8/21, where the workgroup reviewed and discussed its Spring 2021 deliverables, as well as the FWA/GC memo that precipitated the formation of the workgroup. Interim Graduate Dean Kello and guest Nishanian presented the draft faculty/graduate student conflict resolution flowchart (made available during the meeting, with a webpage link in Zoom Chat). Interim Dean Kello stated that the flowchart is part of a guideline and not a policy, and would be further revised in consultation with the CRI workgroup. GC is welcome to wait to comment until after the workgroup has reviewed it. A GC member suggested further clarification on which office/unit to consult, as students may not be familiar with the campus organizational chart.

**V. Consent Calendar (3:00-3:00)**

- A. The agenda (2/18/21)
- B. [Minutes](#) from the 2/4 meeting
- C. [Response to CRE](#)
- D. [Catalog Revisions](#)
- E. Graduate Student IOR [Petitions](#)—for Summer 2021. The requesting department has verified that the students have advanced to candidacy and will not be supervising other grad students.
  - Becerra, Rene\_SOC 160\_202120
  - Duenas, Maria\_SOC 182\_202120
  - Escobar, Maria\_SOC 180\_202120
  - Perez Martin, Amalia\_SOC 110\_202120
  - Quesada, Cintia\_SOC 111\_202120
  - Quesada, Melissa\_SOC 132\_202120
- F. Course Proposals  
NEW:
  - [SOC - 219](#) - Environmental Sociology
  - [SOC - 233](#) - Race and Education
  - [SOC - 284](#) - Latinx Sociology

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

**VI. Discussion Item: Graduate Student TAs in courses taught by Graduate Student IORs (3:00-3:10)**

Per APM 410-4a, a Teaching Assistant is "serving an apprenticeship under the active tutelage and supervision of a regular faculty member." GC Policy Subcommittee met and agreed that there needs to be a policy that applies to both upper and lower division courses where graduate student TAs assist graduate student IORs. A draft policy/form is [here](#).

**Recommended Action:** Determine the next steps. Due to lack of time, this item was tabled until the next meeting.

**VII. Discussion Item: 4+1 Program Policy and Procedure (3:10-3:20)**

Following a proposal from MBSE in Summer 2020, draft 4+1 program [policy](#) and [guidelines](#) for program proposal were revised in Fall 2020. Members were invited to review the documents to finalize them at this meeting. Of the points to consider provided in the agenda, the first point received a comment, as below.

- Additional Requirements that do not accrue course credits but provide professional development---  
Chair recommended that this be a more general statement about double-counting.
- Minimum Grade (B-) and GPA (3.4 for all courses, 3.25 for courses in students' majors)
- Admissions as Freshman (with High School GPA of 3.6 or higher)—no comments were received
- Contiguous vs. Combined Programs (in Guidelines—this has policy and resource implications)

- Proposal Timeline (proposed 9 months vs. current 18 months for undergraduate proposals)

**ACTION:** Chair will work with the analyst to finalize the documents, which will be circulated by email before transmittal to AFAC/UGC.

**VIII. Consultation with VPDGE (3:20-3:30)-Interim Graduate Dean Kello**

A. Graduate enrollment projections---updated information on applicants, including “first generation,” is [here](#). Interim Graduate Dean Kello is preparing the five-year projected enrollment. The current simulation estimates that enrollment will reach 1000 in 2025. UCM has been aspirational in setting the targets, and has not met the projections.

**IX. New Business?** Chair introduced two campus review items (a proposal for a major in Writing Studies, and a proposal for a minor in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies). The review materials will be emailed to GC members for comments.

**ACTION:** Analyst will distribute the review materials to members. Members will contact the Chair and analyst if they are interested in leading the review.

**X. Informational Items**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm. Att. by Chair Hratchian.