

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting Minutes****Thursday, March 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](#)

Pursuant to the call, the meeting was convened at 2:02PM, with Chair Hratchian presiding.

I. Chair's Report (2:00-2:30) -Chair Hratchian

A. DivCo 3/12 Meeting was business as usual, including the designation of two faculty chairs. DivCo discussed the proposed new preamble for the Senate Bylaws, drafted by D&E and CRE, which focuses on Senate's dedication to overcome structural racism. The general idea was supported, but it reads more as a statement than preamble. Discussion ensued about its narrow focus (whether it was appropriate as a preamble). It will be further discussed at the next meeting.

B. MAPP 500—the proposed document raised serious concerns: 1)the cover letter did not disclose the magnitude of change 2)"all academic personnel" would be subject to the new MAPP including students, postdocs, project series—there had been recent cases where faculty hiring project scientists and postdocs were being asked to conduct searches like those for faculty. GC drafted memo and Chair brought it up as a new item at DivCo, which prompted discussion. GC did not send the memo, as the Senate leadership temporarily withdrew the review of MAPP 500.

C. Policy Developments—Chair updated members on CatCourses, 4+1 program, [Curriculog Modification](#) (Registrar's proposal for variable course titles), and Graduate Student TAs in Graduate Student IOR courses. Chair had a consultation with UGC Chair, to dissipate confusion about the CatCourses, and attended a UGC meeting, where he received feedback on the 4+1 program policies. It is AFAC that is more concerned about the 4+1 programs. UGC will send the proposed policies to AFAC, whose review would be discussed at UGC before transmittal to GC, possibly by the end of semester. Chair would like GC to endorse the proposed Curriculog modification, as it seems particularly useful for graduate curriculum. Registrar explained that increasingly, there have been requests from faculty to update the course titles, but the default has been that only courses whose titles include "topics" can have variable titles. Registrar would like to expand that option to other courses. Chair asked for further feedback, none objected.

ACTION: Transmit a short endorsement memo on the Curriculog Modification, after approval by email consent calendar.

Chair would like some thoughts from members on the draft memo on teaching assistants and teaching fellows (called Graduate IORs at UC Merced). Chair stated that the need and training for TAs/IOs varies by program/department, department should stipulate its expectations from IOs (guidelines), to accompany the appointments. If done by departments, disciplinary differences can be reflected in the guidelines.

ACTION: All members to review the draft TA/TF memo, for discussion at the next GC meeting.

D. P&Ps review—Public Health is ready for review, QSB will likely be soon. Chair solicited a lead and a second reviewer, to respond by Zoom chat or email. None were received during the meeting.

ACTION: Members to contact the chair and analyst if willing to review the P&Ps.

**II. Report on [Faculty-Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure \(CRI\) Workgroup](#) (2:30-2:40)-
Member Chen, GSA President Bennett**

The GSA President provided an update on the R&R document that a committee has been formed and meeting has been scheduled, with a plan to share their comments at the April 1 GC meeting. Member Chen updated the Council on the Workgroup's meeting on 3/8/21. Clarifications on the dispute boards were made, wherein the data dispute board would be under the VCR, and the authorship dispute board under AVPF. CoR chair gave a presentation (emphasizing the role of the GG Chairs), there was a presentation of the most updated conflict resolution flowchart for students, and the accompanying text. GC Chair emphasized the need for the graduate group/department chairs to be responsible and accountable, rather than issues being escalated to the top (deans' level) immediately. The culture of the campus needs to change, as is apparent in the TA/TF discussion. It was stated that a few Graduate Group Chairs have made the suggestion to enlarge the first box in the flowchart of conflict resolution, to emphasize the importance of trying to address issues locally first.

III. Consent Calendar (2:40-2:40)

- A. The agenda (3/18/21)
- B. Minutes from the 3/4 meeting
- C. Graduate Student IOR [Petitions](#)—for Summer 2021. The requesting department has verified that the students have advanced to candidacy (except Soto) and will not be supervising other graduate students.
 - Gomez,Laura_HIST 108_202120
 - Ngo, Dalena_CRES 119_202120
 - Soto, Ivan_HIST 117_202120 (expected to advance to candidacy 5/12/21)
- D. Course Proposals

NEW:

 - [EECS - 253](#) - Computer Architecture and Design
 - [EECS - 261](#) - Wireless Networks

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Systemwide Review Items GC is a lead review committee. Both are due 4/12/21.

A. Presidential Policy on Classification of Gifts and Sponsored Awards—Chair Hratchian

This policy will replace the [UC Policy on Review of Gifts and Grants for Research](#). The new policy's focus is clarification of the distinction between Gifts and Sponsored Awards. Chair explained that there were some misconceptions about gifts, that they have more flexibility once processed at a campus. The policy makes it clear that this perception is misguided. The policy largely impacts fellowships and research assistantships. Chair wishes to endorse it, and stated the FAQs were particularly helpful. However, it appears that the draft of the policy did not include any Senate consultation. No objection was raised by the members to endorse the policy.

ACTION: Transmit an endorsement memo with content as described above.

B. Systemwide Senate Regulation 610-Residence—Chair Hratchian

Proposed amendments clarify that "residency" is not necessarily linked to physical presence on campus. This is not about California residency, but in reference to the degree requirements. As there are more online and field work courses, the "residence" requirement has caused problems due to 610's ambiguity.

ACTION: Endorse the proposal, upon approval as a Consent Calendar item.

V. Consultation with VPDGE (3:10-3:30)-Interim Graduate Dean Kello

The GSA president is one of the top ten contestants in the **Glad Slam**: Chair Hratchian participated as a judge for the first time and was very impressed, and encouraged GC members to attend the event. The GSA president proposed that Grad Slam be a campus-wide event, the first round as a starter (she is on Chancellor's advisory council that is reviewing campus traditions). **Summer Bridge** program is planned for a safe in person implementation. **Adelante** is the newly funded academic job market preparation program especially for Hispanic-serving institutions, and some online portions are being offered this spring. Consultation on **Fall**

planning included a question from a GC member if international students can be asked to arrive early if they are not vaccinated yet, so that they can be vaccinated in US before school starts. Interim VPDGE will bring the question to the Graduate Deans. For Fall 2021, students will have to request a leave if they cannot be on campus. “Hyflex” (in the sense that students get to choose the instructional delivery mode) will not be offered. GC Chair asked how much discretion department chairs would have, as some chairs may have more faculty who cannot be on campus. Questions of this nature and others about equity will likely surface in the next couple of months, and Chair encouraged GC members to facilitate conversations in their departments and bring back concerns to GC, so they can be discussed with the Interim VPDGE. GC Chair also expressed concerns about the fall planning for the return to research, particularly due to California having a much more restrictive research opening than other states, for grant competition.

The interim VPDGE brought a **new item** for consultation: an anti-discrimination lawsuit has been brought against another campus, about admissions and TA eligibility determined by English proficiency (when based on citizenship or residency, not a problem when based on preparatory education). For TA eligibility, UCM does have the “discriminatory” language. The Council of Deans discussed this yesterday, and agreed to use the preparatory education language throughout (i.e., in TA eligibility too). Chair asked the Graduate Division to provide a red-lined copy of policies, which GC would approve by consent calendar.

VI. New Business? No new business was reported.

VII. Informational Items

Proposed changes to attendance recording ([Memo](#) from Registrar’s office to the Senate)--The Registrar asked all to review the memo, as it has received very little feedback (Senate leadership was consulted). The Registrar is federally required to record the attendance. The Registrar invited all to email her questions if they have any.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33PM. Att. by Chair Hratchian