

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting Minutes****Thursday, March 4, 2021**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. Executive Session

- A. [Revised Program Proposal](#) for the Master of Public Health Degree Program

ACTION: Invite the proposers to revise the cover letter, adding one paragraph addressing what activities they plan to undertake during the two-year period before the program start date (ramp up, advertise, etc.). GC will consider it by consent calendar when MPH submits the cover letter.

Regular Session began at 2:18PM.

II. Chair's Report (2:10-2:25) -Chair Hratchian

- A. [DivCo](#) (2/19/21) conducted business as usual.
- B. [CCGA Meeting](#) (3/3/21)- For the last 2 years CCGA has advocated for including mentoring in APM, as an element of review. UC Davis has successfully used the step-plus to encourage mentoring. CCGA also discussed SSGPDPs, regarding the tension they have created between the administration and faculty, as well as among faculty, and the compensation for overload teaching in SSGPDPs while receiving teaching release in state-funded programs. CCGA also discussed the use of the Stop The Clock measure due to hardship to research efforts. UC was very restrictive compared to other state research universities, where theorists did not shift to remote work at all. Chair reported that the systemwide Provost was understanding of the challenges to research during covid.
- C. [Awards Committee](#) was in need of a SSHA member. Sandie Ha volunteered.
- D. Chair issued a [statement on vaccination](#) to Graduate Group Chairs on 3/3/21 with interim VPDGE Kello.

III. Vice Chair's Report (2:25-2:40) -Vice Chair Hestir

- A. [PROC](#) (3/1/21) reviewed the review team for the merit writing program. PROC is considering how to modify the process for Action Plan status updates, to ensure meaningful review without additional work. PROC received additional requests for delay of review and reexamining the review timeline.
- B. Graduate Group Chairs' Meeting (2/23/21)-Conflict Resolution chart continues to be improved. The chairs expressed concern about the flow that seemed to direct students to Ombuds rather than graduate groups. Regarding recruitment fellowships, chairs expressed concerns about (lack of) guidance on supporting statements (especially on diversity). Vice Chair Hestir suggested that the Graduate Division collaborate with the GC fellowship subcommittee to share the rubrics, and hold information session early next fall. Chairs are working with Graduate Division on semi-automatization of the annual review process.

IV. GSA Updates (2:40-2:45) – GSA President Bennett

GSA made efforts to reflect voices from all three schools in the review of the Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities. The call for reviewers closes 3/8, and reviewers will meet mid-March and aim to complete the review by the beginning of April, at which point the document will be presented to GC.

V. Consent Calendar (2:45-2:45)

- A. The agenda (3/4/21)
- B. [Minutes](#) from the 2/18 meeting
- C. Course Proposals
- NEW:

[COGS - 212](#) - Methods of Data Science 1

[COGS - 214](#) - Global Good Studio: Data Visualization

[COGS - 235](#) - Introduction to EEG Methodology

[ES - 268](#) - Life Cycle Assessment

[SOC - 222](#) - The Sociology of Public Policy (previously offered as SOC 290)

[SOC - 283](#) – Intersectionality (previously offered as SOC 290)

[SOC - 295](#) - Directed Graduate Research: Pre-Candidacy (previously SCS 295)

[SOC - 298](#) - Directed Group Study (previously SCS 298)

[SOC - 299](#) - Directed Independent Study (previously SCS 299)

MODIFY EXISTING:

[ME - 220](#) - Continuum Mechanics (decrease in units)

[ME - 251](#) - Viscous Flows (decrease in units)

[QSB - 211](#) - Advanced Neurobiology: Neurodevelopment and Cell Signaling (decrease in contact hours)

[QSB - 399](#) - University Teaching (decrease in contact hours)

[SOC - 210](#) - Graduate Statistics I: Linear Regression Analysis (adding lab)

[SOC - 211](#) - Graduate Statistics 2: Categorical Regression Analysis (adding lab)

D. [Graduate Student IORs](#) for Upper Division Courses—Summer 2021

- Butovens, Mede_COGS 105_202120
- Proksch, Shannon_COGS 110_202120 (expected to advance to candidacy in April 2021)

ACTION: The consent calendar was approved as presented.

VI. Consultation with VPDGE (2:45-3:00)-Interim Graduate Dean Kello

A. Fall Planning—Assuming Merced will be in Orange or Yellow tier, “50% remote” is planned for teaching, where all courses will have a 50% remote component. Research should be mostly in person, except for human subject research which is still in discussion.

B. Fellowship Review Process The Recruitment Fellowship recipients for AY21-22 are [here](#).

This year, the reviewers had a rubric on the scales, and 1-5 scoring. A member recommended that scoring outliers be examined, possibly with a variance column for reviewers. The interim VPDGE stated that, in his review of the top tier applications, the scoring seemed reasonable.

VII. Discussion Item: Policy on the Establishment of UC Merced Extension Non-Degree Program (3:00-3:30)-Guests Jill Orcutt, Dean of University Extension, and Tammy Johnson, Director of University Extension

On November 27, 2017, GC approved the [campus policy on establishment of UCM Extension Non-Degree Programs](#), with the mandate that the policy be reviewed in 3 years. On November 23, 2020, GC decided to schedule the review during Spring 2021, in consultation with the Extension leadership. The director of Extension and Summer Session presented GC with [information on Extension’s Non-Degree programs in place or in development to date](#). The guests highlighted the favorable review by the graduates of the Teacher Preparation Program, the challenges in offering programs that cost more than the local community colleges (as Extension must be self-supported), the collaboration with local school districts, and the limited resources with which Extension operates, which limits its ability to expand onto new initiatives. No change in policy was requested from Extension. The occasional challenge is the inability to engage with the Senate during summer and breaks. Chair suggested a regular consultation between Extension and GC.

ACTION: Members will submit questions to the chair and analyst, who will forward them to Extension.

VIII. New Business? TA oversight—whether Graduate Group Chairs or Dept Chairs are responsible—is to be discussed at the next GC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32PM. Att. by Chair Hratchian.