

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting Minutes****Thursday, April 1, 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 2:03PM, and entered Executive Session at 2:06PM, with Chair Hrachian (until 3PM) and Member Ha (from 3PM) presiding.

I. Executive Session—Members and Library Consultant ONLY

- A. [MDSA Proposal](#)--Consideration of [reviews](#) from [CAPRA](#), [COR](#), [D&E](#), [LASC](#) and [Administration](#)

ACTION: Transmit a memo requesting the proposers to modify the proposal to address the concerns raised in campus review. Chair and Vice Chair will offer to meet with them if they have any questions.

The open session began at 2:20pm.

II. Vice Chair's Report -Vice Chair Hestir

- A. Graduate Group Chairs March Meeting: during discussion of the fall planning (instruction and research), concerns raised about student accommodation, including students in instructional roles. [Admissions](#) numbers are very low for some programs (campus-wide, it is only 2% down). A chair pointed out that the Interim CFO's projections had 80% acceptance rate, which might have resulted in the lower SIR yields. The updated conflict resolution [flowchart](#) and [accompanying text](#) were presented.
- B. PROC: (no updates) The Vice Chair used this period to continue the discussion on graduate student training in teaching and professional development. For teaching, GC supports the hierarchical model with CETL as the umbrella, and advocates for appropriate funding. Interim Dean Kello stated that the workgroup's proposal is near completion. For professional development, and grant writing skills in particular, Vice Chair recommended expanding the summer bridge program to all grad students; until there is resource to do so, GC and the Graduate Division should work with Graduate Group Chairs to identify the existing and planned courses that can be utilized in synergy. Vice Chair also recommended that CAP explicitly factors mentoring into the evaluation of faculty as advisors, and that the effectiveness of the mentoring in the area of professional development be assessed by CAP. The GSA representative expressed her absolute support for these ideas.

Participants discussed how best to leverage and coordinate resources, such as the need for inter-departmental agreement on instructional budget if one department is shouldering a larger share of courses, and the "train the trainer" model as done by University of Wisconsin's Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (<https://cimerproject.org/>). Interim VPDGE added that he has been discussing mentoring with the VPAP and the EVC/Provost. GC and Administration will continue the dialogue on an early training for chairs. All agreed that it needs to be made clear that it is the Graduate Group Chairs' responsibility to ensure that students receive sufficient professional development, with facilitation by the Graduate Division.

ACTION: Transmit a memo to PROC stating the above points.

III. Discussion Item: Report on [Faculty-Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure \(CRI\) Workgroup-GSA President Bennett](#)

GSA provided an update on the Graduate Student Rights & Responsibilities (R&R) document (screen-shared). The final version will be ready at the 4/15 meeting. The GSA recommends that all graduate groups to create their own R&R documents which are maintained in one place, as well as degree requirements. Interim VPDGE is concerned about the specificity of the document, although he generally supports the recommendations. The Registrar commented that she welcomes integrating more information into the Catalog, so that students can have access to the right version for information such as degree requirements that are tied to their year of admission. Another idea is to create a Graduate Catalog—Registrar’s office pays for two catalogs but is only using one. She has suggested it to the former VPDGE Zatz, and will consult with the Interim VPDGE and his staff. Interim VPDGE agreed one place is preferred, and the GSA representative voiced that the Catalog would be the preferred place. The graduate students all agree that it is difficult to find the Policies & Procedures that apply to them (which depends on which year they entered).

All discussed the consultation process for the flowchart and the accompanying text, which the Interim VPDGE considers ready for formal consultation, as well as the Graduate Student R&R document when it is ready. The workgroup has informally consulted stakeholders but has not considered a formal process, and the Interim VPDGE welcomes GC’s involvement for planning the consultation. It was suggested that CoR be invited to review, in consideration of the R1 goal, and to ensure graduate student welfare is taken into consideration. Concern was voiced about the drafting of the faculty flowchart by an administrator in APO (AVPF) who has stated that they do not represent faculty interest.

ACTION: Transmit a memo to the workgroup regarding consultation with faculty and campus.

IV. Chair’s Report -*Chair Hratchian* Chair will email the updates on Fall Instruction Planning and DivCo 3/29 meeting. Chair encouraged members to attend the townhall on instructional planning, facilitated by the Undergraduate and Graduate Deans, that was taking place on 4/16/21. UGC/GC chairs were consulted on preparations for the Townhall. Members were encouraged to submit comments on the proposed revisions to the Senate Bylaws ([clean](#) and [track-change](#) copies available; review is due 4/12/21).

V. Consent Calendar

- A. The agenda (4/1/21)
- B. [Minutes](#) from the 3/18 meeting
- C. [Graduate Student IOR Petitions](#)—for Summer 2021. The requesting department has verified that the students are in good standing and have advanced to candidacy (exception noted)
 - Espinoza, Vicky ENGR_180_202120 (Faculty listed for supervising TAs for the course)
 - Tavallali, Pooya CSE_140_202120 (Faculty listed for supervising TAs for the course; projected to advance to candidacy on April 6, 2021)
 - Pabst, Alexandria_COGS 130_202120
 - Perez Martin, Amalia_SOC 107_202120 (change of course from SOC 110)
- D. Graduate Student IOR [policy](#) and [petition form](#)-revisions
- E. Catalog Revisions—[Graduate Division](#) and [QSB](#) (except changes to the PLOs)
- F. Course Proposals
 - NEW:
 - [BIOE - 250](#) - Advanced Genetic Engineering
 - MODIFY:
 - [QSB - 250](#) - Advanced Developmental Biology (de-coupling with undergrad course)
 - [IH - 203](#) - Pedagogy in the Interdisciplinary Humanities (grading option change)—the syllabus states “minimum of 8” non-contact hours (this is a 4 unit course with 3 contact hours)
 - [ME - 241](#) - Nonlinear Dynamics (changing course number only)
 - [ME - 259](#) – Rheology (unit & credit hours, PLOs and course topics change)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

VI. Consultation with VPDGE-Interim Graduate Dean Kello

A. Academic Planning for the Graduate Division----Phase III. Interim Dean Kello will email the draft for GC consultation.

B. [AMIGA](#) (Alliance for Multi-campus, Inclusive Graduate Admissions) Holistic Review [Toolkit](#)
Led by UC Davis, this is an attempt to address the question of how to assess applicants' likelihood to be successful graduate students, as the assessment moves away from GREs and other standardized tests. AMIGA will be further discussed next AY.

VII. New Business? Member Ha reported that the undocumented student support group met on 4/14/21. She will provide a report at the next GC meeting.

VIII. Informational Items

[Summer Session Revenue Sharing](#)

[UGC Response to GC questions on CatCourses Auto Populated Policies and Resources](#)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15PM. Att. by Chair Hratchian