

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)

AGENDA

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

1:30-3:00PM

SSM 230

Zoom URL: <https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/84757526508>

Zoom Phone: 1 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 84757526508

Documents available in [box](#)

[Graduate Council Duties](#)

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Hestir (1:30-1:35)

2021-2022 Membership:

Erin Hestir, Chair, SoE

Sandie Ha, Vice Chair, SSHA

Nigel Hatton, SSHA

Hrant Hratchian, SNS

Boaz Ilan, SNS

Changqing Li, SoE

Kara McCloskey, SoE

Karl Ryavec, SSHA

David Strubbe, SNS

Ex-Officio (non-voting):

Jodran Collignon, Graduate Student Representative

TBD, Postdoctoral Scholar Representative

Chris Kello, Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education

Consultant:

Jerrold Shiroma, Library Representative

Erin Webb, Registrar

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today’s agenda (9/7/21)

B. Graduate Student Instructor [Petitions](#)

Action Requested: Approval of the consent calendar

III. Conducting Committee Business – Chair Hestir (1:35-1:45)

Members discuss the following aspects of conducting committee business.

- [Guide to Committee Membership and Principles to Guide the Conduct of Executive Session](#)
- Postdoctoral member (new)
- Confidentiality
- Executive Session
- [Meeting Schedule](#)
- Managing Work
- [Committee Duties](#)
- [GC Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

Action Requested: Transmit updated/approved COI to Senate Chair.

IV. Anticipated Business for AY 2021-22 – Chair Hestir (1:45-2:00)

Members review anticipated business for the year.

- A. CCGA proposal review
 - a. GC will likely be [re-reviewing](#) the School of Management, Master of Public Health, and Master of Data Science and Analytics proposals
- B. Collaborate with GSA on Graduate Student Rights & Responsibilities
- C. Develop, revise and/or finalize the following policies
 - a. Conflict Resolution
 - i. GC to develop policies and implementation recommendations to Graduate Division reflecting the work of the faculty-administration joint workgroup on conflict resolution between advisors and advisees; also incorporating findings from the National Academies' recommendations and call to action to prevent sexual harassment (2018, 2019)
 - b. Self-supporting program review process
 - c. 5-year program review policy (jointly with UGC and AFAC)
 - d. Further review and revision of Course Proposal Review Process and Policy
- D. Review Course Proposals, Graduate Group Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures
 - a. Standard GC activity.
- E. Engagement in the fellowship award processes
 - a. Recommend changes for a uniform review process and a regular review cycle, and review the end of year fellowships.
- F. System and campus review items

Action Requested: Committee decides whether the Chair filter review items on its behalf.

V. Graduate Council Goals for AY 2021-22 – Chair Hestir (2:00-2:15)

- A. Ensure that Conflict Resolution Procedures outlined by the conflict resolution working group are reviewed by GC prior to implementation, and following report recommendations, coordinate further refinement and development in consultation with Graduate Division.
- B. Self-supporting programs - anticipating changes at CCGA, protecting state funded programs
- C. Support for postdocs -- from continued development of professional development and interview/job prep training to getting more timely and reasonable (re-)appointment processes agreed upon with APO
 - this is critical for our postdocs, our abilities to get grants and our goals for R1
- D. Finance, budget, and planning -- continuing to push for better financial planning and enrollment management for graduate groups, instructional budgets for graduate groups, including a mechanism for efficiently coordinating the professional development and training grad students via the curriculum (e.g., cross-listed courses)
- E. Leadership training -- advocating for improved leadership training and process management for faculty in leadership roles and serving as mentors to each other, postdocs, and students
- F. Simplifying, streamlining and version control for GC-related curricular business (e.g., catalog working group)
- G. Address [NASEM recommendations and call to action](#) to prevent sexual harassment in academia (2018, 2019), including follow up on campus initiatives (e.g., action collaborative) and pursue recommendations to *prevent* sexual harassment in academia, in particular climate and culture for women graduate students and those with intersectional identities.

Action Requested: Members identify committee goals for the year and determine if there are administrators to invite to Graduate Council meetings.

VI. Establish Subcommittees and Other Appointments – *Chair Hestir* (2:15-2:25)

GC identifies members or representatives to the following committee, subcommittees and workgroup:

- A. CCGA representative (Fall only)—First Wednesdays, 10AM-4PM
- B. Policy Subcommittee (4 members)
- C. Course Proposal Subcommittee (chair and 2 members; ideally one individual from each school)
- D. Fellowship Subcommittee (minimum 3, ideally one from each school)
- E. [Undocumented Students Work Group](#) (1 representative)
- F. Conflict Resolution Implementation Work Group (1 representative)

Action Requested: Provide the names of representatives to CoC.

VII. Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook —*Chair Hestir* (2:25-2:30)

Graduate Division has requested to add revisions aimed at further clarification of policies meant to support graduate students, as summarized [here](#). The draft revised GPPH is [here](#). Recommended additional revision is [here](#).

Action Requested: Transmit a memo to Graduate Division endorsing the recommended revision.

VIII. Consultation with APO—*Chair Hestir, Guest Assistant VPAP Kelly Anders* (2:30-2:45)

As a follow-up to [the review of MAPP 500](#), GC leadership consulted with APO during the summer to discuss temporary academic hires—postdocs and project scientists, as well as GSRs and Student Academic Employees (SAEs) such as TAs and Teaching Fellows (TFs). Related questions about responsibilities and supervision of TFs and TAs have been brought to GC by Graduate Group Chairs. Assistant VPAP Anders is invited to provide [updates](#) on MAPP 500, particularly its implications for the faculty as well as the candidates (increased workload, appropriateness of review committees, and associated delay in personnel actions), and invited to comment on GC's [draft memo](#) on TFs and TAs.

Action Requested: Determine the next steps.

IX. Consultation with VPDGE —*Interim VPDGE Kello* (2:45-2:55)

- A. Graduate Housing
- B. Alternative to GRE scores? <https://www.projectamiga.org/toolkit>
- C. Summary of information from Fall Welcome [message](#)

X. New Business?**XI. Informational Items**

- A. Updated CCGA [Handbook](#) (new: guidance on dual-degree programs)
- B. Academic Council Chair's [endorsement of CCGA/UCPB letter](#) concerning Master's Program Reviews

XII. Executive Session (2:55-3:00)

Information is available [here](#) (voting members only)