

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**MINUTES****Monday, January 24, 2022****1:30 – 2:45 PM****(Executive Session 2:45-3:00PM)****Zoom Only**Zoom URL: <https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/8312699469>Documents available in
box Graduate Council
Duties**I. Chair's Report (1:30-1:40)—Chair Hestir****A. Welcome new member, Fred Wolf**

Chair Hestir welcomed new member Fred Wolf, and Member Wolf introduced himself to members.

B. CCGA (1/5)

The systemwide administration continues to advocate for individual UC campus review of master's programs. The systemwide Senate disagrees and feels that there is value in their review of master's programs. There is also pressure to increase enrollment numbers. Chair Hestir emphasized the importance for increasing resources as enrollment numbers increase.

C. PROC (1/20)

The main focus of the January 20, 2022 PROC meeting was to streamline and target the charge for external review committees.

D. Campus and Systemwide Review Requests

Chair Hestir proposed to members that GC decline to review any campus or systemwide review items unless GC is listed as a lead reviewer. Members are welcome to bring any review items to Chair Hestir's attention if they feel it relevant to the committee.

E. GC Staff Support

Chair Hestir announced Naoko Kada's departure and introduced the new temporary GC Analysts, Melanie Snyder and Sang Lee.

II. Vice Chair's Report (1:40-1:50)— Vice Chair Ha**A. Graduate Group Chairs Meeting (12/28/21, 1/20/22)**

Vice Chair Ha reported that some countries, including India and China, will not begin their Visa review processes until summer, which may impact the newly admitted students from these countries. VPDGE Kello suggested deferral as a possible option.

Vice Chair Ha provided an update on visitation weekend, which will occur on February 24, 2022 and February 25, 2022. Given the COVID situation, the majority of visitation weekend will be held remotely.

III. Consent Calendar (1:50-1:50)—Chair Hestir**A. The agenda (1/24/22)****B. Minutes from the 12/14/21 meeting****C. Revised Graduate Group Bylaws Template**

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Campus Review Items (1:50-2:00)—Chair Hestir**A. Community and Labor Center (CLC) Organized Research Unit (ORU) Proposal**

The ORU proposal was previously reviewed by CoR and DivCo (links to relevant correspondences are available from this document). During a recent Senate-Administrative leadership meeting, it was agreed that the review of this proposal be relaunched. The policy for the establishment and review of ORU proposals is available here.

Chair Hestir noted that the proposal includes a clear mechanism about the engagement of undergraduate students but not for graduate students and postdocs. She would like to draft a brief memo on behalf of GC to recommend including the involvement of graduate students and postdocs in the proposal. **ACTION:** Chair Hestir will draft a memo. Draft memo will be circulated to voting members for review before transmittal to the Senate Chair by 2/4/22.

V. Discussion Item: Emergency Educational Continuity Policy (2:00-2:10)—Chair Hestir

GC approved the EEC policy on April 14, 2020, which gives Graduate Groups the flexibility to lower their degree requirements to the minimum stated in GPPH during ECC, plus one full semester afterwards. EEC expired at the end of Spring 2021, making EEC expire at the end of Fall 2021. As DivCo voted in favor of declaring emergency for Spring 2022 without the ECC addenda, it is not clear if the EEC policy is in effect. Members discussed whether to extend the EEC policy.

ACTION: Members unanimously voted against the extension of the EEC policy.

VI. Discussion Item: Online Course Proposal Review Policy (2:10-2:30)—CPS Chair McCloskey

The Course Proposal Subcommittee reviewed the UGC proposal for revising the Course Request and Approval Policy and the Supplemental Questions documents. CPS met with UGC to finalize the proposed changes. These changes will need to be reflected in Curriculog, which is typically updated on a yearly basis during summer.

A member of the GC/UGC joint committee noted that there was a lengthy discussion about the language and definitions of online/hybrid courses at their January 20 meeting. Another meeting has been scheduled for February 2, 2022 to continue the discussion.

VII. Consultation with Vice Provost/Dean of Graduate Education Kello (2:30-2:45)**A. Geographical Boundaries for *in absentia* Status**

VPDGE Kello discussed the absentia status eligibility. Other campuses that go through this process have measures of eligibility, as some campuses measure by mileage and others, by county. VPDGE Kello stated that a tuition reduction will be extended this semester to students who might be at Lawrence Livermore Lab or Yosemite.

Students are utilizing university space as they are granted in absentia status. Chair Hestir mentioned that students do not qualify for in absentia if they are using campus resources, even though they are within the geographic boundaries. A member posed a question regarding how Graduate Division is impacted when a student has the in absentia status. VPDGE Kello stated that funds are lost centrally, which also impacts Graduate Division.

ACTION: After discussion, members agreed that the map should include counties rather than mileage. Chair Hestir will revise the map and transmit to VPDGE Kello for review.

B. Upcoming Mentor Training

VPDGE Kello stated that an announcement will be circulated regarding the details of the upcoming

mentor training. Limited slots will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis. VPDGE Kello invited GC members to provide their feedback on how to encourage engagement other than advertising training sessions. A member noted that finding time and balancing their workload may be challenging because the training is scheduled in the middle of the semester. It was also reported that the training would be beneficial to department chairs as well.

C. Admissions Update

VPDGE Kello shared application numbers from the past three years with GC members. The application numbers were broken down by PhD and master's, both domestic and international. Data showed application numbers were disproportionately lower for Hispanics at the undergraduate level compared to white and international groups. Chair Hestir inquired about the status of the search engine optimization for all the programs on campus, and VPDGE Kello reported that the search engine optimization for all programs has been finalized. Nearly all the programs showed an increase in web traffic this year compared to last year.

D. Graduate Student Visitation Weekend

Nearly the entire graduate student visitation weekend will be held remotely. Support and resources will be offered to groups that would like to hold small-group events on campus.

VIII. New Business?

None

GC entered EXECUTIVE SESSION at 2:45PM. Att. by Chair Hestir.