

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)****Meeting Minutes****Wednesday, November 16, 2022****12:00pm-1:30pm****ADMIN 245**

Documents available in [box](#)  
[Graduate Council Duties](#)

**I. Chair’s Report – Michael Scheibner - 12:00pm – 12:10pm****A. November 9 Regular Check-in Meetings UGC Chair Moyes, VPDUE Frey, and VPDGE Hratchian**

Further discussions were held regarding the strike and communications from UCOP. Faculty should have received messaging at the campus level for guidance on how to conduct TA sessions, research courses, etc.

**B. November 10 and 15 Divisional Council meetings**

- During the November 10 DivCo meeting, Chancellor Muñoz reported on the state of the university, including donations, the Honors Program proposal, and the Health Sciences building.
- During the November 15 DivCo meeting, EVC/Provost Camfield reported on the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike noting that students should continue to attend their graduate courses, seminars, and conduct research.
- LASC Chair Maria DePrano provided an update on Library budgetary issues. LASC is currently drafting a white paper on Library resources and asking for funds to be reinstated.
- Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) Mike Dawson summarized the proposal to establish a Sustainability Work Group (SWG) to facilitate the development of an updated campus 2030 Sustainability Strategic Plan. FACS also plans to transmit a memo to Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Wilson regarding the climate funding.
- CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that Divisional Council is drafting a memo to VCR Wilson regarding the allocation of climate funds and requesting that VCR Wilson provide a draft structure of the proposed climate institute and centers.
- The Gallo School proposal is currently undergoing an informal review at CCGA, and Chancellor Muñoz had asked for an update. There are hopes for feedback in December, and Chair Scheibner will keep members apprised.

**II. Vice Chair’s Report – John Abatzoglou – 12:10pm – 12:15pm****A. November 1 Graduate Group Chairs meeting**

Vice Chair Abatzoglou reported on the plans for codifying the list of programs that offer a Master’s

Along the Way. Approximately half of all graduate programs' Policies and Procedures include this option, and others are being encouraged to modify their Policies and Procedures for inclusion of this pathway.

B. November 7 PROC meeting

The external team report from the Interdisciplinary Humanities (IH) program review has been provided, and the Physics Department has provided their self-study for their program review.

**III. Consent Calendar – Chair Scheibner – 12:15pm – 12:20pm**

- A. Agenda
- B. [November 9 meeting minutes](#)
- C. Petitions for Graduate Students to Teach Upper Division Courses  
[Caine, Alyson ANTH 169 202310](#)  
[Kim, Kay PSY 158 202310](#)

**Action:**

- The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**IV. Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Home Edition & International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Indicator Exams – Chair Scheibner - 12:20pm – 12:25pm**

On October 19, 2021, GC endorsed the addition of TOEFL iBT Home Edition and IELTS as acceptable tests for English proficiency. The relevant meeting minutes are available [here](#).

It is unclear whether the endorsement was indefinite, and an extension was granted for Fall 2023 admissions. Chair Scheibner would like the Council to determine whether to implement a time limit for the acceptance of these tests or if GC should revisit this each admissions cycle.

**Requested Action:** Members to decide whether the acceptance of the TOEFL iBT Home Edition and IELTS should have a timeline or be revisited each admissions cycle.

A member inquired about the processes in place to ensure the individual taking the test is who they say they are.

**Action:**

- Members agreed to extend the acceptance of the TOEFL Home Edition indefinitely, and GC will revisit the topic in the future if any issues arise.
- GC Analyst will notify Graduate Division.

**V. Senate Spending Plan for MacKenzie Scott Gift – Chair Scheibner - 12:25pm – 12:30pm**

Spending plan as approved by Divisional Council in Spring 2022 is available [here](#).

Chair Scheibner's proposal for GC's allocation of the funds is available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members to discuss Chair Scheibner’s proposal and determine next steps.

A member recommended providing students with up to \$1,500 in funding, as \$500 may not even be enough to cover registration fees.

**Action:**

- Chair Scheibner will make additional revisions to the proposal.
- Members will be invited to review/comment on the updated version of the proposal via email.
- Vice Chair Abatzoglou agreed to present the proposal at the December 6 Graduate Group Chair’s meeting.
- The updated version of the proposal will then be transmitted to CoR for review.

**VI. 4+1 Blended Degree Programs – Chair Scheibner – 12:30pm – 12:50pm**

All materials are available in the GC AY 22-23 box folder [here](#).

The development of a policy for reviewing and proposing 4+1 blended degree programs was discussed at the October 19, 2022 GC meeting. Registrar Webb agreed to solicit feedback from other UC campuses, available below:

- [4+1 info from other UCs](#)
- [UCR: BSMS combined 5-year approved framework](#)
- [UCR: CCGA Response UCR Combined BSc MSc](#)
- [UCR: Combine Programs Guidelines](#)

The GC Policy Subcommittee met on November 7 and 15 to discuss the information and draft a policy for reviewing 4+1 blended program proposals. Their draft policy is available [here](#).

Chair Scheibner proposed additional revisions to the Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Emphasis Areas and Graduate Programs, available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members to engage in discussion and determine next steps.

Members discussed several aspects of the draft policy and the Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Emphasis Areas and Graduate Programs.

**Action:**

- The Policy Subcommittee will make additional revisions to the [draft policy](#) and the [Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Emphasis Areas and Graduate Programs](#) (regarding double counting units, Plan I and Plan II Thesis units, Interim Graduate Programs (IGP), etc.)
- Voting members will be invited to review and vote on both updated documents before the draft policy is transmitted to UGC for review.

**VII. VPDGE Hratchian’s Report – 12:50pm – 1:00pm**

**VIII. Postdoctoral Scholar Support and Development - 1:00pm – 1:20pm**

During the September 7 and September 21, 2022 meetings, members discussed Chair Scheibner's initiative for postdoctoral scholar support and development, along with Vice Chair Abatzoglou's comments.

Associate Dean for Graduate Education Sayantani Ghosh joined the October 5 meeting to further discuss the initiative, and she provided a list of opportunities for postdocs, available [here](#).

Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Gillian Wilson is joining us today to further discuss the initiative and research implications.

**Requested Action:** Members to engage in discussion and determine next steps.

VCR Wilson reported on three main areas of focus for postdocs: 1) providing them with networking opportunities; 2) providing them with sufficient resources; and 3) providing a transition pathway to help them navigate into the next stages of their career.

Chair Scheibner wondered which campus constituents can assist in providing resources to postdocs. VCR Wilson stated that she hopes to have additional staff in the Office of Technology, Innovation, and Industry Relations (OTIIR) who can provide support, and VPDGE Hratchian suggested the Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) for when they apply for external fellowships. VCR Wilson recommended developing a mentoring program, in which some of her staff could speak with postdocs about proposal development and transfer opportunities.

VCR Wilson would also like genuine engagement with the national labs regarding research activities. Other than funding summer internships for undergraduate students, there are several ways to grow connections with the national labs to provide opportunities for graduate students, postdocs, and faculty. Chair Scheibner recommended that OTIIR act as a facilitator on campus to assist with these connections, and VCR Wilson stated that she would add this to her list of priorities.

VCR Wilson expressed her concerns about the length hiring process for postdocs. A solution to this issue remains one of her top priorities, as it is a cause for concern because most of the successful postdocs will end up attending a different institution. VPDGE Hratchian noted that the Graduate Division is responsible for policy administration for postdocs, and the Academic Personnel Office (APO) is responsible for the hiring processes. He recognizes that there is an issue with the current hiring processes and is trying to work with APO on a solution. He noted that a challenge for the Graduate Division is that much of their funding is return-to-aid, which can only be used for graduate students. He would like to work closely with VCR Wilson to identify solutions and to continue working with APO on the hiring processes. VCR Wilson expressed the importance of not only helping the postdocs, but helping the faculty who employ them, as well.

Other than providing graduate students with a TA position or extending their time to degree, Chair Scheibner inquired about other ways to assist those who have faced hardships due to COVID, the Oracle Ordering System, and building closures. VCR Wilson responded that she is unsure of a solution but noted that there are funds that could be used to assist with these issues - funds from the Committee on Research (CoR) for faculty who could apply on behalf of their graduate students, and Climate Research funds from the state for faculty and researchers.

VCR Wilson reported that Research Week is approaching and invited the membership to share ideas for increasing graduate student and postdoc participation. Members recommended poster sessions, lab tours, flash talks, etc.

VCR Wilson thanked members for their time and expressed interest in continued collaborations with GC to provide support and development for our postdocs.

**IX. Upcoming Business – 1:20pm – 1:25pm**

A. [Proposed Guidelines to Support Pilot of Concurrent Review for Undergraduate and Graduate Programs](#)

The Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) invites UGC and GC to review proposed guidelines to support a pilot of a concurrent review for an undergraduate and graduate program.

Further discussions will take place at the November 30 GC meeting.

**Requested Action:** Chair Scheibner asks that members please review the memo, linked above, prior to the November 30 meeting.

**X. Any Other Business? – 1:25pm – 1:30pm**

**Action:**

- Members are to review the memo linked above and be prepared to discuss/vote at the November 30 GC meeting.