

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)

## AGENDA

Monday, February 14, 2022

1:30 – 2:50 PM

COB 2 Room 392

Zoom [URL:https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/8312699469](https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/8312699469)

Zoom Phone:1 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 8312699469

Documents available in [box](#)[Graduate Council Duties](#)**I. Chair's Report (1:30-1:35)—Chair Hestir**

- A. CCGA (2/2)
- B. Joint GC Chair/UGC Chair/VPDUE/VPDGE Meeting (2/2)
- C. Divisional Council (1/27 and 2/10)

**II. Consent Calendar (1:35-1:35)—Chair Hestir**

- A. The agenda (2/14/22)
- B. [Minutes from the 1/24/22 meeting](#)
- C. Course Proposals  
(NEW)
  - [EECS 240 Computer Architecture and Design](#)
  - [EECS 258 Multimedia Systems](#)
  - [PH 218 Psychiatric Epidemiology](#)
  - [PHYS 202 Foundations of Physics](#)
  - [QSB 284 Biomolecular Modeling and Simulations](#)
  - [QSB 225 Microbial Genetics](#)
  - [ECON 294 Research Paper](#)
  - [POLI 214 Advanced Causal Inference](#)

(REVISED)

[SOC 299 Directed Independent Study](#)**Action Requested:** Approval of the Consent Calendar**III. Discussion Item (1:35-1:40) Modifications to the course proposal review – Chair Hestir**

The GC has collaborated with UGC on the formulation of a [new course proposal questionnaire](#) that better indicates best practices and state of the science for online course delivery. The group has also created a [new evaluation rubric](#) for reviewers of course proposals, and a [course modification guide](#) for proposers. Of note is modifications to the thresholds defining in-person, hybrid and online modalities. Previous GC questionnaires had a small deviation relative to UGC questionnaires. New forms assume one threshold across graduate and undergraduate courses.

1. In UGC's Course Approval Policy, face-to-face is defined as 0-29% online, hybrid as 30-79% online, fully online as 80-100% online. This document is what informs the section of the Curriculog form
2. UGC's *old* Supplemental Questionnaire suggests hybrid is defined as 25-67% online
3. GC's Supplemental Questionnaire suggests hybrid is defined as a course that meets at least 1/3 in person and at least 1/3 by distance learning, which would mean that hybrid ranges approximately from 33-66% online. GC has no explicit policy with definitions.

**Action Requested:** Approval of course proposal questionnaire (which adopts UGC's Course Approval Policy definitions), evaluation rubric, and course modification guidelines.

**IV. Campus Review Items (1:40-1:50)—Chair Hestir**

A. [Electrical Engineering Program Proposal](#)

On January 11, 2022, the School of Engineering Executive Committee reviewed and unanimously approved a proposal for an Electrical Engineering (EE) program. This is now being transmitted to the Senate for formal review (it was previously submitted for an informal review by UGC and CAPRA). While faculty are concerned that resources have not always been adequate to support UC Merced growth, the School of Engineering Executive Committee found strong faculty support for the creation of an EE program and, with assurances from the Dean that the Administration will provide the requested resources, the School of Engineering Executive Committee encourages the Senate to approve the proposal.

Lead Reviewer: Fred Wolf

Member Wolf's comments are available [here](#).

**Action Requested:** Members discuss the proposal and Member Wolf's comments. Transmit GC's comments to Senate Chair by February 18, 2022.

**V. Discussion Item: Conflict Resolution Infrastructure (1:50-2:00)—Chair Hestir and Maria Nishanian, Graduate Division**

GC has received comments from all three School Deans, as well as some department chairs and graduate group chairs, FWAf, and CoR, synthesized [here](#). Original comments are [here](#).

**Action Requested:** Determine the next steps and timeline.

**VI. Consultation on Fellowship Review Process (2:00-2:15)—Eric Cannon, Graduate Division**

Due to the GC meeting schedule this Spring, the Recruitment Fellowship review will be conducted by email. Eric Cannon will provide the overview of the review process and answer questions from GC members.

**VII. Graduate Division Updates (2:15-2:30) —Interim VPDGE Chris Kello**

- A. Admissions
- B. Mentor training
- C. Funding model for all campus fellowships

**VIII. Consultation with LASC Chair DePrano on UC Merced Library Staffing (2:30-2:40)**

- A. UC Merced Library Staffing [memo](#)

**IX. Consultation with VCSA Nies (2:40-2:50)**

- A. Housing
- B. Transportation and parking
- C. Graduate student mental health services – particularly given the national mental health crisis in graduate student mental health and exacerbations from COVID-19

**X. Executive Session: Chemistry and Biochemistry P&Ps (2:50-3:00)**

Executive Session Agenda and materials were provided to the prospective attendees.