

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)****Meeting Minutes****Friday, January 20, 2023****2:20pm – 3:30pm****Zoom**

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

**I. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 2:00pm – 2:20pm**

No minutes were recorded during the executive session. The action items were shared with GC voting members.

**II. Consent Calendar – Chair Scheibner – 2:20pm –2:25pm**

A. Agenda

B. [December 14 Meeting Minutes](#)

C. Courses

[REVISED]

[MIST - 204 - Spatial Analytics](#)**Action:**

- The agenda and the December 14 meeting minutes were approved as presented. GC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly (completed 1/20).
- MIST 204 was approved. GC Analyst will update Curriculog accordingly (completed 1/20).

**III. Chair’s Report – Michael Scheibner - 2:25pm – 2:30pm**

A. January 4 CCGA Meeting

- New Academic Senate Provost Katherine S. Newman began her appointment on January 9, 2023.
- CCGA Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg reported on the strike noting the change in funding models.
- There was mention of a joint faculty-graduate student task force to manage funding models.
- CCGA and the Assembly have plans to initiate a discussion regarding the differentiation between graduate student labor and training.
- There is need for new beds and housing for graduate students and their families across the UC campuses.
- Associate Vice Provost (AVP) for Research and Innovation Scott Brandt reported that in addition to the climate funds, UCOP is advocating for a \$6 billion proposal.
- The Council of Chancellors meeting took place on January 4, 2023, where discussions were held regarding AY 23-24 enrollment plans (Fall enrollment at a glance: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/fall-enrollment-glance>).
- Academic Council Chair Susan Cochran reported on UCLA’s move to the Big Ten in 2024, provided the school implements a series of financial mitigation measures to support student-

athletes at UC Berkeley.

Chair Scheibner provided a brief update on the special DivCo meeting that took place on Thursday, January 19, 2023, to discuss the attestation forms.

#### IV. VPDGE Hratchian's Report – 2:30pm – 2:40pm

##### A. Grad Visitation Weekend Planning

Two versions of Grad Visitation Weekend will be offered – one virtual on February 5 and 6, 2023, and one in-person, which has been rescheduled to March 17, 2023. VPDGE Hratchian will notify the Graduate Chairs of the in-person date change.

##### B. Continuing and Recruitment fellowships

The deadline is approaching for Continuing fellowships, and Graduate Council will be involved in the review process. Recruitment fellowships are currently open for graduate programs to nominate students.

#### V. [Proposal for a Concentration in Computational and Theoretical Biology](#) – Chair Scheibner – 2:40pm – 2:50pm

On November 15, 2022, GC voting members voted in favor of Quantitative and Systems Biology (QSB) Department's proposal for a Concentration in Computational and Theoretical Biology (6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 2 ballots not returned).

On November 21, 2022, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) and Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) Laura Martin were invited to review the proposal, and their comments are provided below.

[CAPRA's comments](#)

[ALO Martin's comments](#)

In light of the feedback received from CAPRA and ALO Martin, GC Analyst and Chair Scheibner drafted a memo to the proposers, available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members to review and vote to approve the draft memo re: Proposal for a Concentration in Computational and Theoretical Biology.

Chair Scheibner briefly summarized the timeline of the reviews for the Concentration in Computational and Theoretical Biology proposal, as outlined in the draft memo. Members shared no concerns with the draft memo.

#### **Action:**

- Voting members voted to endorse the draft memo re: Proposal for a Concentration in Computational and Theoretical Biology (6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 2 members not present during voting), and the final memo will be transmitted to the proposers (completed 1/27).

**VI. Revised Proposal for a Master of Data Science and Analytics – Chair Scheibner and Member Nobile – 2:50pm – 3:05pm**

**Lead Reviewer:** Clarissa Nobile

Lead Reviewer's comments are available [here](#).

Review of New and Continuing Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs is available [here](#) starting on page 45.

The proposal was initially submitted to GC in October 2020. The original proposal along with GC's November 2020 response is available [here](#). GC transmitted an additional memo in April 2021, which includes comments from CAPRA, CoR, EDI (formerly DE), and LASC, available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members to discuss the revised proposal for a Master of Data Science and Analytics and ensure that all comments have been adequately addressed. Members to determine whether CAPRA, CoR, EDI (formerly DE), and LASC are to review the revised proposal. If no concerns, members vote to endorse the revised proposal.

As outlined in her [assessment](#), member Nobile summarized the proposal team's responses that she believes may not have adequately addressed committees' prior concerns. Members agreed that CAPRA, CoR, and LASC should be invited to review the revised proposal, as the committees would better judge whether their concerns have been adequately addressed. There are several comments that GC believes the proposal team has clearly addressed and do not need the other committees' review i.e., CAPRA's comment regarding letters of support and EDI's comment regarding details on the support for various underrepresented groups (numbers 11 and 12 of member Nobile's assessment).

**Action:**

- Voting members agreed to invite CAPRA, COR, and LASC to review the revised proposal with a two-week review period.
- GC Analyst will prepare a memo based on GC's discussion, and voting members will be invited to review the draft memo via email prior to transmittal to the three committees.

**VII. Cross-Campus Academic Graduate Courses – Chair Scheibner and VPDGE Hratchian - 3:05pm – 3:15pm**

On January 12, 2023, Chair Scheibner was informed of an opportunity for UCM Engineering graduate students to enroll in two cross-campus graduate courses offered through the IoT4Ag Engineering Research Center. UCM tuition would be paid and the students would enroll in the UPenn or Florida courses. Last Spring, two IoT4Ag UCM graduate student researchers enrolled in and attended the UPenn Sensors class (ESE 515) via a UCM independent study (295/290 course); the courses were processed as XX299 independent study, and the advisor/ advisee determined whether to count the units towards degree requirements.

On January 13, 2023, Chair Scheibner consulted with the Registrar regarding approval processes. Registrar Webb stated that if these students enrolled through UC Merced independent study or special topics courses, there would have been no requirement for these courses from outside institutions to go through the CRF process.

**Requested Action:** Today, Chair Scheibner and VPDGE Hratchian would like to discuss with the membership, the development of a policy and determine whether such requests are to be submitted through the normal CRF process in Curriculog.

Members discussed and agreed upon the development of a policy for the approval of requests for UC Merced students to complete courses at a non-UC institution. UC Merced currently has processes in place for such instances where students enrolled at UC Merced take courses at other UCs, but not between UC Merced and other non-UC institutions. Registrar Webb confirmed that there have been such instances, in which the Chancellor at both institutions signs a formal agreement involving a great deal of administrative collaboration. Establishing a policy at UC Merced would provide students with additional research, networking, career, and educational opportunities. When developing said policy, GC must determine whether the requests will be submitted through the normal CRF process in Curriculog. A member also recommended using other UC policies as a template.

For the current situation with the IoT4AG program, members agreed to provide a one-time guidance for the proposers to request a special topics course through the normal CRF process in Curriculog, and for students who have already participated in the Cross-campus opportunities from IoT4AG or are currently participating in them to use the general petition form if they would like to count these courses instead of a UC Merced approved elective course.

**Action:**

- Members agreed to further discuss the development of a policy for students to complete courses at other institutions outside of the UC system.
- For the current situation, members agreed to provide a one-time guidance for the proposers, as outlined above.
- Chair Scheibner will transmit an email to the IoT4AG program.

**VIII. Anonymous Graduate Student Survey – Member Arevalo – 3:15pm – 3:25pm**

During the November 9 GC meeting, two graduate students discussed the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic, BSP building shutdown, and the Oracle Ordering System have had on their research and progress to degree. Members agreed to develop an anonymous survey for other graduate students to indicate the impacts that these three things have had on their research and progress to degree.

During the November 30 and December 14 GC meetings, members discussed member Arevalo's proposed questions, and recommended revisions. The most recently updated version of the list of questions is available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members to discuss the updated list of questions. If there are no further recommended revisions, voting members vote to endorse the list of questions.

Member Arevalo summarized her additional revisions to the list of questions based on GC's prior discussion. VPDGE Hratchian recommended collaborating with Graduate Division Research Analyst (GDRA) Michael Gonzalez to potentially include some of GC's questions in the systemwide graduate student survey, which is planned to go out this Spring semester. Combining surveys would reduce student burnout, and GDRA Gonzalez could provide GC with the analysis.

**Action:**

- VPDGE Hratchian will connect Member Arevalo and Graduate Division Research Analyst (GDRA) Michael Gonzalez to discuss the combining of GC's survey with the upcoming systemwide graduate student survey.
- Further discussions will take place at a future GC meeting.

**IX. Any Other Business? – 3:25pm – 3:30pm**

The new salary scales for postdocs, GSRs, TAs etc. is available [here](#).