

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting Minutes****Friday, March 3, 2023****2:05pm – 3:30pm****Zoom**

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

I. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 2:00pm – 2:05pm

No meeting minutes were recorded during the Executive Session. The action items were shared with GC members.

II. Consent Calendar – Chair Scheibner – 2:05pm – 2:10pm

A. Agenda

B. [February 17 Meeting Minutes](#)

C. Courses

[NEW]

[EECS - 266 - Advanced Distributed Systems](#)[PH - 222 - Social Epidemiology: Social Determinants and Population Health Methods](#)

D. Proposed revision to Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook (GPPH) to include that 1-11 units is considered part-time enrollment for graduate students.

a. Student enrolled in 7-11 units: Student needs to get exception for part-time status from Grad Dean; student pays **full tuition fee** for 7-11 units.

b. Student enrolled in 1-6 units: Student needs to get exception for part-time status from Grad Dean; student pays **reduced tuition fee** for 1-6 units. Only students who receive an approved part-time form from the Graduate Dean for 1-6 units get the reduced tuition.

E. [Draft Call – Mackenzie Scott Gift funds](#)**Action:**

- The agenda and February 17 meeting minutes were approved as presented. GC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly.
- The two new courses were approved. GC Analyst will update Curriculog accordingly.
- The proposed language regarding part-time enrollment for graduate students was approved. GC Analyst will notify Graduate Division Assistant Dean Cisneros.
- The draft call for the MacKenzie Scott Graduate Student Supplemental Travel Award was approved with the addition of the exact dollar amount and number of awards. GC Analyst will transmit the final version of the call to DivCo for review.

III. Chair's Report – Michael Scheibner - 2:10pm – 2:20pm

A. February 22 New School Process Work Group Meeting

The New School Process Work Group was formed in consideration of recent experiences with the Gallo School of Management. Members are working to make changes to the existing Policies and

Procedures for the Establishment of Schools/Colleges. The work group has met once so far, and three additional meetings are scheduled this semester for members to continue revising the Policies and Procedures.

B. March 1 CCGA Meeting

- CCGA Chair Jaffe-Berg reported on the development of a Graduate Education Task Force. There are current discussions of a counterpart Graduate Education Work Group at UC Merced, which will be comprised of Senate faculty members. Further discussion will take place later in today's meeting.
- CCGA Chair Jaffe-Berg reported on expected graduate growth from professional degree programs. According to the compact with the Governor, UCs must grow the graduate population despite the increase in costs.
- Vice Provost for Research and Innovation (VPRI) Theresa A. Maldonado reported on meetings with the Vice Chancellors for Research (VCR) to discuss the aftermath of the strike noting their concerns for the next negotiations and how research will be impacted, as well as the impacts on funding.
- A member noted insufficient centralized funding from UCOP. Discussions with Sacramento revealed that UC signed the contract with the understanding of what resources will be provided and that there should be no expectations of the budget deficit being addressed.
- Grad Slam will be fully live streamed this year.
- The Council of Graduate Deans met to discuss how the differences in funding structure at different campuses should be navigated. Members also discussed resuming campus advocacy days where groups of graduate students, administrators, and faculty from the various campuses visit senators and representatives at Capitol Hill.
- Senate Chair Cochran reported on discussions regarding the cancellation of funding for a new building at UC Merced and the Immunology Center at UCLA, and the addition of funding for a new building at UC Riverside.
- Senate Chair Cochran and Vice Chair Steintrager are lobbying that for faculty who have submitted their Fall 2022 grades, everything should be okay in terms of withholding pay.

IV. Vice Chair's Report – John Abatzoglou – 2:20pm – 2:25pm

A. March 1 Grad Chairs Meeting

The graduate groups are also discussing research course syllabi for 295/299 courses. Further discussion on this topic will take place later during today's meeting.

V. Update on GC's Proposed Policy for Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs – Chair Scheibner – 2:25pm – 2:40pm

At the October 19 and November 16 GC meetings, members discussed the development of a policy for reviewing and proposing blended degree programs.

On November 30, 2022, members recommended edits to the [draft Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs](#), prepared by the Policy Subcommittee, and modeled after [UC Riverside's policy](#). Members also recommended edits to [GC's Procedures for Submitting](#)

[Proposals for Graduate Programs and Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs](#). On December 16, 2022, GC members endorsed both documents.

On December 16, 2022, AFAC and UGC were invited to review the draft policy and GC's Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Programs and Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs.

Comments:

[AFAC](#)

[UGC](#)

[VPDUE Frey and VPDGE Hratchian](#)

Requested Action: Members to discuss comments from AFAC and UGC.

Chair Scheibner summarized the comments received from the various constituencies on the proposed policy. AFAC shared concerns regarding student debt that students may incur after navigating a hybrid program. UGC recommended several revisions including a change in title, to define Plan I and Plan II programs, and to reverse double counting so that graduate courses, rather than upper division undergraduate courses, are double counted for the master's degree. As long as the student is an undergraduate taking the graduate courses, they will remain eligible for financial aid.

Members discussed AFAC's concern regarding the risks associated with the transition from debt free undergraduate aid to debt financed graduate study. While VPDGE Hratchian appreciates AFAC's concern, the best solution may be to inform students of the financial implications and provide them career guidance when they first apply to the program. GC could propose that programs require counseling and to address in their proposal the anticipated financial implications for students. Reversing the double counting will also help in this aspect because students will be able to complete graduate units during their undergraduate studies while they are still eligible for financial aid.

Action:

- The Policy Subcommittee will incorporate the recommended revisions from UGC, AFAC, and VPDUE Frey and VPDGE Hratchian into the draft policy.
- The updated draft policy will be discussed at the March 17 GC meeting.

VI. [Research Course Syllabi](#) – Chair Scheibner and VPDGE Hratchian – 2:40pm – 2:50pm

At the December 14, February 3, and February 17 GC meetings, members discussed the development of repositories with research course syllabi templates, GSR workplan templates, as well as other expectations templates for faculty to use to provide guidance for students engaged in graduate research.

Several research course syllabi and Chair Scheibner's Expectations document have been uploaded into the [GC AY 22-23 shared box folder](#).

Requested Action: Members to continue the discussion, and Chair Scheibner will debrief the membership of the March 1 CCGA meeting discussion.

Chair Scheibner reported on the discussions that took place at the March 1 CCGA meeting regarding 295/299 research course syllabi, which concluded that faculty should not define research for pay versus

research for credit in their syllabus; the syllabus is for informing the students about the course and what they are expected to learn.

Members discussed the two additional syllabi added to GC's shared box folder. A member wondered about the specifics that should be included in every syllabus. VPDGE Hratchian recommended that he, Chair Scheibner, and Vice Chair Abatzoglou meet to develop a template syllabus for faculty use.

Action:

- GC Analyst will schedule a meeting for Chair Scheibner, Vice Chair Abatzoglou, and VPDGE Hratchian to draft a template syllabus that will be shared with Graduate Group Chairs.
- The draft template will be discussed at the March 17 GC meeting.

VII. Anonymous Graduate Student Survey – Member Arevalo – 2:50pm – 3:00pm

Graduate Division Research Analyst (GDRA) Michael Gonzalez joined the February 3 GC meeting and shared the [2021 systemwide graduate student survey](#), which includes questions directly related to graduate students' experience during the pandemic.

On February 24, 2023, Chair Scheibner, Member Arevalo, and GDRA Gonzalez met to reduce the number of questions currently listed in GC's draft survey. The revised list of questions is available [here](#).

Requested Action: Members to discuss the final list of questions. If there are no further recommended revisions, voting members vote to endorse the list of questions. Members also determine if a separate survey should be sent to postdocs.

Member Arevalo shared the final list of questions for the GC survey with the membership, in which no concerns were raised. Members also discussed and agreed on the development of a survey for postdocs. Postdoc representative Ahmed agreed to collaborate with member Arevalo on a list of questions for the survey, which will be discussed at a future GC meeting.

Action:

- GC Analyst will transmit the final version of GC's questions to GDRA Gonzalez to include in the systemwide senate graduate student survey.
- Member Arevalo and Postdoc representative Ahmed will meet to discuss and develop a postdoc survey.
- The draft postdoc survey will be discussed at a future GC meeting.

VIII. Discussion: Development of a Graduate Education Work Group – Chair Scheibner – 3:00pm – 3:15pm

At the February 3 GC meeting, members agreed to a further a discussion on the development of a Work Group comprised of GC, CoR, CAPRA, and UGC members to collaborate and develop models for UC Merced's plan of action during future strikes.

At the February 17 GC meeting, members discussed EVC/Provost Camfield's and Chancellor Muñoz's draft memo, available [here](#).

Main areas of focus:

- What graduate education should look like
- Budget
- Grants
- Serving the institutional educational mission and impact on TAs and undergrads
- Building up faculty leadership (what does it mean at the dept level).

Requested Action: Members to engage in further discussion regarding the membership and charge of the Work Group.

VPDGE Hratchian is working with Senate Chair LiWang and Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Wilson to establish several working groups comprised of 4-6 members each, with one administrator and one senate faculty member serving as co-chairs. Each co-chair would convene regular meetings with a central group comprised of members of each of the working groups and draft a report to the Chancellor by July 1, 2023. Ideally, the working groups will be comprised of members who have served or currently serve as the GC or CoR Chair, as well as individuals who are or have been department and graduate group chairs. VPDGE Hratchian is currently collaborating with VCR Wilson on the development of a charge, which will be shared with the membership soon.

Action:

- VPDGE Hratchian will share with the membership the draft charge.
- The draft charge will be discussed at a future GC meeting.

IX. VPDGE Hratchian’s Report – 3:15pm – 3:25pm

A. Admissions update

There has been a delay in the admissions process; however, as of today, 206 admissions offers have been sent to prospective students, initially targeted at 190. 50 PhD admits have accepted under Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) for Fall 2023.

B. Fellowship update

Financial Services Director Eric Cannon will send the fellowship updates to the membership for review soon. VPDGE Hratchian would like to make offers prior to Grad Visitation Weekend scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2023.

C. Summer Bridge

12 of the 18 graduate groups have confirmed participation. Between 60 and 80 students are anticipated. Summer Bridge is a huge investment in terms of faculty time and engagement with student, which is the main supporter of students throughout their time to degree.

Fall 2023 marks 20 years of postdoctoral and graduate student training at UC Merced. Graduate Division plans to conduct postdoctoral and graduate student training next academic year with weekly events involving alumnus. This event will take place following Summer Bridge.

D. Grad Visitation Weekend (March 17, 2023)

Grad Visitation Weekend will take place in two weeks. 90 students have RSVPed. A reception for faculty will be held, and each graduate group has been asked to select a group of 3-5 graduate students or postdocs to attend.

E. Postdoc Academy

VPDGE Hratchian would like for Associate Graduate Dean Ghosh to attend a future GC meeting to present the new 18 – 24 month professional development program referred to as the Postdoc Academy. Graduate Division would like GC’s feedback prior to implementation of the program. VPDGE Hratchian would also like to provide PIs with boilerplate language to include in their postdoc plans. This program would also prepare postdocs with job training in the real world.

XI. Upcoming Business and Any Other Business – 3:25pm – 3:30pm

A. Certificate Program Proposal

SSHA Associate Dean Anne Zanzucchi and UGC Chair Moyes have developed a proposal for certificate programs for undergraduate programs and have asked if graduate programs should be included. The proposal will be coming to Graduate Council soon.

B. P&P Funding Revisions

Graduate Division Assistant Dean Cisneros shared two draft memos, in which GC can decide what to share with Graduate Group Chairs to revise the funding section of their P&Ps:

1. [PROPOSED REVISIONS TO FUNDING LANGUAGE IN GRADUATE GROUP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES \(using unified funding language\)](#)
2. [PROPOSED REVISIONS TO FUNDING LANGUAGE IN GRADUATE GROUP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES \(to remove funding language entirely\)](#)

Action:

- Members are to review both memos. Chair Scheibner recommends that GC invite all Graduate Groups to revise their P&Ps with the unified funding language (memo 1 above).
- Members are to notify GC Analyst Snyder and Chair Scheibner **by 10:00am, Thursday, March 9, 2023**, if they have any objections to using the unified language version.