

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 17, 2023

2:20pm – 3:30pm

ADMIN 245

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

A. Agenda

B. [March 3 Meeting Minutes](#)**Action:**

- The agenda and March 3 meeting minutes were approved as presented, and GC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly.

C. Courses

Action:

- The following courses were approved and Curriculog will be updated accordingly:

[Update to previously reviewed courses]

[EECS - 231 - Energy Storage](#)

[MBSE - 261 - Energy Storage](#)

[ME - 261 - Energy Storage](#)

- GC asked the proposer to justify why the course can be repeated once for credit or to revise to 0.
- The courses have been revised to indicate that the course cannot be repeated.

[PH - 221 - Psychiatric Epidemiology](#)

- GC requested the proposer provide clarification on the delivery method because “Seminar Topical” was listed but the description of courses format mentions weekly lecturers.
- The proposer clarified that, *“although lectures are a part of the weekly delivery, they are not the primary delivery method. Consistent with the description of “Seminar-Topical” delivery method, the course will also expect that students consider concepts and exchange ideas through discussion, research papers, and presentations. This is consistent with other PH graduate seminar formats.”*

[Additional courses pending GC’s review and approval]

[BIOE - 215 - Biological Imaging and Spectroscopy](#)

[CHEM - 216 - Biological Imaging and Spectroscopy](#)

[PHYS - 231 - Imaging and Spectroscopy for Interdisciplinary Biophysical Sciences, Biomaterials and Biotechnology](#)

[CHEM - 281 - Introduction to Molecular Dynamics](#)

[QSB - 281 - Introduction to Molecular](#)

[COGS - 212 - Methods of Data Science 1](#)

[PSY - 212 - Methods of Data Science 1](#)

- D. [SOE's request for an extension to the deadline to submit BIOE 291 and EECS 223/ES 252 for Spring 2024 implementation.](#)
- E. [SSHA's request for an extension to the deadline to submit COGS 256 for Spring 2024 implementation.](#)

Action:

- SoE's and SSHA's exception to deadline to submit courses for Spring 2024 implementation were approved.
- GC Analyst will notify the proposers of GC's approval and also let them know that the courses must make their way through the Curriculog workflow by early April to ensure inclusion in the Catalog.

- F. SSHA Petition for Graduate Students to Teach Upper Division Courses
[Gonzalez Marquez, Luis Ruben SOC 110 202320](#)

Action:

- The petition for Luis Ruben Gonzalez-Marquez to teach SOC 110 in Summer 2023 was approved.
- Chair Scheibner will sign the petition, and GC Analyst will transmit it to VPDGE Hratchian.

III. Chair's Report – Michael Scheibner - 2:25pm – 2:35pm

A. March 6 and 13 DivCo Meetings

- The UC Merced Senate Vice Chair has stepped down.
- UC President Drake asked UC Provost Newman to draft a post-strike action report.
- Further discussions were held regarding the State's Compact with the UC, in which the UC has agreed to increase graduate student enrollment.
- UC Provost Newman plans to speak with federal funding agencies about the possibility of rebudgeting for graduate students and postdocs. If the campus continues to use the current budget model with the same number of graduate students, the campus will accrue a large amount of debt.
- Discussions were held regarding the establishment of a Graduate Student and Research Support Work Group, which will be further discussed later in today's meeting.
- Special Assistant to the Chancellor Marjorie Zatz discussed the establishment of an office for faculty honorifics to recognize and nominate faculty for their achievements.
- The Gallo School of Management pre-proposal was returned from CCGA, and DivCo is determining next steps.
- A New School Process Work Group was formed in consideration of recent experiences with the

Gallo School of Management, and several meetings have been scheduled, in which Chair Scheibner will keep GC apprised of.

IV. GC’s Proposed Policy for Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs – Chair Scheibner and Financial Aid & Scholarships Deputy Officer Heather Nardello – 2:35pm – 2:45pm

At the October 19 and November 16 GC meetings, members discussed and developed a [draft Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs](#) and recommended revisions to [GC’s Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Programs and Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs](#).

On December 16, 2022, AFAC, UGC, and VPDUE Frey were invited to comment on both documents.

Comments:

[AFAC](#)

[UGC](#)

[VPDUE Frey and VPDGE Hratchian](#)

The GC Policy Subcommittee implemented recommendations from AFAC, UGC, and VPDUE Frey and VPDGE Hratchian. The updated draft policy, available in tracked changes and clean version [here](#). The updated Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Programs and Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs is available [here](#).

Today, Financial Aid & Scholarships Deputy Officer Heather Nardello is joining the meeting to discuss the financial implications of hybrid degree programs.

Requested Action: Members to discuss the updated draft Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs and GC’s Revised Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Programs and Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs.

Chair Scheibner summarized the comments received from AFAC, UGC, VPDUE Frey, and VPDGE Hratchian on the proposed policy noting that UGC prefers an alternate title to “Hybrid”. Chair Scheibner used language from the Compendium and prefers to not revise the title. VPDGE Hratchian also agreed that GC should use the Compendium language, otherwise there is risk of misinterpretation systemwide. Faculty can use alternate language for advertisements.

UGC recommended double counting graduate courses rather than undergraduate courses. Financial Aid & Scholarships Deputy Officer Heather Nardello confirmed that as long as the student is in undergraduate status, they remain eligible for financial aid to cover the costs of graduate courses.

Chair Scheibner clarified that a student who applies to a hybrid program will be provisionally admitted into the graduate program; however, they will only maintain undergraduate status until the criteria for the undergraduate degree are met. If the student falls below the minimum 3.3 GPA threshold, they will be removed from the program and may be able to return only if they maintain a 3.3 GPA for two consecutive semesters.

VPDGE Hratchian clarified that the proposal is not for creating entirely new degree programs but rather combining two existing programs – one undergraduate and one graduate. Otherwise, the proposal would require CCGA review.

The Graduate Division and GC will consult with the Financial Aid Office as proposals are submitted.

Action:

- The Policy Subcommittee will finalize the draft policy and GC’s procedures.
- GC voting members will be invited to review and approve both documents prior to transmittal to UGC, AFAC, and VPDUE Frey for review.

V. Discussion: Development of a Graduate Student and Research Support Working Group – Chair Scheibner – 2:45pm – 2:55pm

At the February 17 and March 3 GC meetings, members discussed EVC/Provost Camfield’s and Chancellor Muñoz’s [draft memo](#) for the establishment of a Graduate Student and Research Support Working Group.

The appointment request memo is available [here](#).

Requested Action: VPDGE Hratchian will discuss the appointment request memo. Members to provide their feedback.

VPDGE Hratchian shared the memo that was transmitted to Senate Chair LiWang on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 regarding the Graduate Student and Research Support Working Group. He has continued collaborating 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. VPDGE Hratchian and VCR Wilson developed a series of questions which will be used to establish a charge after soliciting feedback from GC. Chancellor Muñoz has asked for a report by July 1, 2023, with recommendations, which will be provided from the responses to the list of questions. VPDGE Hratchian briefly summarized the questions and invited members to provide their feedback.

Action:

- Members are to provide their feedback on the questions included in the appointment request memo **by 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 22, 2023.**

VI. Postdoc Survey – Rebeca Arevalo – 2:55pm – 3:05pm

At their March 3, 2023 GC meeting, members endorsed a list of questions to include in the systemwide graduate student survey. Because postdocs will not be a recipient of the systemwide survey, members agreed on the development of a postdoc survey.

Member Arevalo’s and postdoc representative Ahmed’s draft postdoc survey is available [here](#).

Requested Action: Members to discuss and recommend revisions to the draft postdoc survey.

Member Arevalo briefly shared [the list of questions](#) with the membership noting the changes from the graduate student survey.

Action:

- Members are to review the draft survey and recommend any revisions.
- If no recommended revisions are received **by 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 22, 2023**, the survey will be considered approved, and GC Analyst will work with Chair Scheibner on next steps.

VII. [Certificate Program Proposal](#) – Chair Scheibner – 3:05pm – 3:15pm

At the March 3, 2023 GC meeting, Chair Scheibner reported under upcoming business the draft Certificate Program Proposal proposed by SSHA Associate Dean Anne Zanzucchi and UGC Chair Holley Moyes.

Requested Action: Chair Scheibner will provide the membership with an update. Members to determine next steps.

SSHA Associate Dean Anne Zanzucchi and UGC Chair Holley Moyes drafted a proposal for the Establishment of an Undergraduate Certificate Program at UC Merced. Chair Scheibner asked the membership for their feedback about creating a similar policy for graduate programs, to which several members agreed.

Action:

- GC Policy Subcommittee will meet to draft a policy, which will be discussed at a future GC meeting.

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

A. Admissions update

221 PhD students (yielded 66) and 39 master’s students (yielded 9) have been admitted. Approximately 90 students are visiting UC Merced for Grad Visitation today and tomorrow (March 17 and March 18, 2023).

B. Fellowships update

The finalists for the recruitment fellowships have been determined. The amount for some of the fellowships has been increased and covers Fall and Spring only, not Summer terms. The Graduate Division will reevaluate funds for Summer in a couple weeks. The continuing fellowships are forthcoming.

C. Summer Bridge

12 out of 18 graduate programs will be participating in the Summer Bridge Program. A series of workshops will take place for six weeks beginning the last week of June. There will be opportunities available for continuing students, and possibly a few postdocs that serve as pure mentors through the program. The Graduate Division plans to send offers soon.

D. [Sloan Foundation](#)

The Graduate Division plans to submit a Sloan Foundation grant. VPDGE Hratchian encouraged members to read the report linked above. An area he found interesting is that graduate students across the country, particularly those from underserved communities and minoritized communities, identified Financial Literacy as an area they would like to have more training in, and as a graduate students, felt prevented them from being as successful as they could be.

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

No other business was discussed.