

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 28, 2023

2:00pm – 3:30pm

ADMIN 245

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

I. Consent Calendar – 2:00pm – 2:05pm

- A. Agenda
- B. [April 14 Meeting Minutes](#)

Action:

- The agenda and April 14 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- GC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly.

C. Petitions for Graduate Students to Teach Upper Division Courses

[Perez Lopez, Edgar ENGR120 202320](#)
[Millan Higuera, Jose ENGR130 202320](#)

Action:

- The two petitions were approved.
- Chair Scheibner will sign the petitions, and GC Analyst will transmit them to VPDGE Hratchian.

II. Chair’s Report – Michael Scheibner - 2:05pm – 2:15pm

A. April 17 DivCo Meeting

- Members welcomed the new UC Merced Senate Vice-Chair Holley Moyes and UGC Chair Heather Bortfeld.
- Discussions were held by CAPRA regarding a proposal to compensate faculty for extra work undertaken during the strike. EVC/Provost Camfield did not view the proposal favorably because it included calculations of faculty time, and the Administration cannot conduct timekeeping for Senate faculty.
- The systemwide Senate is currently trying to figure out how to conduct leave reporting for TAs, which will be implemented on May 15 for UC Merced (earlier for UC campuses on the quarter system). It is still unclear who will approve the leave, i.e. instructor of record, department chair, etc.
- Further discussions were held regarding the Gallo pre-proposal review process. The campus has hired the Penn Cannon Group who has previously worked with the Chancellor and other UC entities. The Penn Cannon group will conduct the interviews with Divisional Council on May 10th and May 11th.

- A Campus Wide Laptop Policy was adopted, which requires undergraduate students to acquire a laptop for their classes (Chromebooks are not recommended). Students can purchase a laptop using their financial aid money.
- The revised Honors Program Proposal was discussed, and further discussions will take place on May 11, 2023.

III. Graduate Students Teaching Graduate Students – Chair Scheibner and VPDGE Hratchian - 2:15pm – 2:40pm

Policy for Graduate Students Teaching Graduate Students is available [here](#).

MIST 201 within the Master of Management professional degree program is in need of an instructor next year because both of the two faculty who normally teach it will be on leave. The MCS program is inquiring about a PhD student who has advanced to candidacy and is qualified to teach this course and has asked GC for an exception to the above policy.

Requested Action: GC to discuss whether to consider exceptions for graduate students to teach graduate students in general. If so, GC discuss and approve an exception to appoint a PhD student to teach MIST 201.

VPDGE Hratchian explained the difference between a graduate student TA-ing and a graduate student teaching. It is typical for a student who is in the semester prior to taking their qualifying exam to TA intro level courses. For some campuses, it is not atypical for PhD students to be given approval by the Graduate Dean to teach professional school Master's or credentialing courses.

GC discussed whether to develop a policy that allows PhD students to teach Master's-only courses by exception. A member noted the importance of prohibiting graduate students from grading other graduate students. VPDGE Hratchian clarified that this is typically not an issue because PhD students will grade Master's students, and therefore, usually do not know each other.

Chair Scheibner and VPDGE Hratchian agreed to consult with members at CCGA and Council of Deans and report back to the committee.

Action:

- Vice Chair Abatzoglou will double check that MIST 201 within the Master of Management professional degree program is no longer in need of an instructor for next year.
- VPDGE Hratchian will discuss this issue at the next Council of Deans meeting.
- Chair Scheibner will discuss this issue at the next CCGA meeting.

IV. Consultation with SNS Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener – 2:40pm – 3:00pm

A. [Medical Education Update](#)

Dean Dumont summarized her PowerPoint presentation, linked above, highlighting the following points:

- Thirteen of the fifteen admitted students attended Bobcat Day.
- The program consists of a baccalaureate and admissions pathway. Students are admitted into UCSF with provisional acceptance into School of Medicine after four years.

- Students complete their pre-clinical work at UCSF main campus and then matriculate to UCSF Fresno for their clinical training. SJV + PRIME is a new iteration, where 15 students will be enrolled in a B.S/M.D. pathway starting at UC Merced.
- In November, UC Merced received over 1,200 applicants. Using certain criteria, such as the applicants' link to the San Joaquin Valley, GPA, etc., Admissions narrowed this number down to 15 students. Those 15 students will join UC Merced this Fall with provisional acceptance into UCSF School of Medicine at the end of their four years of undergraduate education.
- Expansion of admittances will recur over time, and UC Merced will eventually have its own independent Medical School.
- The required courses of the baccalaureate workstream are not all science-related, but rather related to how to be a good, thoughtful person and a good community member.
- The curriculum will be reviewed and approved by the Senate.
- There are three types of faculty teaching: 1) academic, clinical, and research.
- The job descriptions will be developed and posted over the summer.
- Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener will provide GC with updates on medical education once a semester.
- GC is invited to share their input on the Foundations 1 Workstream Curriculum.

V. VPDGE Hratchian's Report – 3:00pm – 3:20pm

A. Fellowships Update

The review for Continuing fellowship awards has been completed. The recommendations will be shared with GC for review and comments.

B. Graduate Group Funding

VPDGE Hratchian plans to make changes to graduate group funding. Graduate groups receive two pots of money annually - operations funds and fellowship/USAP funds. The operations budget is used for seminars, office supplies, etc., while USAP funds are categorized by 1) fellowships, 2) backup funding plan for student emergencies, and 3) block grant. In the past, the operations budget was not allocated appropriately, and the Graduate Division has been asked to revise it. At the May 3 Grad Chairs Meeting, VPDGE Hratchian will discuss the operations budget with chairs and give them two weeks to provide him with their plan. VPDGE Hratchian's goal is to provide graduate groups with their operations budget by July 1, 2023.

C. Admissions Update

This year's admission cycle has ended. As of today, April 28, 2023, the Graduate Division has received 145 SIR yeses - 44 Master's with EECS and MCS being the largest. 86 of 189 international applicants have SIRed yes. Due to visa delays, VPDGE Hratchian expects a few of these students to defer a semester to a year. Last academic year, 11 international students deferred, so their numbers will be added to this year's cohort. VPDGE Hratchian has also identified a couple landlords who are willing to help establish housing for graduate students.

D. Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST)

VPDGE Hratchian has a meeting with Professor Paul Maglio and The Regents today, April 28, 2023, to discuss PDST. There is a full committee meeting scheduled in person in Oakland in two weeks. VPDGE Hratchian will keep GC apprised.

E. Annual Council of Graduate Deans Meeting

The Annual Council of Graduate Deans meeting took place on April 24th and April 25th. The Graduate Deans meet twice a year in person – once in Oakland and once elsewhere. One of the meetings includes a two-day conference for staff. 8-10 UC Merced staff attended this year's conference. During the meeting, a question arose regarding timekeeping. GSRs and TAs will be required to log their time in a time sheet system to report their time off in order to protect their pay time off guarantees in the contract. The goal is to have the system running by May 15, 2023.

F. PhD Outcomes

VPDGE Hratchian has been working with Institutional Research & Reporting Manager (IRRM) Gary Lowe on data for normative time to degree. VPDGE Hratchian shared a [website](#) that shows the normative time to degree for the different majors across campus over the last several years. The years listed on the website are the years that students started at UC Merced. IRRM Lowe clarified that the “Number of PhD Graduates” column is inaccurate, but that the “Average Years to Degree” and “Average Terms to Degree” columns are accurate. Additional information is available in VPDGE Hratchian's spreadsheet, available [here](#).

VI. Any Other Business – 3:20pm – 3:30pm

A. Graduate Student Supplemental Travel Award (MacKenzie Scott Funds)

Chair Scheibner reported that the Senate Office has received several questions from faculty, as well as applications submitted by graduate students (rather than their PI). Chair Scheibner and VPDGE Hratchian will collaborate on responses to faculty's questions and develop guidelines for the submission process. Members will be invited to comment/provide suggestions on the questions and submission process.

B. Master's in Data Science and Analytics (MDSA)

Chair Scheibner reported that the Master's in Data Science and Analytics (MDSA) proposal has been temporarily withdrawn because the campus may not be capable of supporting such a program at this time, given limited campus budget and challenges with financial systems, etc.