

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

**1:15pm – 2:30pm**

**ADMIN 345**

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

**I. Chair’s Report – Michael Scheibner – 1:15pm – 1:25pm**

- A. September 7 and 14 DivCo Meetings
- B. September 13 meeting with Dean of Extension Annette Roberts Webb, Director of Extension and Degree Completion, and VPDGE Hratchian

**II. Consent Calendar – Chair Scheibner – 1:25pm – 1:30pm**

- A. Agenda
- B. [September 6 meeting minutes](#)

**Requested Action:** Approval of the consent calendar.

**III. Systemwide Review Items – All – 1:30pm – 1:40pm**

- A. [Amendments to Senate Bylaw 55-Departmental Voting Rights](#)  
The proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw 55 seek to address the variability in Lectures with Security of Employment (LSOE) voting privileges by granting all LSOEs full departmental voting rights.

Chair Scheibner poses the following questions:

1. Do Teaching Professors generally teach at the graduate level and contribute to graduate research training?
2. How would it impact graduate education and graduate research training, especially if they do not cater to the graduate education and graduate research training? It seems there is a bit of an imbalance because there is not a research professor series that is equivalent to the teaching professor series, and that would represent primarily the research and graduate research training side of the UC mission.
3. Should those in the teaching professor series have the responsibility to engage in graduate training and research (e.g., discipline specific education research)?

**Requested Action:** Members review the proposed amendment to Bylaw 55 and determine which comments to submit to the Senate Chair.

**IV. Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Survey Results – Rebeca Arevalo and Min Hwan Lee – 1:40pm – 1:55pm**

In Spring 2023, a systemwide survey was distributed to all 10 campuses. Several of the questions were tailored to UC Merced’s situation to ask students to identify the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic, BSP building shutdown, and the Oracle Ordering System have had on their research and progress to degree. GC also distributed a survey to all postdoctoral scholars to identify similar impacts.

Graduate student survey questions and results are available [here](#).

Postdoctoral scholar survey questions and results are available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members Arevalo and Lee will provide the committee with an overview of the results. Members discuss results and determine what findings to elevate to DivCo’s attention and what suggestions (if any) to transmit along with these findings.

**V. Future of Graduate Education – Chair Scheibner – 1:55pm – 2:10pm**

In AY 22-23, The Future of Graduate Education Work Groups were established to discuss the challenges and opportunities that higher education will be working through with respect to graduate education in the months and years ahead. The systemwide committee is comprised of seven administrators and seven Senate members, with one administrative co-chair and one Senate co-chair, totaling 14 members.

There are plans for the establishment of a local UC Merced subgroup, comprised of GC, CoR, CAPRA, and UGC members to collaborate and develop models for UC Merced’s plan of action during future strikes and to evaluate strategies that will support the university mission while remaining fiscally sustainable.

Today, GC will continue to discuss and identify particular situations, needs, and opportunities at UC Merced that pertain to the impacts from the new contracts.

**Requested Action:** Members engage in discussion and determine next steps.

**VI. Consultation with VPDGE Hratchian – 2:10pm – 2:25pm**

A. Start of admissions cycle

B. Continuing fellowship application and review schedule planning

**VII. Any Other Business – 2:25pm – 2:30pm****VIII. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 2:30pm – 2:45pm**