I. Consent Calendar – Chair Scheibner – 11:30am – 11:35am
   A. Agenda
   B. February 15 Meeting Minutes
      Action:
      ➢ The agenda and February 15 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
      ➢ GC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly.
   C. SSHA Petitions for Graduate Students to Teach Upper Division Courses
      Colond, Jay_SOC 180_202420
      Carey, Samuel_COGS 105_202420
      Action:
      ➢ The petition for Samuel Carey was approved. Chair Scheibner will sign the petition, and
        GC Analyst will transmit it to VPDGE Hratchian.
      ➢ For Jay Colond’s petition, members agreed to ask for inclusion of relevant prior teaching
        experience under item 5. GC Analyst will reach out to the School staff.

II. Chair’s Report – Michael Scheibner – 11:35am – 11:40am
   A. February 26 DivCo Meeting
      • Interim EVC/Provost Zatz reported on the Dean searches. Professor Michael Findlater
        has been announced SNS Interim Dean. There were 90 applicants for the SSHA Dean
        position, and 74 applicants for the VPDUE position. The SNS Dean search begins this
        week. The campus will use the same search firm that was used for the aforementioned
        searches.
      • Campus budget call requests are due Monday, March 4, 2024.
      • Senate Chair Hibbing reported that the Board of Regents will visit UC Merced in May. A
        main topic of discussion at the Regents is Senate Regulation 630.E., which is the
        systemwide residency requirement to earn an undergraduate degree. The Regents are
        very interested in having more UC online degrees, which is dependent on the
        implementation of this Regulation.
      • FWAF Chair Beaster-Jones reported that the UC contract with Anthem may not be
        renewed, and Delta Dental insurance may no longer be offered.
      • DivCo members approved the Aerospace B.S. Degree Program Proposal.
      • DivCo members opined and supported the proposal for a Medical Education Department;
        however, there were some concerns. A memo with comments was transmitted to the
B. February 22 TAS Budget Work Group Meeting

There are ongoing Thursday morning meetings where members continue to review data and discuss what the TAS budget entails.

III. Vice Chair’s Report – John Abatzoglou – 11:40am – 11:45am
A. February 28 SoE/SNS Chairs’ Meeting

Discussions were held regarding Grad Visitation Week, which will begin March 1, 2024. Participants also discussed Block grant allocations and ensuring that graduate groups utilize their funding because the monies do not carry forward. Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Ghosh noted that Block grant funding will be more systematic beginning next academic year. Many graduate groups currently divide the Block grant funds amongst their graduate group faculty, which results in the funds being underutilized and the leftover monies are swept. She also explained that small travel fellowships entail a large amount of staff support, so faculty are being encouraged to process them as reimbursements. Additionally, if all resources are pulled, UC Merced could potentially support up to 25 more graduate students.

IV. Consultation with SNS Dean Dumont, Director of Medical Education Vener, and Interim EVC/Provost Zatz - SJV Prime + B.S. to M.D. Pathway – 11:45am – 12:15pm
On February 16, 2024, DivCo transmitted a memo to Dean Dumont and Director Vener regarding GC’s and DivCo’s analysis and recommendations for vetting the Pathway as a Degree Program, available here.

Today, Dean Dumont and Director Vener are joining the meeting to further discuss the SJV Prime+ B.S. to M.D. Pathway.

Chair Scheibner summarized GC’s memo regarding their analysis of current policy to ensure compliance with next steps forward. GC recommended that a formal proposal for a dual degree program be submitted to GC.

Dean Dumont shared her appreciation for the definitions of the different types of programs included in GC’s Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs and asked for clarification on next steps. Chair Scheibner responded that this program would lead to two degrees, each offered by one of the two institutions. The MD portion of the program is being provided in collaboration with UCSF (and UCSF Fresno). Since expertise and resources are provided by the two institutions (UCM and UCSF) that collaborate on these degrees, then both institutions need to be involved in the review and approval process, as well as CCGA.

Director Vener noted that the curriculum will be under the UCSF accreditation. Chair Scheibner asked whether the teaching faculty are hired as UC Merced faculty or UCSF faculty. Director Vener explained that the hired faculty will have their primary appointment with UC Merced with an adjunct appointment at UCSF. Since UC Merced faculty are involved, Chair Scheibner emphasized the importance of the proposal being reviewed by the UC Merced Senate.
Chair Scheibner wondered whether undergraduate students can take courses in the F1 curriculum. Director Vener clarified that medical students have a very strict curriculum, so undergraduate students and medical students will never be in the same class. However, she is interested in “loaning out” faculty for individual lectures that are open to undergraduate students. Chair Scheibner wondered about plans for research faculty. Director Vener explained that the first group of faculty that will be hired are teaching faculty with strong research backgrounds. The following phase will be the hiring of clinicians by FTE. There is currently no intent to hire only research faculty.

Chair Scheibner and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Ghosh inquired about plans for forming a graduate program. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz and Dean Dumont clarified that a graduate group does not need to be formed until UC Merced offers a medical degree, which will be 12+ years. However, some of the teaching faculty might be interested in joining existing graduate programs where they may have expertise and want to engage in mentoring graduate students.

Dean Dumont and Director Vener will revise the proposal according to GC’s new Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs and submit it to GC for their preliminary review.

V. COI on Graduate Student Committees – Chair Scheibner – 12:15pm – 12:25pm

Graduate students have encountered the issue of COI on graduate student committees for their thesis, dissertation, qualifying exam, etc. when the student’s advisor and advisor’s spouse are on the same committee.

**Requested Action:** Members discuss and determine whether to charge the Policy Subcommittee with developing a policy.

Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Ghosh approached Chair Scheibner to inquire about other UC campus’ policy for when members of a graduate student committee are related, specifically relations between the advisor and the committee chair. A member noted that there could be documentation that the members of the committee are required to sign should there be a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest. Associate Dean’s focus is ensuring students’ access to academic assistance. UC Santa Cruz has a policy, which the GC Analyst will acquire for reference. Once a policy is drafted, Associate Dean Ghosh recommended consulting with Associate VPAP Anna Song for additional language.

**Action:**
- GC Analyst will send the UCSC policy to the Policy Subcommittee members to use as a template as they begin drafting a policy for UC Merced.
- GC Analyst will reach out to other campus analysts to inquire about their relative policies.

VI. Any Other Business – 12:25pm - 12:30pm

No other business was discussed.

VII. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 12:30pm – 1:00pm

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This agenda may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of GC Members.
No minutes were recorded during the executive session. The action items were shared with GC voting members.

VIII. Informational Items

A. Approved revised ES Concentrations
   At their November 29, 2023 executive session meeting, voting members of GC endorsed the proposed revisions to ES Concentrations. On December 11, 2023, CAPRA, ALO Martin, Registrar Webb, and VPDGE Hratchian were invited to review the proposed revisions. CAPRA, ALO Martin, and Registrar Webb had no comments and endorsed the revisions. VPDGE Hratchian provided a letter of support, available here.

B. CRE’s endorsement of GC’s proposed amendments to SR III.1.A.d (Satisfactory Progress)
   These amendments will be discussed by Divisional Council and voted on at the Spring 2024 Meeting of the Division.

C. CRE’s response to UGC’s and GC’s proposed amendments to SR I.1.E (Passed/Not Passed)
   UGC plans to discuss and address CRE’s comments at their March 5, 2024 meeting.